

*ago fativa*) appear luxuriant, and the trees are full of verdure. These are chiefly the elm, the poplar, the willow, the cypress, oranges, lemons, figs, mulberries, palms, medlars, quinces, and pomegranates. In short, the whole valley is one continued garden.

I took notice that all the ovens are separate from the cottages, and are covered with earth to retain the heat.

Early in the evening we arrived at *Oribuela*, four leagues from Murcia. It is a rich and thriving city, built on each side of the Segura, and contains twenty one thousand souls, with thirteen convents, and a seminary for two hundred students, established here, A. D. 1555.

The cathedral is antiquated, and little worthy of attention; but the parish church of S. Augusta is elegant; and that of the Augustin friars will, when it is finished, be a valuable acquisition to the city.

In the neighbourhood are established some good saltpetre works for government.

Water in the whole of this valley is so abundant,

abundant, that the crops have no dependence on the rain : hence the proverb,

Llueva o no llueva, Trigo en Orihucla.

From this city we passed along the valley, with the river on our right, and high mountains to our left, through vast plantations of mulberry trees. Here, the liquorice appears as a noxious weed, spreading over the whole country ; because the soil, being deep, is peculiarly suited to its growth ; and the warm sun, with plenty of water, makes all vegetables shoot with peculiar vigour.

The rock is calcareous.

Leaving this extensive plain, with the Segura on the right, we turned up a little vale of communication to the left, and passing between high rocks, at the end of about a mile, we entered the rich vale of Punda. This, with many corresponding vallies, all run from east to west, agreeable to the general direction of mountains and vales in Spain, and near the sea communicate with the vale of Orihucla.

On the mountains we observed some monumental crosses.

The

The dress of the peasants consists of a waistcoat, trousers, stockings, all white; esparto sandals, a coloured sash, and a close black bonnet.

At the distance of two leagues we came to *Alvatera*, a miserable village, with a magnificent church, belonging to the Marquis of Dos Aguas. The country produces chiefly vines and olives. As we advanced we met a travelling flock going to feed upon the mountains. At the meeting of four roads we took notice of a high pole, with an iron hook, supporting one quarter of a man. The other quarters were suspended in the principal places where this wretch had been guilty of robbery and murder.

In the bottoms, the wheat crops appear heavy, and bowing for the sickle; and the barley is collected round the areas ready to be trodden by the cattle.

All the roads are here in a state of nature; but were the rich soil of clay and loam removed, a firm bed of gravel would be uncovered, and the roads for many generations would want no repairs.

At the distance of about a mile from Elche, passing the wide bed of a torrent,

then dry, at the entrance of an extensive grove of olives, I observed three poles, similar to the one I had remarked before, each with the quarter of a man, being the monuments of as many robberies, accompanied with murder.

*Elche*, Ilici of the Romans, might with propriety be called the City of Dates, for it is every way surrounded by plantations of palm-trees. These, about the month of May, are loaded with fruit in pendant clusters, which, forming a complete circle, resemble, when ripe, a crown of gold, with a plume of feathers rising from its centre. Each cluster to appearance would nearly fill a bushel, and is said to weigh from six to ten arrobas. There is a remarkable variety in this fruit, both as to the taste and colour. Some dates are green when ripe, but most commonly they are yellow, and not unfrequently of a dark brown. Some are sweet, others are inclined to acidity. The male trees produce only flowers, the females bear the fruit.

*Elche* is divided into three parishes, and contains, according to the last government returns, seventeen thousand four hundred and

and three souls, of which eight thousand six hundred and fifty-seven are males, and eight thousand seven hundred and forty-six females; but the widows are seven hundred and fifty-one, and the widowers three hundred. They have twenty knights, eighteen advocates, twelve *escrivanos*, thirteen inquisitors, and three convents, two for monks, the other for nuns. The great church is a beautiful building, with a majestic dome, and is elegantly fitted up. For the service of the altar it has two curates, a vicar, four doctors, and many chaplains. It is built with sand-stone; but as the natural cement is weak, the stone moulders away and cracks.

This city belongs to the Duke of Arcos, now Count of Altamira. It is governed by his *corregidor*, four *regidores*, as many deputies from the commons, two *alcaldes*, and one *alguazil mayor*. The ducal palace is situated on the brink of a deep ravine, and carries the marks of the most remote antiquity. It was recovered from the Moors by Peter surnamed the Cruel, A. D. 1363.

They have no beef. Mutton is sold for  
 M 2  thirty-

thirty-two quartos the pound of thirty-six ounces; lamb for twenty three; pork for thirty-six; wheaten bread is worth five quartos and a half the pound of eighteen ounces, and barley bread two quartos.

Leaving Elche, and passing through considerable plantations of olive-trees, interspersed with algarrobos; when the prospect opens, you have the sea on your right-hand, at the distance of about a league; on your left you see the distant mountains fading on the sight, and sinking in the horizon; whilst at the distance of four leagues in front you command the high fort of Alicant.

As you approach towards the city, the country is wild and broken, discovering a sandy rock; but having descended nearly to the level of the sea, you find a rich soil, and luxuriant crops of corn, with extensive plantations of the almond.

In all the southern provinces of Spain, especially in this vicinity, you see numerous fountains and reservoirs of water covered with arches, all, though perhaps unjustly, attributed to the patient industry of the

the

the Moriscos; when, with equal probability of truth, they might be ascribed to the Romans, to the Carthaginians, or to the more ancient inhabitants of the peninsula.

I was much entertained in this short journey with the superstition of my guide; a species of superstition not confined to him, because I found it equally in all the coachmen and common carriers with whom I had afterwards occasion to converse upon the subject. They carry constantly about with them the paw of a mole, to secure their mules and horses against the *mal de ojos*. This I at first conceived to be the *diseases of the eye*; but upon a more accurate inquiry, I found myself mistaken, and discovered that this expression meant, the evil influence of witchcraft, conveyed by looks. In the southern provinces of Spain, like as formerly in England, and even now in Cornwall, children and the common people universally agree in attributing necromantic powers to the female in each village who is the most deformed in person, the most decrepit with old age, and the most haggard in her looks. In Cornwall it is needful for

the witch thrice to repeat, " I wish;" but in Spain one look conveys the fatal influence; and the object, unless relieved by a superior power, may droop and die. The proper amulets are the paw of a mole carried in the pocket, a bit of scarlet cloth worn by men, or the *manesita* fastened on the wrist of children. The *manesita* is a *little band* of jet, ivory, glass, or stones, set in silver, with the thumb thrust out between the middle fingers. But for want of these, a person apprehending danger may readily defend himself by the same position of his thumb. For this reason, whenever the fond mother observes an ugly hag looking steadfastly upon her child, she screams out, *¡festa una figa*, that is, thrust out the thumb in token of defiance. This kind of superstition is by no means novel. We trace it distinctly in the Romans,

Ecce avia, aut metuens divum matertera cunis  
 Exemit puerum, frontemque atque uda labella  
 Infami digito, & lustralibus ante salivis  
 Expiat, urentes oculos inhibere perita.

Perfii Satyra, II. 31—34.

In this little journey I took notice of a new establishment, which does much honour to Count Florida Blanca, as contributing



buting not only to the ease and comfort of the traveller, but to the safety of his person. Government is engaged in raising, at the distance of every league, a little cottage, with a suitable garden, as the habitation of a *peon caminero*, who is to receive five reals a day for repairing the highways, and for protecting passengers. For this purpose he is furnished with all proper implements and arms. This institution will be made general through all the provinces.

