

koran. The subjects of the latter, that is of the Mahometan princes, long accustomed to despotic sway, had neither inclination nor ability to assert their freedom; those of the former, or rather their military chiefs, wholly unacquainted with the fundamental principles of government, could never be reconciled to a due subordination in obedience to equitable laws. Those haughty nobles, the rude descendants of the Goths and Vandals, whilst they oppressed their vassals, spurned at the idea of subjection, and not only, like independent princes, made war upon each other, but, whenever they conceived themselves aggrieved, even by the sovereign, they threatened him with violence.

As among the Gothic tribes any adventurous leader was under obligation to consult his officers, who followed his standard, not from necessity, but from inclination and opinion; so, when making conquests by their valour for himself and them, he arrived at empire, and they became his *barons*, he still continued to ask their advice on all emergencies, more especially in whatever related to either peace or war. But
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when he wanted a pecuniary aid, he applied, as was natural, to his commercial cities, inviting them to send their deputies, who might assemble with the barons, assisted by the officers of his court, to deliberate on the expediency of such measures, as should be recommended to their consideration. Thus we take notice of the *commons*; for the first time, in the cortes of Arragon, A. D. 1133, and of Catalonia, A. D. 1283, introduced for the purpose of voting the supplies. As for the *ecclesiastics*, it was not, at least in Arragon, till the commencement of the fourteenth century, that they were summoned to attend the cortes.

These were the three orders, which in *Castille* composed the great council of the kingdom. The first branch consisted of the *grandees*, the titular nobility, and those among the cavaliers, who could claim this distinction in right of their progenitors. The archbishops and bishops composed the second class; and deputies from the commons occupied the third. The latter came as representatives from the kingdoms of Burgos, Leon, Granada, Seville, Cordova, Murcia, Jaen, and Toledo; from the cities

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of Valladolid, Segovia, Salamanca, Avila, Toro, Zamora, Cuenca, Soria, and Guadaluajara; from the village of Madrid; and in latter times from Galicia, under the denomination of a city.

When the cortes were assembled, the king, sitting under the canopy of state, assisted by the supreme council of Castille, acquainted them with the reason of his calling them together, stating the various matters which were to be the subjects of discussion. One of the deputies from Burgos, as prolocutor, answered, that they were disposed to serve his majesty, and begged leave to assemble with the president of his council, that they might confer together on the propositions, which were submitted to their judgment. The chambers then proceeded to consider separately what answer it would be proper to return, and after mature deliberation, when they had communicated to each other their respective resolutions, they transmitted their final determination to the king. The commons at the same time made known their grievances, and sought redress; in consequence of which the king made such provisions

as prudence dictated and the exigency of the times required.

In *Arragon*, beside the *ricos hombres*, or the nobles, the ecclesiastics and the commons, the cavaliers or *hidalgos* constituted a fourth order in the cortes. This assembly of the estates appears to have been more numerous than the cortes of Castille. Beside the archbishop of Zaragoza, and the bishops of the kingdom, many abbots and priors claimed a right to be consulted; and to the chamber of the commons nine and twenty cities, communities, and towns sent deputies. These were the cities of Zaragoza, Huesca, Tarazona, Jaca, Barbastro, Calataynd, Daroca, Teruel, Borja, Albarracin; the town of Alcañiz; the communities of Calataynd, Daroca, and Ternel; and the towns of Fraga, Montalvan, Monzon, Sariñena, S. Esteban de Litera, Tamarite, Magallon, Bolea, Alquezar, Ainsa, Loharre, Mosqueruela, Murillo, Berbegal, Almudevar, Alagon, and Canfranc. But the deputies from Exea, Tauste, Uncastrillo, Sos, and Sadava took their seats with the *hidalgos*.

These estates, convoked by the royal

mandate, continued their session only forty days, after which the assembly was of course dissolved; but in the intermediate space, the cortes were equally dissolved if the sovereign absented himself without having prorogued them. When assembled, the archbishop of Zaragoza, as president, addressed the throne, assuring his majesty of their fidelity, and that after mature deliberation they should come to such resolutions, as would be most conducive to the service of God, of the king, and of his kingdom. They made laws, granted supplies, and gave their sanction to either war or peace.

In *Catalonia*, as in Castille, the cortes was composed of *three estates*, or, as the Spaniards call them, *arms*. The ecclesiastical arm consisted of the archbishop of Tarragona, president, eight bishops, twenty-two mitred abbots, nine syndics from the cathedrals of the province, with the grand prior and castellan of Amposta. The military arm included the duke of Cardona, president, all the counts, viscounts, barons, titular nobility, and cavaliers of the first quality. Syndics or representatives from Barcelona,

lona, Gerona, Lerida, Tortosa, Cervera, Balaguer, and from twenty-four royal boroughs, constituted the *third estate*, or, as it is called, the royal arm. *Brazo real.*

In Navarre, the cortes bore resemblance to the former.

It appears, by the 5th article in the requisitions of the *Santa Junta*, that the reigning monarchs, ever watchful to extend the bounds of their prerogatives, and to advance their power, had, by places and pensions judiciously bestowed, maintained a corrupt influence in the popular assembly; for, as we have already seen, when giving a description of Toledo, the *Junta* insisted that the representatives of the commons should be paid by their constituents and receive neither place nor pension from the crown.

Yet, notwithstanding all that could be offered to the avarice or to the ambition of the members, the cortes, ever troublesome in representing grievances, and difficult to manage, occasioned such embarrassment to the kings, and to their ministers, that, not desirous of listening to complaints, they were tardy in their application to this untractable assembly, and never but from ab-

solute necessity issued a proclamation for calling them together.

Charles V, in whose person the two crowns of Castille and Arragon were first united, had been readily acknowledged by the cortes of both kingdoms, and the former had given him money, but the latter had refused a grant, till their grievances should be redressed. The cortes of Catalonia had followed their example. This resistance issued in a civil war, and among the leading propositions for restoring peace it was demanded, that the cortes should assemble once in three years to consult on public affairs. For this they fought; but their army being defeated, and at length dispersed (A. D. 1522.) no attention was paid to their demand, and the cortes were never permitted to assemble, excepting when the treasury was exhausted, and wanted fresh supplies.

But although depressed, the spirit of the cortes continued unsubdued. They insisted, according to their ancient privilege, first to examine grievances, and then to grant supplies. Charles intreated them not to lose their time in needless debates, when they should

be voting money, and solemnly protested, that he would not refuse them any thing, which in reason they could ask, provided they would first comply with his request. In consequence of this engagement on his part, they indiscreetly voted four millions of ducats, a sum nearly equal to half a million of our money, to be paid in three years; after which he speedily dismissed them.

That was the mortal blow to their authority, and from that time to their final dissolution, A. D. 1647, the cortes may be regarded as an appendage only of the treasury.

If in any future period light should penetrate and be diffused in Spain, we may venture to predict, that the people will have neither patience nor inclination to consult the musty records of the cortes, in order to discover what are their rights, and what the degree of freedom they may justly claim. But, should they take a retrospective view, they will look beyond the feudal ages, and find their claims, not in royal grants and charters, but in the tacit agreement between the ruler and the ruled,

when, for the good of the community, civil politics were formed.

The reigning monarch, Charles III. has never been considered as a man of more than common abilities; but all who know him, admire the goodness of his heart; and indeed it is impossible to look at him without reading distinctly the characters of benevolence and truth. As a man of principle, he esteems it his first duty to promote the happiness of the nation, over which he reigns; and if at any time his conduct hath been inconsistent with his principles; if he hath contracted unnatural alliances, without either the plea of necessity or prospect of advantage; if, in defence of a relation, he hath hastily engaged in war; it hath been always from goodness of heart, and from the influence of gratitude, that he hath erred. In choosing his ministers he consults only the good of his people; and it must be confessed, that commonly he is well directed in his choice.

His present minister, count Florida Blanca, is a man of singular abilities, of upright intentions, and of indefatigable industry. His father was *Escrivano Episcopal*

in Murcia. He himself, early in life, was taken into the house of Benevente, as advocate to the duke of Arcos, under whose patronage he became fiscal, or one of the judges of Castille. In this employ he made himself conspicuous, by seconding the views of count d'Aranda for the expulsion of the jesuits, and by quieting the tumults which, upon that occasion, the bishop of Cuenca, a prelate exceedingly attached to those intriguing fathers, had excited. After their expulsion, he was sent as ambassador to Rome, where he acquired much reputation, by obtaining the sanction of the pope to measures, which, in the event, have proved most fatal to the papal power. From Rome he was called by his sovereign to direct his councils, whilst the marquis of Grimaldi, who had been minister, was ordered to replace him at the holy see; and count d'Aranda, who, as president of the council and captain general of Castille, had been omnipotent, after having rendered the most important services to his country, was sent ambassador to Paris.

The new minister was not unmindful of his friends. Upon all occasions he has
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shewn a marked attention to the house of Benevente, and has proved, that he retains a grateful remembrance of the protection received at his first entrance into life.

Whilst at Cuenca, he had lodged in the house of don Pedro de Lerena, one of those favourites of fortune, who, without natural pretensions, with little exertion, and less merit, are raised to the highest stations, and to the enjoyment of every comfort that wealth can purchase :

Quales ex humili magna ad fastigia rerum
Extollit, quoties voluit fortuna jocari.

JUVENAL.

Don Pedro de Lerena, son to a miserable publican at Valdemoro, was bound apprentice to a blacksmith, who lived opposite to his father's house. In a lucky hour he married a rich widow of Cuenca, and, by the interest of her family, became some little official in that city. Here he had the good fortune to receive under his roof Moñino, now count Florida Blanca, and to secure a place in his good opinion. When the count took the reins of government, he was not unmindful of his friend, but embraced the earliest opportunity of serving

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ing him. Under such a powerful patron, Lerena became agent to the army in Minorca, and, after the capture of that island, went with the duke of Crillon to Gibraltar in the same capacity, and at the termination of the war, he became intendant of Andalusia, and assistant of Seville. Whilst he continued in that employment, he procured, after the custom of his country, certificates of his good conduct from all kinds of bodies, civil, military, and ecclesiastical, and from individuals of eminence, all which, being submitted to the inspection of the king, procured him, on the death of don Miguel de Musquiz, the appointment to the high and important offices of the finance and war.

The family of the *Galvez*, equally fortunate, were all men of superior talents. Don Joseph de Galvez, marquis of Sonora, and minister of the Indies, was of a mean family, near Malaga, in the south of Spain, but, by his great abilities, he raised himself and his relations to the highest honours of the state. His two brothers drove boricos, and were called *Tio*, an appellation answering to uncle, or to gaffer; yet one of them
became

became viceroy of Mexico, and, at his death, was succeeded in the same regal office by his son.

Don Antonio Valdes, the present minister of the marine, stands indebted to his merit for his high station. As a captain of the navy, and as a commodore, he was distinguished; and how much the nation is indebted to his singular abilities, and more than common application, will appear, when, in describing Cadiz, I shall give a statement of the marine, and shew the increasing power of the Spanish navy. Till I had been at the sea-ports, I could form no idea of his superior talents, and therefore profited little by his condescending permission to approach him. I can only now lament that I did not spend more time in his society.

Of *Court Campomanes* I have already spoken. All who have the honour of being near to him, admire the boundless extent of his abilities, which embrace every science; and the goodness of his heart, which turns all his knowledge towards one object—the prosperity of his country. He shines in all the several branches; but his peculiar excellence is in law, history, and
political

political oeconomy. He is wholly indebted to himself, and to the voice of the nation, for his elevation.

It must be striking to an Englishman to see all the most important offices occupied by men, who have been taken from the lower ranks, and not to find among them one man of fashion, not one grandee of Spain. These are all precisely where they ought to be: lords of the bed-chamber, grooms of the stole, masters of the horse, all near the throne, partaking of its splendor, whilst the drudgery and responsibility of office is left to others, who are better qualified to bear that burden. In England it is far otherwise: our men of fashion, from their infancy, are trained to high pursuits; at school they learn ambition, and when they come into the house of commons, they see, that to be distinguished for application and for knowledge is the only way to gain consideration, and to arrive at power. This proves such a spur to diligence, that, in spite of their hereditary wealth and honours, many of the greatest men, and the most able ministers, are to be found among our principal nobility.

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In Spain, on the contrary, in the higher ranks, all is torpid. Satisfied with hereditary wealth and honours, the grandees sink into mere sensualists, and are lost. Nay, such is the general neglect of education, that the principal ministers find it difficult to procure proper men to fill the common offices.

When my friend, don Eugenio Izquierdo, returned from Paris, where he had been educated for the royal cabinet of natural history, of which he was appointed director on the death of Davila; he was desired immediately to make out a catalogue, in order to convince the world, that Spain was not behind other nations in this interesting branch of science, and that he might assist to wipe away the reproach, which M. Maffon had cast upon the nation. He was revolving this commission in his mind, but ere he could begin the previous arrangement of the cabinet, he was hurried away to teach the art of dying, and to superintend the cloth manufacture at Guadalajara, where all was in confusion, and where every branch required a reform.

According to the maxim of no contemptible

temptible philosopher, *a wise man is every thing*, either an humble mechanic, or a minister of state; and certainly, with time, he may be qualified for either. But however qualified my friend might be for this new employment, he could not shew himself at Guadalajara without danger; for the moment he appeared, he found himself in a nest of hornets. All who had been accustomed to eat the bread of idleness, to receive their salaries, and to neglect their work, or to share among themselves the plunder of the state, became his enemies, and, as I understand, never left him, till by their persecution, at the end of two years, they had compelled him to retire.

His friend Angulo, trained by him at Paris for the branch of natural history, whose ambition it was to be vice-director of the cabinet, no sooner returned to court, than he was appointed chemical professor, and received orders to prepare for giving a course of lectures the ensuing winter. Astonished at this command, he inquired for the laboratory and the apparatus. He was told, that the foundation of the former should be instantly laid, and that he himself
must

must give orders for the latter. But before he had time to look about him, he was sent by the minister of the finance to superintend the working of a lead mine at Linares. My friend acquitted himself to the satisfaction of the minister, and was appointed director general of all the mines in Spain. In this capacity he was sent to Riotinto, where I engaged to follow him, but when I came near the place, I found he had been dispatched to another part of the kingdom, to inspect a mine supposed to be of cinnabar. Samples of this ore had been sent to the minister of the finance, with the quicksilver extracted from it, which was in abundance; and the most flattering hopes were entertained at Madrid of the wealth to be obtained from this new discovery. But, unfortunately, the whole was a deception; and my friend, mortified at first at not being able to detect a single particle of mercury, was at last so happy as to extort a confession from the impostor, of the means made use of to deceive the minister, under the expectation of being appointed manager of this rich mine.

Don Joseph Clavijo had been manager of the

the king's theatre; but when a proper person was wanted to conduct one of the public prints, he was appointed to that office, and, being a man of letters, he acquitted himself to the satisfaction of the court. On the death of M. Davila, when don Eugenio Izquierdo became the principal director of the cabinet, and a proper person, as vice director, was wanted to succeed him, the minister of finance fixed on my friend Clavijo, and will, I am persuaded, find in him, that a wise man is every thing. This gentleman hath already translated the works of the count de Buffon; and, should he be left quietly in his department, from his abilities and his application, it may be hoped, that he will make a rapid progress in the science of natural history. Yet, such is the scarcity of able men, that, in all probability, M. Clavijo will soon receive some new commission.

During my winter's residence at Madrid, I cultivated the acquaintance of colonel Nodin, an Italian officer in the Spanish service, distinguished for his proficiency in algebra. This gentleman was so happy as to attract the notice of the minister, and

received a commission to perfect the navigation at Tortosa, where almost insuperable difficulties occurred. He was preparing to set out, when I left Madrid with the pleasing expectation of meeting him at the place of his destination; but on my arrival, I found that he had been sent into the north of Spain, to make a road, where the minister of finance conceived that algebraical calculations might be useful.

It would be inexcusable in speaking, even in the most transient manner of men, who are distinguished in Madrid as employed about the court, not to mention the two brothers Yriarte, who, for taste, for judgment, and for science, have few superiors in the most enlightened countries. Don Bernardo has some place in the finance, but his brother is the man of letters.

There was a time when the apothecary, don Casimiro Gomez Ortega, was the only person qualified to teach either botany, chemistry, mineralogy, or natural history; but he has lived to see many competitors for fame, not excepting his favourite science, in which he most excels.

Don

Don Antonio Solano, professor of experimental philosophy, merits attention for the clearness and precision of his demonstrations; but, unfortunately, although his lectures are delivered gratis, such is the want of taste for science in Madrid, that nobody attends them.

Gratitude, as well as the highest veneration, requires that I should mention don Francisco Bayer, first librarian to his majesty, and late preceptor to the infant don Gabriel, a prince who stands high in the republic of letters, for his elegant translation of Sallust; in this work we evidently see the master's hand, but the pupil is said to deserve his share of praise.

The last person I shall mention, who is distinguished for his talents, although not the least deserving of commendation, is Juan Bautista Muñoz, historiographer to the king, with special commission to write the conquest of America. This gentleman honoured me with his friendship, and suffered me to examine freely all his manuscripts. He was seven years collecting his materials, and, for that purpose, visited every part of Spain, where the families and

descendants of the first adventurers reside, or where any public records are preserved. His collections are voluminous, and, I have no doubt, will be given to the world with the impartiality becoming an historian, and with that degree of elegance, which may be well expected from an author of his superior talents. He is a man of a clear head, a good classical scholar, and perfectly acquainted with the characteristic excellence of those, either in Greece or Rome, who have been most admired for historical composition. From him, therefore, not merely something new, but something highly interesting, may be expected, and such as I may venture to say will vindicate the national character from the charge of cruelty, with which it has been stained, and leave the reproach, where we might naturally look for it, in the rapacity of undisciplined and desperate adventurers.

Had Dr. Robertson, or had his friend Mr. Waddilove, known where to look for records, and spent seven years in making the collection, his work had been much more worthy of the public eye. He has, however, seized the ground, and when
these

these new materials shall appear, he will employ them to advantage; and, both by his arrangement, and by the peculiar graces of his stile, confirm the reputation his former writings have acquired for him; and, if we may be allowed the expression, put the last finish to the temple of his fame.

When I was about to leave Madrid, I addressed myself to my old friend Canosa, and, in a laughing way, desired that he would procure me letters of recommendation for the southern provinces. He at once promised that I should have them; but, not satisfied with this mode of application, I desired Mr. Liston to beg from count Florida Blanca a letter for Murcia, the place of his nativity. The count obligingly inquired, what route I meant to take? and, in a few days, sent me letters to all the governors of provinces, and to some principal person in every city, through which I was to pass.