## A L I C A N T.

**A**LICANT is situated at the bottom of a bay, formed by the capes of La Huerta and San Pablo. It is protected by a castle, built on the summit of a mountain, to which, when attacked by enemies, the citizens have been taught to look up with confidence; but, in the present day, it is rather the object of their terror, because large portions of the rock, shattered exceedingly, overhang their base, and threaten a part of the city with destruction.

The streets are narrow, and were exceedingly ill paved; but now, indebted to the indefatigable zeal of the governor, don Francisco Pacheco, few towns can boast of superior neatness; and by the well directed labours of one man, this city, formerly in every sense a nest of vermin, is become a most delightful residence.

By

By the last returns to government it appears, that the inhabitants are seventeen thousand three hundred and forty-five. Of these, eight thousand five hundred and twenty-four are males, eight thousand eight hundred and twenty-one females; the unmarried men and boys, four thousand nine hundred and sixty-six; the unmarried women and girls, four thousand five hundred and seventy-six; but the widows, nine hundred and thirty-seven, whilst the widowers are only three hundred and forty-one. Divided according to their age, there appears to be:

Under seven years of age, males and females	-	-	-	2,865
From seven to sixteen	-	-	-	3,144
From sixteen to twenty-five	-	-	-	2,870
From twenty-five to forty	-	-	-	3,782
From forty to fifty	-	-	-	2,033
From fifty upwards	-	-	-	2,651

Total, 17,345

The clergy are fifty-six, including those, who in four parishes have the cure of souls, with others who are ordained either to ecclesiastical

ecclesiastical benefices, or on their private patrimony; this being equal to three reals a day, that is, to about eleven pounds sterling per annum.

Of the seculars, sixty-four are knights, twenty-eight advocates, thirty-one escribanos, two hundred and ninety-four students, nine hundred and seventy-four farmers, two thousand three hundred and one day-labourers; the merchants and shopkeepers are three hundred and thirteen; the manufacturers, eleven; the artisans, one thousand three hundred and ninety-two; the servants, six hundred and thirty. Beside these, eight convents contain about two hundred and fifty persons under vows.

The equivalent, in lieu of provincial rents, purveyance, and the royal monopolies of brandy and salt, for this city, with the villages of its vicinity, is five hundred and thirty-nine thousand three hundred and sixty-one reals, or somewhat less than five thousand four hundred pounds. Now, as the whole district, or *corregimiento*, of Alicante contains, according to the government returns, thirty-three thousand and forty-five souls, the proportion of this tax is not more than sixteen reals, or about three shillings

shillings and two pence for each inhabitant to pay.

Neither the churches, nor any of the convents, are worthy to be noticed. In the great church, indeed, I was much amused, but not with the architecture, nor yet with any of the altars; for that which caught my attention was a grant from the college of cardinals, sanctioned by the archbishop and the bishop, of two thousand five hundred and eighty days indulgence to any penitent who shall say before the altar of the Virgin, *Ave Maria purissima*, and as many to all who, hearing this, shall answer, *Sin peccado Concebida*.

For the service of the great church they have ten canons, three dignitaries, and two beneficed clergy; but these are reckoned poor. The bishop's seat is at Orihuela, where the canons have a more ample provision made for them.

The commerce of Alicant is considerable. From five hundred to a thousand vessels enter annually this port, of which the major part are Catalan. In the year 1782, there entered nine hundred and sixty-one. The principal articles of export are,

Anise

Anise seeds, from three to four thousand quintals.

Almonds, from eight to ten thousand quintals.

Barrilla, from sixty to ninety thousand quintals.

Brandy, about a hundred thousand pipes.

Cumin, from two thousand to two thousand five hundred quintals.

Esparto rush, and the same in ropes and mats, the quantity uncertain.

Figs, about a thousand quintals.

Fish, uncertain quantities.

Grana sylvestre, called also vermillion, about three hundred quintals.

Lead ore, uncertain quantities.

Liquorice in root.

Lavender flowers, both to England and to Holland.

Lemon juice.

Pomegranate peel.

Raisins, from sixty to a hundred thousand quintals.

Salt, about a hundred thousand tons.

Saffron,

Silk, and

Vinegar, all uncertain in their quantities.

Wine,

Wine, about two hundred tons.

Wool, from three to four thousand quintals.

The value of our commerce with Alicant and its dependencies will appear from the following statement of the years 1784 and 1785, given to me by the English consul.

## ALICANT. Exports to GREAT BRITAIN, and Imports. 1784.

Ports.	Exports.	Value. £.	Ports.	Imports.	Value sterling. £.
Alicant,	Barrilla, 7,375 bales	40,562 10	Alicant,	Newfoundland fish, 55,800 quin-	
Valencia,	Raisins, 146,560 baskets	40,304	Valencia,	talas	34,875
Murviédro,	Brandy, 430 pipes	4,300	Denia,	ditto, 5,200 ditto	3,380
Alicant,	Wine and Fruits,	3,800	Alicant,	ditto, 8,900 ditto,	5,785
La Matia,	Salt, 630 tons,	378		Shetland lynn, 1,500 ditto	1,575
				Salted salmon, 674 tierces	1,685
				Manufactures, iron, copper, tin, &c.	2,000
				woollen,	6,000
				Valencia, ditto, and ditto,	19,945
				Tonnage, 3,932.	£.75,245
					174
					]

Tonnage, 7100. by computation, £. 89,344 10



**A.L.I.C.A.N.T. Exports. 1785.**

Alicant, Barrilla, 2,957 bales	£. 21,068
Valencia, &c. Raisins, 120,000 baskets,	- - 39,000
Murviedro, Brandy, 300 pipes,	- - 3,000
Alicant, Wine and fruits,	- - 1,500
La Matta, Salt, 1,600 tons	- - 960
Tonnage, by computation, 5,712.	£. 65,528

**Imports. 1785.**

Alicant, Newfoundland fish, 45,000 quintals,	£. 30,375
Valencia, ditto, 15,000	10,500
Denia, ditto, 8,900	7,700
Alicant, Salmon, 100 tierces	275
Shetland lyng, 1,250	1,312
Manufactures,	1,174
Woollen, " " "	3,780
Valencia, ditto and ditto	27,106
Tonnage, 3,824.	£. 82,222

*Barrilla*

*Barrilla* is a considerable article of commerce, and till the year 1780, was confined chiefly to this port; but since the duties have been raised from one hundred and fourteen maravedis and three quarters the quintal to four hundred and forty-two, being the same that was previously imposed by government at Carthagena, the trade has been more equally divided. The present duties on the quintal of one hundred and fourteen pounds avoirdupois are as follow: royal duty, four hundred and forty-two maravedis; alcavala, thirty-five and two-thirds; brokerage and consular duty, twelve; in all about two shillings and ten pence.

Whilst the duty on the export of *Barrilla* was little more than three reals the quintal, the Spanish government exacted twenty-four for soap; in consequence of which, the oil and pot-ash were carried to Marseilles, and made into soap, for the service both of Spain and of her colonies. (*Vide Campomanes, E. P. part iv. p. 249.*)

Brokerage is a duty of a quarter per cent. on all commodities imported and exported, paid by the merchants to the marquis of Paralis,

Paralis, as a compensation for the privilege of naming their own brokers; because the marquis claims the nomination under a grant from the king, to whom he had lent thirty thousand dollars, a sum equal to four thousand five hundred pounds; but to avoid the consequences of this oppressive grant, they agree to pay him the interest of a hundred thousand dollars.