Nothing then remained, but to form a party, and to hire a carriage for the journey.

In the mean time I procured proper pass-ports,

ports, one from the minister, another from count Campomanes, and a third from my valuable friend Escarano. The first was for the sake of form; but the two latter might be of the most essential service, and were actually useful to me on several occasions. I likewise got myself introduced to the inquisitor-general, not merely to satisfy a natural curiosity, but that, in case I should stand in need of his protection, my name might not be altogether unknown to him.

Having adjusted all matters for my journey, previous to my departure, I enquired into the prices of provisions at Madrid, and found them to be as follow :

Bread, $6\frac{1}{2}$ quarts *per* pound of 16 ounces;

Beef, - 14 ditto ditto;

Mutton, 15 ditto ditto.

A quart is $\frac{1}{6}$ of a penny, or a small fraction more than a farthing. Eight quarts are equal to $2\frac{1}{2}$ pence English.

J O U R N E Y

FROM

M A D R I D T O S E V I L L E.

15th February, 1787.

WHEN the day for our departure was arrived, we entered our *coche de colleras*, drawn by seven mules, and, passing through Valdemoro, came to Aranjuez in the evening.

At *Valdemoro*, a town containing one thousand nine hundred and thirty-eight souls, with two convents, we found a royal manufactory of stockings, lately established by the minister of finance, to honour the place of his nativity. The frames are about one hundred, not all as yet employed. The stockings are very weak, and badly woven ;

the worsted is only of two threads, and not well spun. In this manufacture, a good hand will earn twelve reals, or about 2s. 4½*d.* per day.

As the country was not new to me, my attention was chiefly occupied in reading my companions. With one of them, M. Seguiet, a French captain in the Spanish service, I was well acquainted, having met him often at the dukes de la Vauguion and Berwick. The two others were Colonel Davila, a native Spaniard, lately from Mexico, and a naval officer; the former going to Malaga, the latter to Cadiz. As these gentlemen had often travelled the same road, they knew where to lay in provisions, and where to procure good wine; consequently we wanted nothing; that money could procure.

The inn at Aranjuez is upon a large scale, making forty-four beds, all very clean and comfortable. It is royal property, and the king receives from it a rent of fifty-four thousand reals, or £. 540 per annum.

The next day we passed through *Ocaña*, a considerable city, two leagues from Aranjuez, and nine from Madrid. It comprehends

hends four parishes, containing four thousand eight hundred and eighty-six souls, and supports ten convents. As it was too early to think of rest, we proceeded four leagues further, to *La Guardia*; and although it is not the usual stage, we found good accommodations. All the way from Madrid, the country is tolerably level; the soil is sandy; the rock is gypsum; the produce chiefly corn, with some vines and olives. Here, in the famous country of La Mancha, we naturally looked out for wind-mills, which, as they have no streams to grind their corn, we saw, as we expected, in the vicinity of every village. They have no oxen; and nothing but mules, or asses, are used for all the purposes of husbandry.

La Guardia was formerly a place of strength, and was long defended by the Moors; but now it appears to be verging to decay. It reckons still about one thousand families, consisting, according to the returns to government, of three thousand three hundred and forty-four persons; but, in fact, they have more than three thousand who receive the sacrament, and about eight hundred children under the communicating age.

age. They have no manufacture except saltpetre, and that is not considerable: hence their poverty and wretchedness. Their lands are divided into small allotments, but the chief proprietor is Don Diego de Plata. The rents are paid in corn.

The church is a very handsome well-proportioned building; the altars mostly new, and simple. In one chapel are many good pictures by Angelus Nardi.

They have no beef. Mutton is twelve quarts, bread five quarts the pound of sixteen ounces.

After dinner we proceeded two leagues to sleep at *Tembleque*, a town of about two thousand families, but reckoned to contain only four thousand four hundred and eighteen souls, with one parish-church, one chapel, and one convent. The most remarkable thing here is a manufacture of saltpetre, in which are employed forty men in winter, sixty in summer, making six thousand arrobas every year. I found the manager more than commonly intelligent. He told me, that the expences, notwithstanding the most rigid economy, amounted to six hundred thousand reals; that is, to about four reals,

or nearly $9\frac{1}{2}d.$ *per* pound, of which, according to this statement, the labour costs no more than one penny; so that the other eight pence halfpenny is for fuel, furnaces, management, interest of capital, and other incidental charges. Should we carry this calculation with us to Madrid, how much beyond what I have already stated will appear to be the loss on those extensive works, where fuel is so scarce!

He informed me, that he collected all his earth from spots of ground, on which animal and vegetable substances had lain in a state of putrefaction.

On Saturday, *February* 17th, we passed through *Camuñas*, a miserable village containing about three hundred cottages, to *las Ventas de Puerto Lapicbe*, having in these three last days travelled two and twenty leagues.

The country is flat, and the view to the north extensive; but before we reached *las Ventas*, we had lost sight of the snowy mountains, which separate the two Castilles. Under favourable circumstances of air and elevation, I think they must be seen more than a hundred miles. The soil is a
loose

loose sand of quartz, and the rock is granite. It is ploughed with two asses or two mules; and wherever it is watered by norias, produces plenty of corn. The wine is excellent, and in great abundance. The village of *Lapiche* is wretched; and the people appear half starved, although their crops can never be disappointed by the want of rain, for in the space of about sixty acres, I counted more than thirty norias.

The Venta is in the old Spanish stile. It is one hundred and fifty feet in length, and, independent of a communicating shed, or penthouse, not more than ten feet wide. At one end is a chimney, by way of kitchen, ten feet square, with an hearth in the middle, surrounded on three sides by a bench, upon which the muletiers sit by day, and lie down to sleep by night; but by no means separated from the long range of stables, that with primitive simplicity, under one hospitable roof,

Ignemque Laremque
Et pecus et dominos communi clauderet umbra.

JUVENAL.

There is, adjoining to this, a court yard,
with

with a well in the middle of it, and at one end a penthouse for carts and coaches. The bed-room is over the stable, and, according to custom, all night long we heard, or might have heard, the tinkling bells on the heads of our mules, at least as long as they were feeding.

Before we went to rest, we entered into treaty with the curate for early mass. He stood for sixteen reals; but at last, on closing the bargain, he agreed for eight. Had he persisted in his demand, we must have complied; because, to hear mass on holidays in a catholic country, is indispensable, and it would not have been convenient for us to stop upon the road.

From *las Ventas* we descended into an extensive plain, bounded by high hills on every side, producing olives and corn, with saffron. At the end of eight leagues, we came to Manzanares. All the travellers on this road were well armed; and three monumental crosses proved that their fears were not ill founded. It was Sunday, yet many ploughs were working. Their crops are watered by numerous norias.

Manzanares has one thousand eight hundred

dred families, six thousand seven hundred and sixty-eight souls, which proportion is itself a sufficient index of their poverty. The houses are built with mud, and the poor are almost naked. In the church we saw four good pictures.

The Castle, with a considerable estate, and the tithes, all belong to the knights of Calatrava, and are held by the infant don Antonio, yielding him a revenue of thirty thousand ducats, or £. 3,295 per annum. We examined the premises, viewed the extensive granaries, and tasted the rich variety of wines. The steward was sending some to court, for the table of the infant, which appeared to me, without exception, the best in Spain. It had the flavour of the richest burgundy, with the strength and body of the most generous port. After praising this wine, and thanking the steward for his civilities, we pursued our walk till the close of day; when, at our return to the posada, we had the happiness of finding more than three gallons of this wine lodged there, and already deposited in our *botas*, or leather bottles, for the journey. Unfortunately, the two coachmen soon dis-

covered its peculiar excellence, and, by their assistance, we finished in one day, what I had persuaded myself would serve us three.

The posada is more comfortable, and upon a larger scale than common, with two and thirty beds, all upon the ground floor. The building is about one hundred and eighty feet long, by thirty-six or forty wide, with one long range through the middle for coach-house and stable, from which the kitchen is scarcely separated by a partial skreen. The bed-rooms to the right and left, are about sixteen feet by fourteen, each after the Spanish fashion, furnished with four beds.

On Monday, 19th *February*, we left Manzanares early in the morning, passing through a level country to *Valdepeñas*, at the distance of four leagues, to dinner. The soil is sand with gravel, producing some olives and much wine, but mostly corn. The norias are well constructed, with the great wheel of iron instead of wood.

The rock is schist.

In the way we passed two monumental crosses.

Valdepeñas is famous for good wine,
which

which is sent chiefly to Madrid; but whenever the navigation shall be opened, as proposed, to Seville, this, with many other curious wines, the produce of La Mancha, will find its way to England, and will be in great request. In this town are seven thousand six hundred and fifty-one souls.

From hence we passed through *Santa Cruz*, and then began to ascend among rough uncultivated hills, till we took up our lodging at *La Concepcion de Almuradiel*. This little village, of thirty-six families, is the first we meet with in the new settlements of the Sierra Morena. It was built A. D. 1781.

The inn surrounds a court yard of ninety feet by fifty, with a coach-house adjoining, of one hundred and fifty feet by forty, and has stables in proportion. The rooms are well fitted up, each with a chimney, and two alcoves for beds. Above these are the apartments of the administrator, his deputy, and his servants; with extensive granaries, and a corridor, forming a communication around it. Every thing here is upon the king's account, and, of course, little atten-

tion is paid to travellers. They gave me, for the first time in Spain, dirty sheets; but, after some remonstrances, the administrator lent me a clean pair of his own.

Every settler has ninety *fanegas* of land in *emphiteusis*, or as a copyhold, paying only the tithes to the king, and twelve quartos, or about three pence acknowledgment for the house.

Bread sells for eight quartos and an half a pound.

Ram mutton, ten quartos.

Beef they have none.

Wine is two quartos the quartillo, or about four pence sterling the gallon.

Santa Elena is peopled chiefly with Germans. In the vicinity we met with numerous cottages, not collected together, but scattered over the country, according to the plan recommended by the Abbé Raynal; but they soon discovered, what in this instance he seems to have overlooked, that man is happier in society, and therefore gave up this mode of settlement for villages.

The country is highly cultivated; yet so

many trees are left, that the whole, at a little distance, appears like an extensive forest.

They plough with cows, and make difpatch. In this part of Spain, and indeed all through Andalucia and La Mancha, milk, butter and cheese, appear to have no value, or at least it may be said that in those provinces they have no dairies, and very seldom milk their cows. *Gazpacho* seems to supply the place of buttermilk and whey among the peasants, who during the heat of summer live chiefly on a mixture of *bread, vinegar and oil*. There can be no doubt that as the country improves in cultivation, they will learn to derive a profit from their milk.

In one cottage we saw tame partridges. These are trained, like decoy ducks, to collect others.

In the higher regions of the Sierra we find the granite; but, as we descend, the schist again appears, with limestone and gypsum.

At noon we came to *Carolina*, the capital of these new settlements.

Their founder, D. Pablo de Olavide, is a

native of Peru, who, being protected by count d'Aranda, was made at first syndic of Madrid, and afterwards *assistente de Sevilla*. Whilst in this employment, he conceived the idea of introducing agriculture and arts in the deserted mountains of the Sierra, where rapine and violence had for ages established their dominion. The difficulty was to procure settlers. One Turrigel, of Bavaria, contracted for six thousand husbandmen; but, instead of men trained to agriculture, he brought only vagabonds, who all either died or were dispersed, without advancing the work for which, at an immense expence, they had been brought.

Settlers were then invited from all parts of Germany, and, in order to encourage emigration from those hives, every new comer, on application, received a lot of land, a house, two cows, one ass, five sheep, as many goats, six hens with a cock, one pregnant sow, a plough, and a pick-axe, with other emoluments of inferior value. They begin with fifty fanegas of land, of ten thousand square feet each; and when they have cultivated these, they receive fifty more, free of all rent for the first ten

years, and after that period, subject only to the royal tithes. No proprietor can alienate his land to one who is in possession of a lot, in order that the farms may never become either too little, or too big. They are not permitted to settle, either near to a morass or to stagnant water.

The soil about Carolina consists chiefly of sand; and the rock is either limestone or gypsum.

They produce olives, oil, wine, silk, wheat, barley, rye, oats, peas, Indian wheat, and lentils.

They have no manufactures, and therefore cannot profitably employ all their people. Hence it is, that these new settlements swarm with half naked beggars.

The numbers, at present settled in the Sierra Morena, will appear from the government returns, and are as follows: unmarried men, two thousand three hundred and eighty-eight; unmarried women, one thousand seven hundred and twenty-four; married men, one thousand six hundred and twenty; married women, one thousand six hundred and nine; widows, three hundred and eighteen; widowers, two

hundred and nine; total seven thousand eight hundred and sixty-eight. Of these, the husbandmen are one thousand seven hundred and eighty-four; day labourers, four hundred and eleven; artisans, one hundred and seventy-two; servants, three hundred and sixty-six; employed by the crown, one hundred and eighteen.

Considering that all these were assembled and established in less than ten years, we must admire the energy and zeal of Olavidè. They have been collected, at a vast expence, from distant countries, and enjoy singular immunities, yet the colony is far from prospering. The reason of this must be sought for, either in the climate, the soil, the government, the morals of the people, or in the want of a market for the surplus of their produce.

It is allowed that no country, if the climate is unhealthy, or if the soil is barren, if it wants corn and cattle, or if it is destitute of fuel, can be populous; but, in the Sierra, excepting tertians, they are subject to few diseases; the soil is certainly productive both in fruits and herbage, and it abounds with wood. Supposing

the government of a country to be either weak or vicious, the peasant having no certainty of protection for his person and for his property, the most fertile soil, notwithstanding repeated efforts to increase its population, will be deserted. Or, should the morals be corrupt, the people will not increase and multiply; the births will not fill up the vacancies made by death; and, to keep up the population, emigrants must be invited from more prolific nations. But neither is it from these causes that the Sierra languishes, because the people are self governed, that is to say, five villages unite to choose a senate for the administration, both temporal and spiritual; and as for luxury, with its attendant vices, it is yet unknown. We must refer, therefore, to the want of a market, for the unprosperous condition of this new, this sequestered colony.

The principles, thus briefly stated, are confirmed by the experience of all nations. In favourable circumstances, a country, not fully peopled, will double its numbers at least every five and twenty years. Whenever, therefore, instead of thus advancing,

vancing, a defective population is at a stand, or going backwards, we may be certain that, if sought for, some of the causes above suggested will be discovered.

At Carolina we met with comfortable rooms in a posada, which is kept by a Frenchman, and fared sumptuously. It was February 20th, yet we had cauliflowers and green peas.

The people in this district being subject to agues, and to such intermittents, as, when neglected, soon turn putrid, I looked about for stagnant water, and for marsh miasma; but I could find none, and am therefore satisfied, that these diseases may arise from other causes, beside those which have been commonly assigned.

Thus far the road through the Sierra is excellent; but all beyond is in a state of nature.

About two leagues from Carolina is *Guadaroman*, a village comprising one hundred families, each possessing its fifty fanegas of land. It is situated on a gentle declivity, by the side of a purling brook, in a fertile spot, which is chequered with corn fields

and little groves of *ilex*. The distant hills are beautifully varied in their forms, and covered with wood. The soil is sandy, and the trees are healthy; yet the inhabitants suffer much by intermittent fevers.

They have no beef. Mutton is seventeen quarts, or four pence three farthings the pound of two and thirty ounces; and bread is half that price.

The inhabitants are chiefly Germans, who, both by their industry and frugality, do credit to their country.

As we increase our distance from this little colony, we lose sight of every thing which marks the residence of man; but, in approaching *Bailen*, we pass through immense plantations of the olive, belonging, with that village, and a vast extent of country round it, to the countess of Peñafiel. In the way we see *Baños*, with its castle, situated on a hill, and commanding a distant prospect. Having quitted *Bailen*, we entered a forest, and at the top of a hill saw one monumental cross; then, leaving *Zogueta*, with its convent, to the right, we came to the venta of *Sequaca*; and after
dinner,

dinner, sometimes traversing extensive forests of the ilex, at others meeting with plantations of the olive, we came to Andujar.

The rock, wherever it is laid bare by torrents, appears to be hard granite, of different species, both of the red and of the white.

Andujar is situated in a rich and highly cultivated plain. It numbers six thousand eight hundred families, five parish churches, and ten convents, but has no manufacture. The castle carries the marks of great antiquity; it was taken from the Moors, A. D. 1225, by Ferdinand III. surnamed *El Santo*.

Thursday, *February 22*, at five in the morning, when we left Andujar, after crossing the bridge over the Guadalquivir, and entering a plantation of olives, my companions each cocked his pistol, and held it to the window, whilst a foldier, with his gun, walked by our side, and the coachmen were charged instantly to stop, if any one appeared. These precautions, I apprehend, were needless, because it was well known that we were armed; but as several rob-

beries

beries had been committed near the city, they thought it right to be upon their guard. At break of day, as we advanced into a more open country, our apprehensions vanished, and the pistols were uncocked.

All the hills we crossed, bounding the river to the north, are covered with smooth, round, limestone gravel, and some flints; but in approaching to Del Carpio, the rock appears formed of silicious grit with mica, evidently from decomposed granite.

In *Del Carpio* are seven hundred and fifty houses, with an old castle, a post-house, and a well built posada.

As soon as we arrived, we paid our respects to the corregidor, and shewed him our passports, in order to secure a good reception at our inn. The reason of this precaution was, that one of our companions had formerly quarrelled with the good man of the inn, and had caused him to be sent to prison, for attempting to stab him with a knife. The man kept out of fight, but his wife was determined to take revenge. It was little she could do; but all she could, she did, to testify her resentment. For
this

this purpose she assigned us a miserable room, with four mattresses, each occupying its corner, and stretched upon the floor. Fearing to be devoured by fleas, I chose rather to sleep in our carriage. In the middle of the night the treading of a foot awakened my attention; and, as there was a lamp, I looked out to see who was in motion. My situation rendered me invisible, and the light enabled me clearly to discern every thing that passed. The person who was moving was a muleteer, and his object was to see what he could steal. For this purpose he examined the kitchen, then visited the passage communicating with the bed-rooms, and tried at every door, but finding them all fastened, he came to the coach; where seeing me, he fled back into the stable, and hid himself.

Provisions here are cheap. They kill no mutton: beef, goat, and kid, are sixteen quarts a pound consisting of thirty-two ounces.