Of the *Esparto rush*, M. Condom exports annually about three hundred tons from this port for Marfeilles, and about fourscore cargoes, each from fifty to a hundred tons, for Genoa, Venice, and the Levant. With the raw material he is bound to send out one-third manufactured; but this part of his agreement may be, without much difficulty, eluded.

It is curious to observe the expedition and facility with which the women and children spin the *esparto* thread. After having soaked the rush in water, and beat it sufficiently, they, without either wheel or spindle, contrive to twist two threads at the same time. This they do by rubbing them between the palms of their hands, in the same manner as the shoemaker forms a

thread upon his knee, with this difference, that one motion gives the twist to each thread, and at the same time unites them. To keep the ends asunder, the thumb of the right hand is interposed between them, and when that is wanted for other purposes, the left thumb supplies its place. Two threads being thus twisted into one, of the bigness of a large crow-quill, forty-six yards are sold for a quarto, or about a farthing and a small fraction of a farthing, and of this the materials are worth about one-fifth.

I was no less struck to see the address and dispatch with which the soft-wood turners, at Alicant, execute their work. They sit on a low stage, above which the two poppet heads and points are raised six inches, and instead of a pole and treddle they use a bow. To this they give motion with the right hand. The left hand holds the tool, which they guide by the constant application of the right foot, whilst the left foot keeps the moveable poppet and point close up to the work. Such a position must be exceedingly uneasy, till custom and long habit have reconciled them to it.

The

The *Grana Sylvestre* is not as yet a considerable article of commerce: it is only a few years since it was introduced. Guixona, a town about five leagues from Alicant, sends annually a number of people over all the mountains of Granada and part of Andalusia to collect it; but hitherto with no remarkable success.

*Saffron* of late has been in much request for a foreign market, and is collected from the vicinity of Albazete, about one hundred and twenty-five leagues from Alicant, where it is produced in considerable quantities. It is worth from fifty-five to sixty-five reals per pound, and pays on exportation, for all duties, two hundred and seven maravedis, or about fourteen pence the pound of sixteen ounces.

At Alicant the *fishery* is free from all kinds of duty; and, as a further encouragement, a tax of ten per cent. beside four hundred and eighty maravedis, by way of principal duty and millones, is laid on all foreign fish.

The dog-fish might be rendered valuable, were it not for the spirit of monopoly, and the contracted views of government.

It is good to eat, and yields about five-and-twenty pounds of oil. Beside the flesh and oil, the skin alone was usually sold for twenty reals, whilst the ports were open; but now that the exportation is prohibited, the price is sunk to eight reals, and the fishery is thereby considerably injured.

In this province, the privilege of fishing is confined to the enrolled seamen, who are about sixteen thousand.

With such a nursery for sailors in the Mediterranean, and with one similar to it in the bay of Biscay, where peculiar privileges are granted for that purpose, Spain will soon be formidable as a naval power. The Catalans already supply Alicant with pilchards, taken on the coast of Galicia; whereas formerly this city imported annually from England about fifty cargoes.

The *municipal government* of this city is in eight regidors, of which, four are noble, and four commoners; these are all considered as possessing a freehold, descending by inheritance to their children, yet not entailed upon them and therefore saleable. They have four assessors, chosen by the commons, who continue in office two years, but two are annually

ally changed. To these are added two syndics, of which one, the *personero*, is to represent the grievances of the commons; but neither of these have votes. The usual president of this court is the governor, or, in his absence, the *alcalde mayor*, who resembles our recorders. In the corporation are included three physicians and two surgeons, who have salaries.

The attendants of the court are, prosecutors, advocates, *escrivanos*, and alguazils.

To keep good order in the various quarters of the city, they have *alcaldes de barrio*. These formerly purchased their office, and contrived to repay themselves with interest; but the present governor makes a new election every year, with this exception, that he continues those, who are distinguished for fidelity,

The *escrivanos reales* are merely notaries: the *escrivanos del numero*, to the number of twenty-three, may be called pettyfoggers; against these the governor declares a never-ceasing war; but the contest is unequal. He attempted to restrain their influence by the introduction of *viva voce* evidence; but this attack they effectually resisted. Hav-

ing detected five of them in some male-practices, he sent them to prison, and at the same time gave notice, that the next offender should visit Africa. He complained to me one day in the most feeling manner, of the distress he felt in being daily witness to abuses, which he was not able to correct, because these wretches can never be convicted, unless upon evidence taken by an escrivano. He lamented that, even when he knew the evidence produced was false, he was bound to give judgment agreeable to it, and could contrive no redress. Yet one point he carried, in not suffering them, as usual, to make a long and expensive process of a trifling matter.

In their turn they do all they can to harass and perplex him. The corporation having made their agreement with one contractor to supply the citizens with meat, this man caused his cattle to be driven through the city in the middle of the day. The governor remonstrated in vain. Hearing, however, repeated complaints of mischief, and seeing the people, distracted in their attention, following in crowds, as usual, wherever any thing like a bull, their favourite



favourite animal, appeared; he interposed his authority, and absolutely forbade the admittance of oxen after a certain hour in the morning. The contractor, on this restraint, refused to supply the city, and, urged forwards by the Escrivanos, appealed to the intendant of the province. In consequence of this appeal the governor could find no refuge, but in the direct interference of the minister; and had his friends been less powerful at court, he must have given way.

Previous to the appointment of Don Francisco Pacheco to the government of Alicant, the city swarmed all day with beggars, all night with prostitutes and thieves. These were fed by the religious houses, by the ecclesiastics, and by the alms of well-disposed yet mistaken citizens. The governor saw in a proper light both the cause and the consequences of this abundance of unprofitable subjects, and therefore determined to confine them; yet he knew that prejudice would run strong against him. For this reason he engaged the most popular preachers, during Lent, to expatiate on the merit of giving to the

poor, and afterwards to explain the propriety of making a distinction in the distribution of their alms, so as not offer a premium to laziness, prodigality, and vice.

When he had thus prepared his way, he assembled the citizens, laid his plans before them, and formed a society, consisting of two hundred and fifty of the first people in the diocese, with the bishop, canons, and principal nobility at their head, under the denomination of "Brethren of the Poor." From these were elected governors and guardians for the House of Mercy, and for the twelve quarters, into which the city is divided for the purpose of taking an exact account of all the inhabitants with their age and occupation. Every guardian, in his several quarter, has three assistants to examine with him the condition of the poor, and to distribute the relief appointed by the governors the preceding week, whether in money, in raw materials, in medicine, or in aliments, agreeable to the report which has been made to them.

In the House of Mercy, children, instructed in the most common and therefore the most useful manufactures, are trained to industry,

industry, and the lazy are compelled to work.

They have no other source of revenue beside the produce of their labour, and the voluntary contribution of the citizens.

This institution bears date only the 30th of June, 1786, and in May, 1787, they had expended six hundred and twenty-nine pounds for the support of about one hundred men, women, and children. These are well fed, and do little work at present; but, when they shall have been reconciled to the idea of confinement, their diet will be administered with a more sparing hand, and their labour will be rendered more productive.

They have here another institution, likely to be of extensive utility in providing for orphans, for deserted children, and for the sons of soldiers, who are burthened with numerous families. It is a military academy, in which they are taught reading, writing, and accounts, the manual exercise, and every thing needful to qualify them for serjeants. Don Francisco Pacheco had the goodness to review for me a little regiment of these, who went through all  
 their

their evolutions, and gave their fire with wonderful address. The whole number in the kingdom is two thousand, from whom will be selected all the serjeants for the army.

Under the same protection, I had the happiness of seeing a review of the artillery, with prizes distributed to the engineers, who were most distinguished for their skill. Much attention is paid to their education, not only at Alicant, but all over the peninsula.