The land in the vicinity is rich. It belongs chiefly to the dutchess of Alba, and her corregidor administers it for her. He appears

appears to manage well. The plantations of olives are extensive, and the trees are not, like those of the countess of Peñafiel round Bailen, worn out with age, but young and healthy.

As we draw nigh to Cordova, the highest hills are covered with flints and bowlder stones, or large smooth tumblers, of limestone, silicious grit, and granite; and, as we approach the river, we discover a bed of gravel, of all the above species, twelve or fourteen feet in thickness.

Cordova is situated in a plain of great extent, which is bounded on the south by swelling hills cultivated to their very summits, and on the north by a chain of rugged mountains, the continuation of the Sierra Morena. Through the midst of the plain runs the Guadalquivir; and the whole country being well wooded, well watered, and well cultivated, cannot be surpassed either in riches or in beauty. Here, for the first time since I left Barcelona, I rejoiced to find the fig, the orange, and the palm, in great abundance. It is a most enchanting spot.

This city contains thirty-two thousand
souls,

souls, fourteen parishes, and forty-four convents.

The first thing I did on my arrival, was to present myself before the intendant, with my letter from count Florida Blanca. He received me with politeness, and pressed me to prolong my stay; but, unfortunately, I had made engagements, and therefore proceeded the next day. All that I could do was to visit the great church, and with this I was exceedingly delighted. Its numerous pillars, arranged in quincunx, appeared like a grove of saplings; and are said to be eight hundred, but I had not time to count them, yet I should conceive them to be many more. It was a mosque. The dimensions are five hundred and ten feet, by four hundred and twenty.

I was struck with the multitude of beggars in every street; and, upon inquiry, soon found the cause to be the mistaken benevolence of the bishop, of the canons, and of the convents, in distributing alms to all who ask. The bishopric is worth eighty thousand five hundred ducats, or £. 8,843 pounds sterling, per annum. Out of this income the bishop gives money every

every day, alternately to the men and to the women, and on some days he has relieved more than seven thousand persons. Besides pecuniary donations, he distributes daily thirty fanegas of corn; yet, notwithstanding this more than ample provision for the indolent and vicious, many are said to have perished last year for want of bread.

The chief diseases are tertians and putrid fevers. These arise from the quantity of cucumbers and melons they eat, not only in the summer, but early in the spring.

Provisions are, beef thirteen quarts the double pound, mutton fifteen, pork twenty-two, wine six quarts the quartillo, or about one shilling the gallon. Labourers expect seven or eight reals a day, or, if they are victualled, only three.

Cordova had the honour of giving birth to Seneca and Lucan; and when Abdoul-raman, after subduing the south of Spain, had established here the seat of his dominion, (A. D. 759), the sciences, with arts and arms, which were every where else abandoned, took up their residence, and flourished in this city.

Saturday, February 24, at six in the morning,

morning, we set forwards on our journey, having joined another coach, which was going the same road with four gentlemen well armed. In travelling through Spain, I have constantly observed, that, wherever danger is apprehended, travellers associate, and form sometimes considerable bodies, yet without any communication, or verbal engagement for mutual defence, or any other bond of union beside their fears. Influenced by these alone, they unite their forces, and make a tacit agreement to support each other, or at least, by their numbers, to intimidate the thieves. One of our companions, the naval officer, not satisfied with this reinforcement; in addition to the soldier, who attended our captain by way of a servant and a guard, hired two marines. Thus escorted, we proceeded with confidence, yet with circumspection; thinking at least to have a view of the villains, who had been robbing on this road, but happily we saw nothing of them.

In traversing the downs, I observed on the summit of the highest hill, at the distance of about two leagues from the Guadalquivir, the surface covered with large
 bowlder

boulder stones, of the same species with those already mentioned in the approach to Cordova. Such facts should be treasured in the memory.

We came at noon to *Gharlotta*, a new settlement, and at present in its infancy, like those of the Sierra Morena. The country is beautiful, the soil rich, the herbage luxuriant, and the oxen large. In the posada we had a French cook, and fared well. The price of provisions is here, beef eighteen quarts, mutton twenty, kid eighteen, bread eleven for a pound of thirty-two ounces, wine ten quarts the quartillo.

From hence, after dinner, we proceeded over the downs, admiring their extreme fertility, of which, in a few cultivated spots, we were able to judge by the luxuriant crops of beans then in full blossom. These were well hoed. As we approached Ecija, the face of the country improved; cultivation appeared to be carried on with spirit; the oxen became remarkable for beauty and for size; and the plantations of olives shewed the richness of the soil.

The rock is a pudding stone, and therefore,

fore, with the smooth tumblers above described, prove to a demonstration that the whole country partook of the grand revolution, to which I have so frequently referred.

Ecija is eight leagues from Cordova. It is delightfully situated on the banks of the Xenil, with pleasant walks, serving, like those of the great cities in Spain, for the evening resort. It contains twenty-eight thousand one hundred and seventy-six souls, and has six parish churches, eight chapels, twenty convents, and six hospitals.

The churches, built entirely of brick, are fitted up in the old taste, and crowded with pillars, which are loaded with preposterous ornaments, and covered with gold. The most extravagant of all is the church of *nuestra Señora del Rosario*, in the convent of the Dominicans; this may serve as a model for the perfection of vitiated taste.

The Plaza Mayor is a fine object, very spacious, and much to be admired for its balconies, occupying the whole front of the houses.

When we arrived, we found every one engaged in talking over a defeat, which the

king's troops had suffered the preceding day from the smugglers, near one hundred of whom, well armed, entering the city, had driven away the military, had killed one man, and had then, unmolested, sold their snuff to the inhabitants. This violence was more than usual, and proceeded from the bad policy of government, in raising the price of tobacco from thirty to forty reals the pound, whilst the illicit trader purchased the same commodity in Portugal for eight. With such encouragement for defrauding the revenue, it will never be possible to prevent this trade; and whilst men have such powerful inducements to violate the laws, no government, how strenuous soever its exertions, and how cruel soever the punishment inflicted on offenders, will ever be able to maintain a good police. In Spain, unless it be accompanied with murder, the penalty for smuggling is commonly a confinement for seven or ten years to hard labour in the *presidios*; where, by communication with profligate and hardened villains, who are under similar correction, they are prepared for the perpetration of the most atrocious crimes; and, thus qualified, they are turned loose

loose upon the public. Previous to this part of his education, the smuggler seldom robs on the highway, unless when he has been plundered, and is therefore more than commonly distressed for want of horses, of money, or of arms. In such circumstances he becomes outrageous, and frequently begins with murdering the traveller, whom he means to rob.

Farmers in this vicinity rent dear, paying commonly two bushels of wheat and one of barley for every bushel of their seed; or if they pay a stipulated sum of money, it is not immediately to the land-owner, but, as under-tenants, to rich land-jobbers; and therefore they can expect no moderation. Farms, if inclosed, let much higher than those which are open, because the latter are liable to be fed by the Merino sheep; whereas, should they enter the former, one-fifth of the number trespassing would be forfeited. This, however, proves a never-failing source of quarrels and contentions between the occupiers of land and those, who may be called graziers, that is, the proprietors of the Merino flock, who, under the sanction of a peculiar code, claim

the privilege of feeding, not only in the common pasture, but even in plantations of olives. The murders consequent on these quarrels have been more than two hundred in the space of a few years; and the litigations have cost the contending parties more than the value, both of their sheep and of their olives. The council of Castille interfered, in the year 1570, to prohibit this; but the great sheep-masters appeal to their own courts, plead their privilege, as granted by the Mesta code, and support their claim by force.

Throughout the whole province of Andalusia, cities and boroughs have immense possessions, in many instances extending to the distance of three leagues from them every way, including thus more than two hundred thousand acres, either of waste land, or of such as might be cultivated, if it were not too remote from the habitation of the farmer. Of these, not one-fourth part is broken up by the plough; and that, which remains uncultivated, rather checks than promotes the breed of cattle. In short, according to the opinion of the best patriots in Spain, Andalusia is ruined by high rents,
and

and by common pastures. (*V. Memorias de la Sociedad Economica. Madrid.*)

February 25. At five in the morning, we left Ecija, and followed the Roman caufeway leading from Cordova to Seville, till we came to Carmona. The country through which we passed belongs to the crown, and will be improved as fast as emigrants can be induced to come. At present little is cultivated, and that little, bears the face of wretchedness, exhibiting ruined cottages, and half-naked peasants. We conversed with a Frenchman, who had been here eighteen years, and during that period had been often removed from his plantation, because, by his diligence and skill, he had improved his allotment, which being given to slovens, he was compelled to take new land. It is true they always gave him, what they considered as an equivalent, not intending to injure him, but meaning only to avail themselves of his superior application and abilities; yet, in the end, they reduced him to poverty, and broke his spirit. This, he informed us, was no uncommon case; and, from the misery every where visible in

these new colonies, I am inclined to credit his report.

The botanical productions are chiefly the ilex, the myrtle, the gum cistus, the lavender, a species of the *Daphne*, and a plant called *lentiscus*.

Carmona is built on a declivity, looking down upon a rich valley, which is bounded by distant hills, excepting only to the south, where a wide opening gives passage to the Guadalquivir.

It contains twelve thousand six hundred and eighty-five souls, and includes seven parish churches, with five convents for men, two for women, and two hospitals. Here they reckon more than a hundred oil-mills.