The military establishments of every kind appear respectable, and mark at once wisdom and humanity in all their regulations. The soldiers are enlisted for eight years, during which they are frequently indulged with furloughs. When they have served fifteen years, their pay goes on constantly increasing, and after thirty-five years, they retire with the rank of commissioned officers, and a pension of about twenty pounds a year.

Among the numerous objects attracting the attention of a stranger, none was more interesting to me than the *Castle*, with the rock on which it stands, and that for  
various

various reasons. As an Englishman, I was curious to examine a fortress so bravely, or rather so rashly, defended by its governor in the year 1707, more especially the chasm left by the springing of a mine, which proved fatal to General Richards, with twenty of his officers. When the Spaniards had nearly finished their work, they gave warning to the garrison; and when they had lodged in it thirteen hundred barrels of powder, they generously permitted the English general to send his engineers, who viewed the mine, with its contents. These reported, that the burthen was too great for the quantity of powder, and that the garrison was safe.

On the day appointed for the springing of this mine, people from every part of the country assembled on the opposite hill, to view the catastrophe; and notice of the fatal moment was given to the garrison. Precisely at that moment the officers, engaged in drinking, and somewhat elated by their wine, declared their resolution not to quit the battery, till they had drank two bottles more, for which they had sent a servant; but no sooner had he  
turned

turned his back, than the battery, together with general Richards, and twenty gallant officers, mounted in the air.

By the chasm, it may be readily imagined how great must have been the burthen; but when I had observed the shattered condition, and loose-jointed nature of the rock, it became evident, that the engineers of the besieged were either ignorant or rash in the extreme.

This fortress might have been battered to pieces from Mount St. Julian; but the besiegers preferred a mine.

In scrambling among the rocks, I observed a track, very strongly marked, leading to a part of the fort, in which the walls are low. This being at once the steepest and most rugged side of the mountain, where I imagined no human foot-step had ever yet been traced, I was much surprised to see so strong a path. It was very narrow, but well trodden; and although winding at the back of the fortress, it communicated with another path leading from the country to the eastern quarter of the city.

When, on my return, I inquired very minutely into the nature and use of such a  
private

private and sequestered way, this was the result of my inquiries.

The laws in many provinces of Spain being peculiarly favourable to the softer sex, if the wife complains of ill treatment from her husband, he, on her sole evidence, is confined in prison; and should she declare, on oath, that he had beaten her, the punishment would be yet more severe; he would be sent for many years to the *presidios*.

When, again, a father is displeas'd with the conduct of his son, if it be such as tends to bring either ruin or disgrace upon his family, the young man is sent to learn wisdom in a forced retirement.

It appears from the observations of the chief justice, Count Campomanes, in the appendix to his *Educacion popular*, that in Spain many persons of quality are shut up in prison, or sent to the *presidios*, for these and similar offences. He states, however, yet not much to the honour of the Spanish ladies, that their accusations are not always just. From him we may collect, that a great number of these fair-ones, persuaded by their cortejos, falsely charge their husbands with ill-treatment,

treatment, whenever the good men shew a disposition to be jealous.

Some young men of fashion, at the request of their fathers or their wives, are, as the governor informed me, destined to pass their tedious hours in this castle. Yet, by the connivance of the centinels, they are frequently, in the dusk of the evening, permitted to scale the walls; when, passing disguised into the city, they amuse themselves among their friends, till the company retires; after which they return by the same sequestered path to their destined habitations: and this precisely was the path which had attracted my attention.

In a conversation with the governor on the operation of a punishment long since inflicted both in France and Spain, and lately adopted in our island, that of employing criminals on public works; he perfectly agreed with me, that their labour is scarcely worth a tenth of what it costs; and assured me, that as far as his observation went, this punishment rather tended to harden them in wickedness, than to produce any reformation in their manners. He particularly



particularly mentioned, that of the four thousand five hundred and seventy-nine convicts banished to the presidios or garrisons of Africa, the major part, on their discharge, at the expiration of their terms, returned to the eastern coast of the peninsula; and to this circumstance he attributed the prevalence of the most atrocious crimes in that part of Spain. He considered therefore the *presidios* as the worst school, to which the youthful offender could be sent.

The country in the vicinity of Alicant is wild and broken; the mountains are lofty, rugged, bare, and little susceptible of cultivation; the vallies are mostly small, but remarkably fertile; the soil is sandy, with beds of clay and marle. The rock in general is calcareous. The city is partly fed by a valley to the north, and by the *Huerta*, a rich and extensive valley, to the east, at the distance of one mile, but chiefly by the vale of Murcia. The carriers bring wheat, and load back with fish.

The *Huerta* is watered from a vast reservoir, called *el Pantano*, constructed in the mountains, at the distance of about five

leagues from Alicant. The governor had the goodness to carry me in his coach to view this artificial lake, formed between two high mountains by a wall, the dimensions of which reduced to English feet are as follow; one hundred and forty-seven high; two hundred and sixty-two wide at top, from mountain to mountain, and not more than twenty-four at bottom. The thickness of the wall is sixty-seven feet at top, and one hundred and twenty-one at bottom. It is very properly made elliptical, to sustain the lateral pressure of the water; but had the thickness of the wall been only seven feet at top, instead of sixty-seven, this would have been more than sufficient; because the area of any surface being given, the pressure of fluids on that surface is in proportion to its depth. The depth being given, it matters not whether the quantity of water be one acre, or ten thousand acres. For the same expence they might have constructed many such reservoirs, one below the other; but when we consider the age, in which this was made (A. D. 1542) we are not surpris'd to find so much labour lost.

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When

When the stream comes near the Huerta, it is separated into four by the administrator, and each proprietor of land receives, or should receive, the quantity allotted to him, in proportion to his land, paying for this the stipulated price. To prevent violence and fraud, A. D. 1739, the king, by his royal edict, established sixty-two regulations for the distribution of this water, and appointed a special court to enforce these regulations; yet notwithstanding, either through ignorance of hydrostatics in the managers, through their negligence, or through the influence of bribes, many obtain more than their just proportion, and others are left to murmur and complain. It is to be lamented, that government does not construct more pantanos. The farmers in the Huerta could dispose of five times as much as they receive at present; and were the whole interval between the mountains occupied with reservoirs, they might all be filled. This pantano, although vast, has been replenished by four hours rain.

Independent of the produce in all kinds of grain and herbage, government derives a

direct revenue of near two thousand pounds a year by the distribution of this water.

The rock is a fine limestone, covering schist, and, as the country produces pines, juniper, and coscoja, in abundance, fewel for burning lime is on the spot; so that the expence of constructing reservoirs would not be great.

After having examined the pantano, I visited, on the succeeding days, the Huerta, to get acquainted with the agriculture of that rich, well planted, and well watered valley.

Going eastward from the city, having ascended gradually for about a mile, you look down upon a wide expanse of nearly thirty thousand acres, every where inclosed by lofty mountains, excepting towards the sea, and covered with oranges, lemons, figs, mulberries, almonds, cherries, apricots, peaches, nectarines, plumbs, apples, pears, pomegranates, olives, algarrobos, the more humble yet not less profitable vine, and the liquorice, with every species of grain, of leguminous plants, and of herbage for the cattle.

This vale is said to contain more than  
twenty

twenty thousand persons, and I can readily believe it; for, wherever you pass, you see old and young, men, women, and children, innumerable, all busily employed, ploughing, sowing, reaping, treading out the grain with cattle, winnowing the corn, or conveying it to granaries, hoeing in the vineyards, distributing water to their crops, or digging their land, and preparing it for fresh productions.