As soon as we arrived, although the sun was set, I took horses, and went off for Seville, that I might have a comfortable bed. The distance is six leagues, or about twenty miles, and the charge was one hundred and twenty reals, or four-and-twenty shillings, including the licence, which must always be taken out, when you begin a journey with post horses.

It being dark, I could not see the country.

try, but I found that it was level, that the soil was sandy, and, by the incessant croaking of frogs, I concluded that every ditch was full of stagnant water.

At ten in the evening I arrived at Seville, well contented with my horses, having travelled the six leagues in little more than two hours. Indeed, no horses can move more pleasantly, than those of Andalusia, cantering the whole way, without needing either whip or spur. I took up my lodging at the posada de la Baviere, and slept more comfortably than I had done since we left Madrid.

S E V I L L E.

THE morning after my arrival I examined my letters. Among the persons of distinction and authority, to whom I was recommended, I judged, as an ecclesiastic, my first attention to be due to the archbishop, and therefore I hastened early to his palace. He received me with politeness, permitted me to kiss his ring, made me sit down, and then, having read my letter, he told me, that as long as I continued at Seville I must dine every day with him, unless when I should be more agreeably engaged. After some little conversation, he desired to see the address of my other letters, and calling a page, he ordered that a coach should be got ready, and that one of his chaplains should attend me, to deliver my letters, and to shew me every thing worthy

of attention in the city. When I left him, he desired me to come back to dinner, telling me, that during my stay, that coach would be wholly at my service. Agreeable to this invitation I returned, and not only dined with him that day, but almost every day during a fortnight's residence at Seville. I was indeed often pressing invited by other families; but, as it was the season of lent, and as fish, in Spain, never agreed with me, I declined their invitations. At the archbishop's table were many aged persons, who were supposed to be infirm, and therefore for them were provided a variety of dishes, such as others did not feel themselves at liberty to touch. To this circumstance I reckon myself indebted for returning health; because, for want of custom, and in a weakly condition at the time, I should never have been able to endure a fast, which, with the exception of the intervening sabbaths, is in fact, although not by precept, a fast of forty days.

The archbishop is well lodged, and keeps a hospitable table. He is quite the man of fashion: his manners are engaging, and his conversation lively. His usual com-

company at dinner was his confessor, his chaplains, his secretaries, and a few friends. He was attended by his pages, who are generally young men of family, recommended to his patronage, and educated under his inspection. The librarian sometimes sat down at the table, at other times waited behind a chair. He was commonly my guide, and with him I visited every corner of the city.

Seville stands on the banks of the Guadalquivir, in the midst of a rich, and, to the eye, a boundless plain. It is surrounded by a wall of more than a league in circumference, with one hundred and seventy-six towers. Over one of the gates is the following inscription :

Condidit Alcides, renovavit Julius Urbem,
Restituit Christo Fernandus Tertius, Heros.

Which, over another gate, is thus translated :

Hercules me edifico;
Julio Cesar me cercò
De Muros y torres altas;
Y el Rey fante me gano
Con Garci Perez de Vargas.

The streets are narrow, and some of them so contracted, that you may touch both walls at the same time. Few are wide enough for carriages; and many, through which coaches pass, shew, by the deep furrows in the walls, that one nave touched, and often both at the same time.

Seville is said to contain eighty thousand two hundred and sixty-eight souls, and is divided into thirty parishes. It has eighty-four convents, with twenty-four hospitals.

Of the public edifices, the first to demand attention is the cathedral, a building of singular magnificence, but admired chiefly for its tower, the work of Güever, the Moor. He made it originally two hundred and fifty feet high, but A. D. 1568, it was raised one hundred more, and is therefore, at present, three hundred and fifty feet. It has no steps, nor are they wanted; because the inclined plain is so easy of ascent, that a horse might trot from the bottom to the top; at the same time it is so spacious, that two horsemen may ride abreast. On the top of this tower is the Giralda, or large brazen image, which, with its palm-branch,

branch, weighs near one ton and an half, yet turns with the slightest variation of the wind.

The dimensions of the cathedral are four hundred and twenty feet, by two hundred and sixty-three; and the height is one hundred and twenty-six. It was built A. D. 1401. It receives light by fourscore windows with painted glass, the work of Arnao of Flanders, each of which cost one thousand ducats.

The treasures of this church are inestimable: one altar is wholly silver, with all its ornaments, as are the images, large as life, of S. Isidore and S. Leander, and a custodia or tabernacle for the host, more than four yards high, adorned with eight and forty columns; yet these are trifling in value, when compared with the gold and precious stones deposited by the piety and zeal of catholics, during the period in which all the wealth of a newly-discovered world flowed into this city. The profusion of gold, of silver, and of gems, would be more striking, were not the attention occupied and lost in admiration of innumerable pictures, the works of those Spanish
masters

masters who flourished, immediately after the revival of the art, in Seville. Every chapel preserves some monuments of their superior skill. Of these, the most conspicuous are of Luis de Vargas, and of Fr. Zurbaran, but chiefly of Murillo. By the last is a Nativity in the chapel of the Conception, and, near the baptismal font, S. Anthony of Padua, with the Baptism of Christ. In the principal sacristy, are his much-admired pictures of S. Isidore, with his brother S. Leander; and in another sacristy, his Holy Family, with an Ecce homo by Morales. The chapter-house is wholly devoted to Murillo, and the chapel of S. Peter is given up to Zurbaran. The works of Luis de Vargas are dispersed in various places; but his famous picture, called de la Gamba, is in a chapel near the gate of S. Christopher, and merits particular attention.

To the cathedral belongs a library of twenty thousand volumes, collected by Hernando, son to Christobal Colon, the first discoverer of America, a man of taste, and much admired in his day for learning. It is to be lamented, that modern publications

lications have not been added to complete, what was so well begun by him.

I was much pleased with the construction of a new organ, containing five thousand three hundred pipes, with one hundred and ten stops, which latter, as the builder told me, is fifty more than are in the famous one of Harlem; yet, so ample are the bellows, that, when stretched, they supply the full organ fifteen minutes. The mode of filling them with air is singular; for instead of working with his hands, a man walks backwards and forwards along an inclined plain of about fifteen feet in length, which is balanced in the middle on its axis; under each end is a pair of bellows, of about six feet by three and an half. These communicate with five other pair united by a bar; and the latter are so contrived, that when they are in danger of being overstrained, a valve is lifted up, and gives them relief. Passing ten times along the inclined plain fills all these vessels.

In the cathedral are eighty-two altars, at which are said daily five hundred masses. The annual consumption is fifteen hundred

dred arrobas of wine, eight hundred of oil, and of wax about one thousand.

The wealth belonging to this chapter may be estimated by the numbers that are supported by it.

The archbishop, with a revenue of three hundred thousand ducats; or, in sterling, nearly thirty-three thousand pounds a year.

Eleven dignitaries, who wear the mitre on high festivals, amply, but not equally, provided for.

Forty canons of forty thousand reals, or about four hundred pounds each, per annum.

Twenty prebendaries, with an income of thirty thousand reals each.

Twenty-one minor canons, at twenty thousand reals each.

Beside these, they have twenty chanters, called Veinteneros, with three assistants, called Sochantrès, two beadles, one master of the ceremonies, with a deputy, three attendants to call the roll and mark the absentees, thirty-six boys for singing and for the service of the altar, with their rector, vice rector, and music masters; nineteen chaplains,

chaplains, four curates, four confessors, twenty-three musicians, and four supernumeraries; in all, two hundred and thirty-five.

Many of the convents are remarkable for the beauty of their architecture; but, in Seville, the eye covets only pictures, and amidst the profusion of these, it overlooks works, which, in other situations, would rivet the attention, and every where fixes on the pencil of Murillo. His most famous performances are in the Hospital de la Caridad, and, suited to the institution, express some act of charity; such as, the miracle of the Loaves and Fishes; the Smiting of the Rock in Horeb; the Pool of Bethesda; the Reception of the returning Prodigal; Abraham addressing the three angels, and pressing them to enter his habitation; the Deliverance of Peter from the Prison; and Charity, in the person of Elizabeth, washing the wounds and curing the diseases of the poor. Beside these, in the same hospital, is the Annunciation of the blessed Virgin; and two little pictures, the one of the infant Jesus, the other of John.

The church of the Capuchins is richly furnished

furnished with his works; and, although in these the composition is more simple than in the former, yet they may be considered as some of the best of his productions. Eleven of his pictures are to be seen in a chapel called de la vera Cruz, belonging to the Franciscans. These do much credit to his pencil; and, not inferior to them, are many preserved in other convents; such as, an Ecce homo, and the blessed Virgin, with the infant Jesus, in the church of the Carmelites; the Flight into Egypt, in that of la Merced Calzada; a rich variety of subjects in S. Maria de la blanca; and S. Augustin writing, with S. Thomas of Villanueva, stripping himself to clothe the poor, in the convent of the Augustin friars, near the gate of Carmona. In my opinion, the most masterly of all his works is in the refectory of an hospital designed for the reception of superannuated priests. It represents an angel holding a basket to the infant Jesus, who, standing on his mother's lap, takes bread from it to feed three venerable priests. No representation ever approached nearer to real life, nor is it possible to see more expression, than glows upon

that canvass. In the parochial church of Santa Cruz, are two pictures in a superior stile, a Stabat Mater dolorosa, which excels in grace and softness; and the famous Descent from the Cross, of Pedro de Campaña, which Murillo was accustomed daily to admire, and opposite to which, by his own directions, he was buried.

This great painter was born A. D. 1618, and died in 1682.

His name stands high in Europe; but to form an adequate idea of his excellence, every convent should be visited, where he deposited the monuments of his superior skill.

In exactness of imitation he was equalled; in clara obscuro, and in reflected lights, he was surpassed by Velazquez; but not one of all the Spanish artists went beyond him in tenderness and softness.

In visiting the convents, and in viewing their pictures, I had the happiness to have for my guide D. Francisco de Bruna, a gentleman distinguished for his judgment and his taste, who had studied the peculiar excellence of every master, and was perfectly acquainted with the merit of each work.

work. He has himself a well-disposed collection of the best Spanish painters, natives of Seville, or educated there; such as, Luis de Vargas, Velazquez, Zurbaran, Valdez, and Murillo, beside many of the Italian and of the Flemish schools.

The house in which they are deposited, and in which he lives, was once the residence of Moorish kings, and, as such, was called *Alcazar*. It is an irregular building, but commodious and pleasantly situated, comprising many large and well-proportioned rooms. But, as it is sufficiently described by travellers, I shall not add to their descriptions. The garden is singular, and, having retained its pristine form, it is meant to serve as a model of the Moorish taste. It is laid out in alleys, with clipped myrtle hedges, and in the middle of the parterres are single trees cut into the form of warriors, with spiked clubs. Its principal fruits are oranges and lemons. The whole of this pleasure-garden, together with the palace and the court-yard, is surrounded by a strong rampart, communicating with, but much higher than, the city wall; and beyond this is an orange-grove of considerable extent.

For the winter and for the spring, there cannot be a more delightful residence.

In speaking of pictures, I have confined myself chiefly to Murillo, because of his superior excellence, and because Seville, the place of his nativity, may be considered as the principal depository of his work. But although eminent, he by no means stands alone. This once famous school, in which the art revived at the beginning of the sixteenth century, when first the treasures of the western continent were brought to Seville, has produced a multitude of good painters. Among these, stand foremost Pedro de Villegas, the father of this school, Luis de Vargas, Velazquez, Herrera, Roelas, Juan de el Castillo, Zurbaran, Francisco Pacheco, Alonso Cano, and Valdez, with many others universally admired.

The works of these great masters, and of various foreigners, as well as of native Spaniards, are to be met with, not only in the churches, but in the houses of the principal inhabitants. Among these, I visited the collections of the marquis of Moscoso, of D. Pedro de Castro, and of D. Donato de Arenzana. In the possession of the latter is, per-
haps,

haps, the most perfect representation that was ever painted upon canvass : it is a lamb, by Zurbaran, with which Velazquez was so much struck, that he took the pains to copy it. This I had seen in the possession of D. Fr. de Bruna ; but when I had viewed the original, the copy, much as I had before admired it, sunk in my estimation. D. Donato has, beside this, a good head by Morales, a Conception by Guido, a most incomparable portrait of S. Ignatius Loyola by Careño ; the Descent from the Cross by Luis de Vargas, and the Death of Abel by Bobadilla.

Of the convents, that which is upon the most extensive scale belongs to the Franciscans. It contains fifteen cloisters, many of which are elegant and spacious, with apartments for two hundred monks ; but at present they have only one hundred and forty in their community. These, like all of their order, are fed by charity, and are much favoured by the people. Their annual expenditure is more than four hundred thousand reals, or in sterling about four thousand pounds, amounting to twenty-eight pounds eleven shillings and five pence for each. But

then out of this must be deducted the expence of wine, oil, and wax, with the alms distributed daily to the poor, which all together is considerable.

Not one of the convents is equally frequented as this, more especially during the forty days of Lent. In the principal cloister, which is intirely inclosed by a multitude of little chapels, are represented, in fourteen pictures, each called a *station*, all the sufferings of the Redeemer. These are so arranged as to mark given distances by walking round the cloister from the first to the second, and so in order to the rest. Over them is mentioned the number of steps taken by our Lord between the several incidents of his passion in his way to Calvary, and these precisely are the paces measured for the penitents in their progress from one station to another. Over one is the following inscription: " This station
 " consists of 1,087 steps. Here the blessed
 " Redeemer fell a second time under the
 " weight of his cross, and here is to be
 " gained the indulgence of seven years and
 " forty quarantines. Mental prayer, the
 " Paternoster and the Ave Maria." This
 may

may serve as an example for the rest. I observed men, women, and children, rich and poor, going their rounds, some solitary, others in little groups, repeating aloud their Latin prayers, and kneeling at every station in regular succession.

Among all the hospitals I was most pleased with that of *la Sangre*, designed for the reception of female patients. The front is elegant, and the sculpture is much to be admired, more especially the three figures of Faith, Hope, and Charity. The wards are spacious, and the whole is remarkable for neatness.

Were I inclined to enlarge in my descriptions of the public buildings, the Torre del Oro, the Plaza de Toros, the Aqueduct with its four hundred and ten arches, but more especially the Exchange, would afford me ample scope. The latter, planned by Herrera (A. D. 1598,) and worthy of its great architect, is a quadrangle of two hundred feet, with a corridor or spacious gallery round it, adorned with Ionic columns, and supported by an equal number of Doric.

The university was founded in the year 1502, and soon rose into consideration. The

name of Arias Montanus, who lies buried at the convent of S. Jago, is alone sufficient to give celebrity to this seminary. His translation of the holy Scriptures will be valued by the learned, as long as the Scriptures themselves shall be the objects of veneration to mankind. The number of under-graduates here is about five hundred.

We meet at Seville with the favourite institutions of Count Campomanes, his academy for the three noble arts of painting, sculpture, and architecture, and his œconomical society of the friends of their country. Both these have been attended with success, and have given assistance not only to the arts, but to agriculture, to manufactures, and to commerce. About two hundred pupils attend the former.

The principal manufacture is snuff. To this I paid particular attention. The edifice, elegant and simple in its form, is about six hundred feet by four hundred and eighty, and not less than sixty feet in height, with four regular fronts, inclosing twenty-eight quadrangles. It cost thirty-seven millions of reals, or about three hundred and seventy thousand pounds. At present, no more than

than seventeen hundred workmen are employed, and one hundred horses or mules; but formerly, three thousand men were engaged, and near four hundred horses. This falling off is attributed to mismanagement, and to the reluctance with which they consented to destroy their damaged tobacco. They have now changed this system; and, not many days before my arrival, they condemned to the flames fifteen thousand pounds weight as unfit for use. Yet the high price of the commodity restrains the sale; for, since they raised the tobacco from thirty to forty reals, that is, from about six to eight shillings a pound, the demand has gradually lessened. From the year 1780, the annual sale has been, of tobacco from Brazil, one million five hundred thousand pounds, purchased from the Portuguese, at three reals a pound; and of snuff, from the produce of their own colonies, one million six hundred thousand pounds, beside cigars to a very considerable amount. They have lying by them, more than five millions of snuff unsold; but, as it will not suffer by age, they are not uneasy at this accumulation. Beside the peculiar kind of snuff, with
which

which Spain was accustomed to supply the market, they have lately introduced the manufacture of rappee. There was a necessity for this, in order to put a stop to an illicit trade; for whilst the king was selling at sixty, and sometimes at fourscore reals a pound, the smugglers sold the same commodity at forty, having themselves purchased it in France, from the farmers of tobacco, at fifteen; but, now that government sells good rappee at twenty-four reals, the smuggler's profit will not compensate for the risk. In this branch alone are employed, at present, two hundred and twenty people, old and young, with sixteen mules; but they mean to push their trade, when they can get a sufficient quantity of tobacco, and to engage five times as many hands. The operations are so numerous before the rappee is fit for market, that they require a multitude of workmen. Whilst some are employed to unbind the little bundles of tobacco, others are occupied in picking the leafy substance from the hard stems. Some are engaged in dying, others either in straining and pressing, or in spinning the leaf into ropes, and winding it up into rollers to
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be faggoted and pressed, till a parcel of eighteen inches long, and two and an half inches in diameter, will weigh six pounds. These operations being finished, it is laid in heaps to sweat nine months ; after which, it is cut and sifted, then grated, once more sifted, and finally packed up in canisters for sale.

All the workmen deposit their cloaks at the door, and, when they go out, are so strictly examined, that they have little chance of being able to conceal tobacco ; yet they sometimes venture to hide it about their persons. An officer and a guard is always attending to take delinquents into custody ; and, that they may prevent resistance, no workman is permitted to enter with a knife. Were it not for this precaution, the consequence of a detection might be fatal.

The whole business is conducted by a director, with a salary of forty thousand reals a year, and fifty-four superior officers, assisted by as many subordinate to them.

For grinding their snuff, they have forty mills, each consisting of a stone-roller, moved by a large horse, or mule, with the

traces

traces fastened to a beam of eight feet in length, in the angle of forty-five degrees, consequently losing precisely half his force. I endeavoured to explain this to the officer who conducted me through the works, but he could not comprehend it. He is brother to the unfortunate young woman, who, in the year 1774, at S. Lucar, bled before the altar, a victim to the unhallowed passion, with which her beauty had inspired the priest. This wretch, whilst receiving her confessions, had declared himself her lover; but, at last, enraged at the obstinate resistance of a virtuous mind, he turned his back upon the altar, where he had been partaking of the consecrated bread, and stabbed her, in the presence of her mother. For this most atrocious of all crimes, he was—shocking to relate!—suffered to live in banishment at Porto Rico.