When I visited this delightful vale, they had reaped their barley, and were engaged in treading it with mules. To these they added carts drawn backwards on the area, for the purpose of separating the grain, and of cutting the straw for fodder. Others were employed to wind off silk from the cones. Their reel is five feet wide, and receives six compound threads from thirty, thirty-six, or from forty-two cones, which swim in a furnace of boiling water. These threads are made to traverse on the reel, that they may not agglutinate together.

I was much pleased with the reticulated fences round most of the little farms, composed of reeds ranged in pairs, crossing each other like a lattice frame, yet so as to form,

not rectangles, but lozenges or rhomboidal figures, with the reeds not interwoven, but bound together by esparto threads.

Every part of the Huerta is refreshed with water once in fifteen days during the summer, but in winter it may go three weeks or a month unwatered. Beside the refreshing stream derived from the pantano, they have some norias: the most remarkable of which, belonging to Mr. Arabet, is worked by wind, and raises the water forty feet.

The land never rests; for no sooner has it rewarded the farmer with one crop, than he begins to prepare it for another. In September he sows barley, and having reaped it about the latter end of April, or the first week in May, he immediately puts in maize, which comes off about the middle of September. But before this ripens, he puts in sandias (the *cucurbita* of Lin.) or some other esculent, which yields him a third crop in the course of the same year. In November he sows wheat, and in June he reaps it. The produce both of wheat and barley is from fifteen to twenty-four for one, having sowed of the former nearly

two bushels to an acre, of the latter between three and four. Flax is put into the ground about September, or the beginning of October, and comes off in May; but hemp, which is sowed in April, continues on the land till August. These, with cucumbers, melons, *garbanzos* (*cicer arietinum*), peas, French beans, lettuce, alfalfa (*Medicago sativa*), form a rich variety of crops, which, cherished by a bright sun and fed by abundant streams from the pantano, prove a never-failing source of plenty.

In the spring they abound with oranges and lemons; in summer they have plumbs, cherries, figs, apricots, and nectarines; in autumn they gather grapes; and in winter a rich variety of fruits supplies their tables. Thus Ceres and Pomona appear to be engaged in a never-ceasing contest, which shall most contribute to the wealth and prosperity of this favoured valley.

One of the most valuable productions of this country is the barilla. For this they plough their land four or five times, dung it well, and then, having turned the earth twice more, they make it smooth with

boards instead of harrows, and sow their seed in the months of January and February, waiting always for wet weather.

When the plant is about the bigness of a shilling, they clear off all the weeds, and in September they collect the crop into heaps of about six feet high. Of these they burn fifty in one hole, stirring well the broth with sticks; then, protecting it from rain, at the expiration of eight or ten days, the stone will be cold enough to be removed.

Beside the barilla (*salsola soda* of Linnaeus) this vicinity produces many other species, which, by combustion, yield the pot-ash. These are,

1st, Aguaful, or *mesembryanthemum*.

2d, Salicor, *Salicornia Europaea*, of two species, one annual in swamps, the other perennial in dry and stony places.

3d, Barilla punchosa soda colorada, *salsola kali*. This gives few ashes, and little salt.

4th, Sofa prima, *chenopodium maritimum*. This plant is the most common, and is to be found all along the coast.

5th, Sofa blanca, *chenopodium album*.

6th,



6th, Sofa gorda, *salsola vermicularis*.

7th, Sofa leñosa, *salsola rosacea*.

8th, Hyerba de la plata, *mesembryanthemum* cryft.

Of these the *salsola kali*, the *falicornia*, and the *chenopodia*, are found in England; but they do not produce a sufficient quantity of salt to make the cultivation of them profitable.

The rapid progress of vegetation in warm climates fills the inhabitants of more northern regions with astonishment. Having one day expressed my surprise on this subject to the governor, he carried me in the evening to the garden of Don Lorenzo Mabile, at a little distance from the city, where we wandered about under the shade of trees, which four years before had no existence but as slips, as seedlings, or as suckers. We observed three hundred fig-trees, and three thousand five hundred vines, loaded with fruit; and he already drinks in his family the wine of his own vineyard. Beside these, he has collected together innumerable pomegranates, apricots, apples, pears, plumbs, mulberries, oranges, lemons, algarrobos, and azaroles

(*cratægus*), which by their luxuriant growth seem to have been planted at least twenty years.

From this vineyard he made last year three tons and an half of wine, each vine on the average yielding one quart.

The whole produce of Alicant is about four thousand tons.

For the Fontillon wine, the grapes are gathered, picked from the stalks, and exposed on elevated wicker frames for the space of fifteen days to the influence of the sun and wind, in order to evaporate the superfluous moisture, after which they are submitted to the press.

Among the natural curiosities in the vicinity of Alicant, the most remarkable are the baths of Buzot. Having heard a description of them from a physician, I resolved to visit them before I left the city, and, for that purpose, I formed a party on the 31st of May. Early in the morning we mounted our horses, and, having passed through the Huerta, we ascended suddenly twelve or fourteen feet to a plain, upon a higher level, called the *Campillo*, which, like the Huerta, is watered by the pantano.

After

After having traversed this well cultivated and fertile plain, we began to climb the hills, and, at the distance of four leagues from Alicant, near to the village of *las Aguas*, we arrived at the romantic spot where the warm springs break out.

This country is broken by high mountains, of which the most remarkable are the Buchampana, the Sierra Gitana, and the Cabezo, so called by contraction from *cabeza de auro*, or head of gold. The Sierra Gitana derives its appellation from the gipfies. This elevated chain, exposed to every storm, is far from being a desirable abode, because the lightning breaks upon it with more than common violence, and the thunder is reverberated by its innumerable rocks. These rocks are calcareous, and discover fossil shells. Here I found some marmor metallicum, or ponderous earth, with gypsum or calcareous earth, each saturated with vitriolic acid; and in many places I picked up iron ore with hæmatites.

On the southern declivity, near to the base of these lofty mountains, four copious mineral springs break forth, two of them near together, the others more remote. Their temperature is about one hundred and

four degrees of Fahrenheit's thermometer. They have evidently the chalybeate taste, deposit a sediment of yellow ochre, and, upon evaporation, Glauber's and sea salt are found crystallized in it. Two or three small tumblers filled from any of these springs prove speedily and pleasantly cathartic.

This part of the country is frequently shaken by strong earthquakes.

I had here an opportunity to examine the natural history of the *grana kermes*. It is found on the *coscoja*, or *quercus coccifera* of Linnæus, here growing to the height of from twelve inches to two feet. The grana appear on the stems or small branches, some near the bottom of the plant, but mostly on the upper branches, yet always protected by the leaves, and fixed to the stem by a gluten, which both to the sight and to the touch resembles thin white leather, spread over the stem, and covering, like the cup or calix of the acorn, a segment of the grana. Upon a more minute investigation, I traced the agglutinating coat through a small foramen into the grana, from whence it had proceeded, and where it spread, like the placenta, on the internal surface.

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The grana were of various sizes, from an eighth to a quarter of an inch in diameter, perfectly spherical, and covered with a white powder, which being rubbed off, the surface appeared red, smooth, and polished. Upon the same stem I found the grana in three stages. In the first I discovered only tough membranes filled with a red juice resembling blood, but on paper leaving a stain as bright and beautiful as the best carmine. In the second stage there appeared, under the first coat or pellicle, a thin tough membrane inclosing the eggs, now most minute, and scarcely to be distinguished without the assistance of a convex lens. Between this membrane and the pellicle was the same red liquor, but less in quantity than was contained in the former stage. By a careful dissection I took off the pellicle, which was evidently separated from the inner membrane by what seemed to be the viscera and blood-vessels, but near to the foramen these two coats adhered closely together.

The interior membrane is thin, white, and tough, with a lunar septum, forming the ovary, which at first is very small, and scarcely

scarcely discernible, but progressively enlarges, till in the third stage it occupies the whole space, when the tincturing juice disappears, and only eggs are to be seen, to the number of fifteen hundred or two thousand.

It is clear to me that the grana derives no kind of nourishment from the plant on which it is fixed; and from its position I am inclined to think, that the little animal chooses the *quercus coccifera*, which in its prickly leaf resembles the holly, only for the sake of shelter and protection from birds.

I put some of the grana into a coffee-cup on the thirty-first of May, and, June the twelfth, I discovered a multitude of animalculæ, of a bright red colour, exceedingly minute, running about the cup with astonishing rapidity, but for short intervals. A friend put some grana into a snuff-box, where he soon forgot them; but when, at the distance of a few weeks, he had occasion to resume his box; he found the top covered internally with dew, and a multitude of winged insects, all dead, adhering to it.

Before

Before my excursion to Buzot, some peasants of Las Aguas had spread themselves on the adjacent mountains, where they collected more than four arrobas, or one hundred weight of grana, which they had sold in Alicant for fifteen reals, or about three shillings a pound.

Beside the grana kermes, I observed on the coscoja many large red excrescences; and of these, two species are distinguished, the one formed on the leaf, the other on the stems of the amentaceous flowers. The former appears in the middle of the leaf, on both its surfaces, and is at first of a green colour; but as it swells, it becomes of a bright red, and occupies the whole leaf, with this exception, that in some a narrow margin of the leaf remains. The latter are longer than the former, and where they are found, the stems of the amenta are considerably larger than the rest; yet the florets, which appear on the surface of these excrescences, are not to appearance affected by them. These morbid tumors have many perforations, communicating with little cells, which contain each a small white grub. The cell  
is

is formed by a strong membrane, but the substance of the tumor is spongy. In the excrescence on the leaf I could not discover any nidus, although I have no doubt that these, like the former, were occasioned by the ichneumon fly, and that each of them contained an egg.

I might here proceed to give at large the natural history of the locust; but this task having been so well performed by the judicious Bowles, I shall be exceedingly brief upon the subject. These voracious insects commit the greatest devastations in the south of Spain; and this proceeds, not merely from the warmth of the climate, but from want of cultivation, because the females never deposit their eggs in arable land, but always in the deserts. For this reason Galicia, where agriculture prevails, is little infested with the locust.

Adanson, in his voyage to Senegal, has given us a striking picture of the desolation occasioned by a cloud of locusts which darkened the sun, and extending many leagues, in the space of a few hours laid waste the country, devouring fruits, and leaves, and herbage, the bark of trees, and  
 even



even the dried reeds with which the huts were thatched.

Of the locust tribe, Linnæus reckons twenty species. Those I have observed in Spain are the *Grylli Italici*, distinguished by the redness of their wings. Their jaw bones are strong, and dented like a saw. Their head bears a striking resemblance to that of the horse, and this similitude has been remarked in the whole genus. The sound of their wings is said to be like the noise of distant chariots.

They are not always considered as a plague, being commonly seen only in the forests; but when the season has been peculiarly favourable for their propagation; when these rapacious insects darken the air; when their assembled hosts fall upon the rich pastures; when they rob the vines and olives of their foliage; when they devour the corn; when they enter the houses, and lay waste every thing before them, they are then universally regarded as the scourge of heaven. As such they were considered, when, for four successive years, from 1754 to 1757, they ravaged all the  
southern

southern provinces of Spain and Portugal.

The description of this gloomy scene, at least of one similar to it, which a prophet has given us, is scarcely to be equalled for beauty and poetic fire. He calls upon the people to lament, because a nation, strong and without number, whose teeth are the teeth of lions, had suddenly invaded them. Then, turning to the heralds,

“ Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and, found an alarm in my holy mountain. Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the Lord cometh, for it is night at hand : a day of darkness, and of gloominess ; a day of clouds and thick darkness ; as the morning spread upon the mountains, a people great and strong : there hath not been ever the like, neither shall be any more after it, even to the years of many generations. A fire devoureth before them, and behind them a flame burneth. The land is as the garden of Eden before them, and behind them a desolate wilderness, yea, and nothing shall escape them. The appearance of them is as the appearance of horses ; and as horsemen, so shall they run.

Like

Like the noise of chariots on the tops of mountains shall they leap; like the noise of a flame of fire that devoureth the stubble; as a strong nation set in battle array. Before their face the people shall be much pained: all faces shall gather blackness. They shall run like mighty men; they shall climb the wall like men of war; and they shall march every one on his way, and they shall not break their ranks; neither shall one thrust another; they shall walk every one in his path, and when they fall upon the sword they shall not be wounded. They shall run to and fro in the city; they shall run upon the wall; they shall climb up upon the houses; they shall enter in at the windows like a thief. The earth shall quake before them; the heavens shall tremble; the sun and the moon shall be dark, and the stars shall withdraw their shining. And the Lord shall utter his voice before his army, for his camp is very great; for he is strong that executeth his word; for the day of the Lord is great and very terrible, and who can abide it."

JOEL, cap. ii. 1—11.

Their usual resort is in the forests, and in deserts, where they may safely lodge their eggs without fear of having them disturbed. The female being impregnated, the male hastens to the river, and is drowned in the stream. The female then deposits her eggs in the nearest uncultivated spot, and protects them from the rain by a covering of glue. Having finished this work, exhausted with fatigue, she drinks and dies.

The eggs are hatched in March, in April, or in May, according to the situation and the season. When hatched, the assembled tribes continue together for about three weeks, till their legs, and teeth, and wings have acquired strength, after which they disperse themselves over the neighbouring country, and devour every kind of vegetable.

When the provincial governors are informed in spring, that locusts have been seen, they collect the soldiers and the peasants, divide them into companies, and surround the district. Every man is furnished with a long broom, with which he strikes the ground, and thus drives the young locusts towards a common centre, where a vast excavation,

excavation, with a quantity of brush-wood, is prepared for their reception, and where the flame destroys them.

A. D. 1780, three thousand men were thus employed at Zamora for three weeks; and it was reckoned that the quantity collected exceeded ten thousand bushels.

A botanist, in the vicinity of Alicant, may have in that pursuit alone, full employment for his time. On the mountains he will find the esparto rush, junipers, pines, the coscoja, rosemary, thyme, mint, sage, lavender, many species of the cistus, and a vast variety of plants too tedious to be enumerated. Those which struck my attention most were the cistus, the caper, with its beautiful white petals and purple stamina, and the Nerium Oleander.

Without going twenty miles from the city you meet with every climate of the temperate zone, either by ascending the mountains, or keeping near the sea. From this circumstance, the botanist derives the greatest advantages in the prosecution of his favourite amusement.

My principal object was the fossil kingdom. With a view to that I examined

Mount St. Julian near the city. The summit is calcareous freestone, with cockles, beaked oysters, and some other bivalves. Under this lies a stratum of gypsum, charged with fragments of slate, then calcareous rock, with fossil shells. After this, near the level of the sea, is a stratum of shells divided into an upper layer of small fragments; and one inferior to this, composed entirely of shells, mostly perfect, and cemented together by broken fragments, yet unmixed with heterogeneous matter. Beneath this comes a stratum of pudding rock, some loose boulder stones, all calcareous, and a few shells. This stratum is near to the waters edge.