The silk manufacture was formerly considerable in Seville. When Ferdinand III. surnamed *el Santo*, (in the year 1248) entered the city, he found, as it is said, sixteen thousand looms, which employed a hundred and thirty thousand persons; and such was the population of the city, that the
Moors,

Moors, who left it when it was surrendered to the Christians, were four hundred thousand, beside multitudes who died during a sixteen months siege, and many who remained after their fellow citizens were gone.

Alfonzo, surnamed el Sabio, seeing the importance of this manufacture, gave it every possible encouragement; and, trade being chiefly confined to Seville, on the first discovery of America; (A. D. 1519,) they once more reckoned sixteen thousand looms; but the millones, imposed at the latter end of the reign of Philip II. to defray the expence of his wars, gave a shock to commerce, and the frequent alteration in the relative value of their money, with the expulsion of the Moors, almost ruined this once wealthy city. Added to this, in the year 1649 more than two hundred thousand persons died of an epidemical disease in Spain. In consequence of these misfortunes, (A. D. 1655,) there remained only sixty looms in Seville. After the accession of a new family, the weavers amounted (A. D. 1713,) to four hundred and five: but in the year 1721, the farmers of the
tax

tax on silk having collected with rigour the fourteen per cent. for the alcavala and cientos, they not only ruined the manufacture, but reduced the revenue from eight hundred thousand reals to less than sixteen thousand. Philip, however, giving attention to this important business, trade revived, and (A. D. 1732) the looms amounted to one thousand. War with England reduced them suddenly, and A. D. 1739 they were only a hundred and forty. Since the remonstrances of Bernardo de Ulloa, (A. D. 1740) the taxes have no longer been left to the rapacity of farmers, the alcavala has been taken off; and, by the last account, the looms amounted to four hundred and sixty-two for wide silks, with one thousand eight hundred and fifty-six for other purposes. Each loom is allowed annually, if for wide work, a hundred pounds of silk duty free; if for narrow, they receive four-score.

Whenever the navigation of the river shall be restored to the condition, in which it was when Magellan with five ships sailed from hence for those straits, which have been called by his name; and when freedom,

dom, civil and religious, shall once more lift up her head in Spain; new channels will be opened for reviving commerce, and Seville will be restored to her ancient splendor.

The art of tanning is perhaps no where so ill conducted as in Spain; in no part of which can good leather be procured, unless it come from England. Sensible of this, the minister of finance became anxious to induce some stranger, skilful in the business, to take up his residence in Spain. Whilst he had this idea in his mind, chance threw in his way a tradesman travelling to receive orders, and to get in debts for himself and partners, who, as leather-cutters, have a shop on Snow-hill, in London. It immediately occurred to the minister, that he had found his man; and therefore, sending for him, without loss of time, he invited him to settle as a currier and a tanner. This gentleman, conscious to himself that he was not properly qualified to conduct a business, to which he had not been bred, withstood his solicitations, and refused the most advantageous terms: but at length, after considering the matter in every point
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of view, he accepted the offer, and consented to establish himself at Seville. I visited his tan-yard, and found him happy in the protection he enjoys. The minister has given him the convent of the Jesuits, and about seven acres of good land, rent free, with the pre-emption of hides from Buenos Ayres, and of all skins from the Spanish settlements; beside the privilege of cutting down, for bark, all the trees growing, either in the royal forests, or on the lands of private persons, within a given distance of the city. He uses the inner bark taken from the cork-tree, with myrtle leaves, which serve his purpose tolerably well; yet are by no means equal in strength to the bark of oak. He says, that the Spaniards understand the art of tanning; but that they want spirit, industry, and capital for such extensive undertakings; and I am inclined to think, that his observation is well founded. Finding him a man of activity, with a command of money, the minister has given him a contract to furnish boots and belts for the cavalry, and a variety of other articles, such as spurs and buckles, not connected with his peculiar trade.

trade. He is certainly a treasure to the Spaniards, both for application and for weight of capital, and, I have no doubt, will push this new establishment as far as it can go, provided government shall continue to protect him.

Having been introduced to D. Juan Alvarez, the intendant of the *mint*, I visited his office, in which at present a few workmen find occasional employment; whereas formerly one hundred and eighty were constantly engaged. They have here the same slow process as at London and in Paris, in consequence of which their coinage is expensive; whilst in Birmingham the operation, by a new invention, is expedited, and performed at a trifling expence.

In traversing the streets, I was struck with the multitude of beggars clothed in rags; and was at first inclined to attribute this to the decay of trade; but, upon examination, I found a more abiding cause in the distribution of alms at the archbishop's palace, and at the gates of twenty convents, daily, and without distinction, to all who make application for relief. Such misplaced benevolence is a bar to industry, and

multiplies the objects of distress, whose numbers bear exact proportion to the provision made for their support. To have this principle rightly understood is of such importance, that I can never let one opportunity escape of bringing it into view.

My time passed away pleasantly at Seville. The mornings I employed in viewing whatever was most worthy of attention in the city, or in little excursions to the country. At noon I paid my respects to the good archbishop, dined and took the Siesta at his palace; after which I sometimes went out in the carriage with his grace, at other times joined the company in the Alameda, or public walk; and closed the day either with the archbishop, or in the family of some cheerful friend. The season of Lent is not favourable to gaiety, because it does not admit of the usual diversions; yet I had always reason to be satisfied with my evening's entertainment. The archbishop received only gentlemen for conversation. In other houses they have generally some round game at cards; but the family, in which I delighted most, was that of a canon, for whose sister I had
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the honour to be consulted as a physician: The case was highly interesting; an epilepsy, arising from extreme sensibility; and I pleased myself with the idea, that I was useful to her. My recompence was to enjoy her conversation, and to hear her sing.

In one of my morning visits at the archbishop's palace, I had the satisfaction of being present at an opposition, or disputation, between the candidates for a vacant benefice; a scene admirably described, by the author of *Gil Blas*. Vehemence, on such an occasion, is not only sanctioned by custom, but is certainly excusable, in men who are contending, not merely for fame, but bread. The judges are the diocesan, assisted by six of the chapter; and the examinations are in the sciences, ethics, divinity, and canon law. Many ecclesiastical preferments are disposed of in this way. Thus in every cathedral four canons are chosen by opposition, and are said to be *de merito*; these are, the penitentiary, for receiving the confessions of the chapter; the preacher; the professor of theology; and the civilian, who conducts their law-suits. The rest are given through favour, either

by the dioceſan, the chapter, or the king, according to the month in which the vacancy happens.

When a candidate makes application to the great; either for protection in general, or upon a ſpecial occaſion for preferment, he preſents a printed copy of his memorial, ſtiled “ *Relacion de los Meritos, titulos, grados y exercicios, literarios de A. B.*” of which the original is lodged with the ſecretary of ſtate, and contains his name; the place of his nativity; his rank; his age; the univerſity, in which he ſtudied, with the degrees he has taken; his acquirements; his conduct in his profeſſion, as a prieſt, as a preacher, and as a confeſſor; ſetting forth his regularity, his zeal, and his ſucceſs, with his peculiar privileges, ſuch as that he is permitted to read the prohibited books, and to confeſs both ſexes; and ſtating, finally, that he is every way qualified to receive any eccleſiaſtical preferment to which he may be preſented.

One day, when I was at the archbiſhop’s palace, the old librarian took me aſide, and requeſted me to make application for him to obtain a living then vacant, and in the gift of the crown, deſiring me to write immedi-

ately to count Florida Blanca, and to inclose his *Relacion de meritos*. This, I remember, stated, in the list of his acquirements, that he had learnt Hebrew, that he had been examined in the verbs, but that he had never been rich enough to purchase a lexicon. I made the application through our minister, and obtained the promise of a living for him; but not that for which he then solicited.

Not far from the city is a building, now verging to decay, near to which I often passed, without asking for what it was designed; but, one evening, walking with the gentleman to whom I had been recommended by count Florida Blanca, struck with its form, I desired him to tell me what purpose it had served. At first he seemed to pay no attention; but, upon my repeating the question, I received an evasive answer, such as tended only to awaken my curiosity, and to make me more urgent with him for information. At last he told me, that this strange kind of edifice is called *el Quemadero*; but begged that I would never disclose to any one, from whom I had received my information. The name was sufficient, together with the form, without further

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inquiries,

inquiries, to explain the horrid use to which it had been too often put. I urged him no further on the subject; and, without loss of time, hastened from a spot which my imagination painted all in flames. The next day, however, I returned with one of the judges, who, as such, could venture to be more communicative. In answer to my questions, he informed me, that the *Quemadero*, so called from the verb *quemar*, to burn, served the purpose of a scaffold for burning heretics; and that, about four years before, a woman had suffered on it, by a sentence of the inquisition, to which he had given his sanction. From him, and from others, I obtained the following particulars. This woman was a *beata*, professing one of the three vows imposed on nuns, of which, poverty and obedience are the regular companions; yet that vow she broke. In the accusation she was charged with having corrupted her confessor; who, poor man! as the least culpable of the two, was merely banished. Had this been her sole offence, it had been punished with less distinguished severity; but, not satisfied with having been guilty of sacrilege in one instance,