The rock, on which stands the castle of Alicant, is calcareous, and abounds in fragments of fossil shells; but the Sierra to the north, beyond the vallies, evidently appears to be composed of schist.

I was much surpris'd to find in Mount St. Julian such discordance in the shells deposited in the rock at different levels. Near the summit, the fossil bodies are bedded in the rock, and petrified themselves; but near the level of the sea they are loose,  
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and appear scarcely changed: the former, as we have seen, are cockles, oysters, and some other bivalves; the latter are, the *arcæ*, *cunei*, *buccina*, *caffides*, *cylindri*, *murices*, *cochleæ*, and *pectenoides* of Da Costa, of which species not one appears upon a higher level. I was the more forcibly struck with this difference at different levels, from a recollection of the Isle of Shepey fossils, described by Ed. Jacob, Esq; and of the Hampshire fossils picked up under Hordwell Cliffs by Mr. Brander, so well described by Dr. Solander, compared with those to be found on the limestone hills in the vicinity of Yeovil, of Sherborn, and in Marston Moor; for in these may be observed precisely the same discordance.

Such facts, wherever they occur, as they may hereafter assist us in acquiring a more perfect knowledge of the changes which have in remote periods, happened to the earth, should be carefully recorded.

About two leagues from Alicant is a mountain, called Alcoray, in which the rock is calcareous, charged with extraneous fossils. Here they have discovered cin-

nabar and red gypsum, which is perhaps coloured by the cinnabar.

I shall content myself for the present with having recorded facts: hereafter, when occasion offers, I shall refer to them again, and perhaps raise some theory upon them, if at least, in the mean time, a gentleman, who is infinitely better qualified to treat this subject, should not be prevailed upon to communicate his thoughts. Should he indulge the public with his Observations on the Deluge, we shall then be happy in possessing a complete register of facts, and may hope for some consistent theory, such as will stand the test of ages, and be confirmed by every subsequent discovery.

Of *diseases*, the one most prevalent in this part of Spain is the intermittent fever, arising here, not from marsh miasmata, but from the quantity of melons and *sandias*, (a species of *cucurbita*), which the peasants eat, and from their hard labour, when exposed to a scorching sun. For this, in the beginning of the disorder, the patient is bled four times, and drinks lemonade; after which, in seven, or at most in fourteen days, unless death should intervene, he usually



usually recovers. Should any visceral obstructions indicate, in the opinion of the faculty, such treatment, the Peruvian bark is administered in small quantities, and is said to complete the cure. This account I have from a physician of the royal hospital, who favoured me with a minute relation of his theory and practice in this disease.

It is happy for the people that they have another source of hope, under the various diseases incident to the human frame, beside the skill of their physicians, a source of hope that never fails them at any season of distress. Thus, for instance, St. Anthony, the abbot, secures his votaries from fire; and St. Anthony of Padua delivers them from water; S. Barbara is the refuge of the timid in times of thunder and of war; St. Blas cures disorders of the throat; S. Lucia heals all diseases of the eyes; St. Nicholas is the patron of young women, who desire to be married; St. Ramon is their powerful protector during pregnancy; and St. Lazaro assists them when in labour; S. Polonia preserves the teeth; St. Domingo cures the fever; and St. Roque is the faint

invoked under apprehensions of the plague. And thus in all diseases, under every pressure of affliction, some saint is accessible by prayer, whose peculiar province it is to relieve the object of distress.

In seasons of general calamity, when not individuals, but the community is threatened with pestilence or famine; when the usual patrons are either deaf to their prayers, or have no power to assist them; public processions are appointed, and the *SSma faz* is exhibited to view. This most sacred relick, like its rival the *SSmo sudario*, preserved among other valuable remains in the cathedral of Oviedo, is the exact representation of the Redeemer's face, impressed on the handkerchief of Santa Veronica, of which three only were produced.

A learned jesuit has favoured the world with the authentic history of this inestimable treasure. Of the three impressions, one is at Rome, a second is acknowledged to be at Jaen, and the third was for a time deposited at Jerusalem. This, at a season when persecution raged, was sent to the king of Cyprus, and from that ill-fated island it sought refuge in a private chapel belonging

ing to the Pope. Here it rested for a time ; but having been sent to Venice, where the plague was raging, it acquired such reputation, that the Venetians were determined to retain it for ever in their city. The Pope reclaimed his treasure, and a cardinal was sent to conduct it back to Rome ; but in the mean time his holiness having by death caused a vacancy in the papal throne, the good cardinal, made a present of his charge to a chaplain, who was appointed curate of San Juan, in the Huerta of Ali-cant, and thither it travelled with him.

This man, little knowing the treasure he possessed, threw it carelessly into a chest, and covered it with all his stock of clothes ; but to his astonishment, when he opened the chest, the sacred image was at the top. Thinking, however, that his servants might have placed it there, he again thrust it to the bottom. This happened thrice, and a third time, to his confusion, he found it on the surface. This wonderful event proved the revival of its fame ; and from that period the succession of miracles wrought by its superior energy has been unremitted.

It happens unfortunately for this inestimable relick, that the face is much smaller than

than natural; whereas those of Jaen, of Oviedo, and of Rome, are all of the proper size. But then it is remarked by the learned jesuit, that, according to the testimony of the reverend monks who perform the sacred offices in the convent of Santa Clara, where it is preserved, the face does not always appear of the same size, being sometimes indeed diminutive, but at other times visibly as large as those of Jaen and of Rome.

Of late there have been no authentic records of its averting either pestilence or famine; but in the year 1489, after a long drought, being carried in procession, refreshing showers immediately succeeded, and from that time it has been considered as the richest treasure of the *Huerta*.

I am not sufficiently acquainted with the topography of the ancient city, with its chronology, or with the geography of the surrounding country, to fit in judgment on the history of this learned jesuit, who states, that when, in the year 1489, the curate of S. Juan, in the *Huerta*, assisted by two Franciscan friars, was carrying the *SSma fax* to Alicant, he passed a little ravin, called Lloxia, and made a stand on a rising ground beyond

beyond it: but I am inclined to suspect that he did not recollect the situation of the city at the time, to which his miracle refers. I leave this matter, therefore, to be discussed by others.

Alicant stood formerly about a league further to the eastward than at present, on the other side of Mount S. Julian, not far from the cape *de la Huerta*, and the modern city, so late as the year 1519, consisted merely of six cottages; but in three and forty years subsequent to that period, one thousand families had taken refuge in it from the ravages of the Algerines.

All the ancient houses in the *Huerta*, by their lofty and strong towers, evidently shew how much were dreaded the depredations of those pirates; and the vast increase of Alicant proves the peace and security its citizens have enjoyed under the protection of its castle. Even so late as the year 1776, the Algerines invaded, like a cloud of locusts, all the sea coast of Catalonia, Valencia, and Granada, but they were soon repulsed. In these incursions, it was not so much for plunder, as for prisoners, that they came; because they knew for a certainty, that their captives would be redeemed, by  
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the *Fathers of Mercy*: an order of monks instituted for that purpose. They had too much wisdom to set a value on the labour of a slave: it was the hope of the ransom only which allured them. What a pity is it to see the compassion of these fathers misapplied, and productive of the evils, which they were anxious to prevent! yet such mistakes are common.

I had the curiosity to ask Don Francisco Pacheco his opinion respecting the failure of the Spanish expedition against Algiers. He was present on that memorable day, and being both high in command, and a confidential friend of General O'Reilly, he was competent to form a judgment of his conduct. The armament consisted of twenty thousand men, with a strong fleet to cover them; but the boats were capable of receiving only eight thousand men. The first division, therefore, was ordered to form upon the strand, and to rest upon their arms till the whole force should be disembarked, because the design of the general was to move in columns, and to take possession of a mountain, which commanded the city of Algiers. The troops of this division made good their landing,

ing, and met with nothing to molest them ; but the commanding officer, seeing the Moors assembled to oppose him, yet not in force ; impatient to gather laurels, instead of halting agreeable to orders, cried out, *a ellos mis hijos, at them my sons*, and rushed forward to the attack. The enemy retired, and he continued to pursue them, till his men were harassed and thrown into confusion by multitudes, who lay hid behind camels, rocks, and bushes.

The second division hastened to support the first, but it was now too late, and the confusion becoming general, the commander in chief was obliged to order a retreat. This he conducted with such skill, that, embarking his troops in sight of more than a hundred and fifty thousand Moors, he saved his artillery, and lost only four hundred and sixty men ; a trifling loss, when it is considered that they had been skirmishing fourteen hours without intermission.

Had it not been for the rashness of the officer ; who had the command of the troops first landed, the city must in three days have been reduced to ashes.

On the testimony of such a witness, I can neither doubt these facts, nor the conclusion

clusion which he drew from them; for of all the persons of rank, whom I had the honour to approach, I no where saw his equal for good sense, for firmness, and for probity.

The highest gratification attached to travelling is the pleasure of conversing with distinguished characters. This pleasure is so great, that had I met with one only such as the governor of Alicant, I should have been well rewarded for the fatigues of a long and of a tedious journey. I think I never saw a brighter model of perfection. Calm and recollected, he appears always to command himself; bold and intrepid, he makes the most obstinate to obey; yet so mild and gentle are his manners, and so much benevolence appears in his words and in his actions, that all but those, who violate the laws, feel inclined to cultivate his friendship. As a knight of Malta, he has a rich commandery in a delightful situation, where he might enjoy every gratification, which this world can give, excepting that of being extensively useful to mankind. For this reason he chooses rather to continue in his government of Alicant, where he meets with  
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contradictions and vexations at every step he takes, either for the improvement of the city, or for the establishment of a regular police. His perseverance, however, will surmount all difficulties, and the latest posterity will bless the remembrance of his name.

In viewing such a character, one cannot help lamenting that he should be a knight of Malta, and therefore a stranger to domestic comfort. Although a knight of Malta, he appears not insensible to the charms of beauty; for speaking one day of the Andalusian women, of their persons, their gracefulness, and their animation, he remarked with feeling, that such superlative beauty was sufficient to turn a wise man's head. I quit with much regret the contemplation of so amiable a character.

The *weights* and *measures* of Alicant differ from those of other provinces.

The *quintal* is four arrobas of twenty-four pounds each, and the pound is of eighteen ounces Spanish, or nineteen English; consequently the quintal is two pounds heavier than our hundred weight.

The *vara*, of four palms, is very nearly equal to the English yard.

The

The *cantaro* is four azumbres, or thirty medias, and is equal to three gallons. It is used for liquids.

The *cabiz* contains twelve barchillas, or forty-eight celemines, and is equal to seven bushels and a half.

Eight *quartos* are equal to nine farthings.

The price of *Provisions*:

Bread—four *quartos* for sixteen ounces.

Beef—ten *quartos* the pound of eighteen ounces now, but twelve years ago it was only six *quartos* and a half.

Mutton—sixteen *quartos* and a half now, but at that period thirteen.

Veal—seventeen *quartos*.

Pork—eighteen *quartos*.

Fresh fish—commonly eight *quartos*.

Oil—nineteen *quartos* the pound, but by the *arroba* thirty-three reals.

A fowl, big or little, is fifteen *quartos*.

Salt is twenty-eight reals the *fanega*, or hundred weight, at the *Alfori*, or the king's store; where an administrator, a *fiel* mediator or meter, an *escrivano*, and a *visitador* or supervisor, give attendance.

The contract for provisions is made for six years.

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# J O U R N E Y

F R O M

ALICANT TO VALENCIA.

**J**UNE 6th, I left Alicant. In the vale, the only thing, which struck my attention, was one of the Moorish fountains; but as we ascended to a higher level, I became interested in the strata. Here I saw what I had before conjectured, that these high mountains are composed principally of schist, and that the schist is capped with limestone; yet some of the strata are of gypsum. From these heights we descended to the rich valley of Montfort, which is watered by copious streams, and apparently well cultivated. The soil is light, and in

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their ploughs they employ one mule, yet the land produces abundantly, oil, wine, figs, grain of every species, and barrilla. The tomato and the capsicum seem to be in great request. Montfort is four leagues from Alicant.

After dinner, we proceeded five leagues more to Villena. The way chiefly passes through a rude uncultivated country, between barren mountains of gypsum, which are altogether deserted, and fit only for monumental crosses. In a ravin, I observed a little stream, flowing over a bed of selenite, whose margin is covered with sea-salt. Having passed the mountains, we entered the fertile vale of Elda, where vines, almonds, figs, and olives, with wheat, maize, barley, and alfalfa, cover the wide expanse. In the vineyards they were ploughing with two mules, but in the open field they use a single ass. On the left, between Elda and Villena, is *Sax*, a village of two thousand souls, in a most romantic situation, at the foot of a steep and rugged mountain, on the summit of which is an old castle looking perpendicularly down upon the village.

lage, with its adjacent plain. Having crossed this plain, we travelled between high rocks and mountains to Villena.

*Villena* is a considerable city, placed at the termination of a sierra, called S. Christobal. It contains two thousand five hundred families, divided into two parishes, with two convents for men, one for women, a congregation of S. Philip Neri, a palace for the marquis its proprietor, and several other considerable edifices. On the adjoining mountain is a very ancient castle, formerly a place of strength, but commanded by a more elevated mountain.

In this city are established manufactures of soap and linen, with many distilleries for brandy.

The public walks are very pleasant, and well laid out; the fountains send out copious streams, and together form a rivulet by which the plain is watered.

Thus plentifully watered, this extensive plain produces wheat, barley, oats, rye, maize, leeks, onions, parsnips, alfalfa, hemp, vines, olives, figs, and mulberries.

Near the city is a lake of salt, two

leagues in circumference; and at the distance of four leagues, a hill, composed of rock-salt, is covered with gypsum.

Provisions on the whole are reasonable: beef being sold for six quartos, or something under seven farthings, a pound of sixteen ounces; but mutton is worth fourteen quartos, or nearly four pence.

In the *posada* I observed, that the windows have no kind of fastening; from which I collect, either that remarkable simplicity prevails, or that a watchful police restrains the follies of intemperance, with the depredations of consequent distress.

All the rocks in this vicinity are limestone.

June 7th, at five in the morning, we proceeded on our journey over the plain to Fuente la Higuera, leaving *Almanza* to the left, at the distance of near a league.

Bishop Burnet is mistaken in the account he has given us of the famous battle of Almanza. The fact was simply this: the duke of Berwick, anxious to bring on a decisive action, sent two spies into lord Galway's camp, under pretence of being deserters, with a report that the duke of Orleans

Orleans was conducting from France a reinforcement of twelve thousand men ; that in two days he was expected to arrive, when the two dukes, with their united forces, would compel the English to engage. Lord Galway fell into the snare, raised the siege of Villena, marched his army, April 14th, three long leagues, and in the middle of the day, with his fainting troops, attacked the duke of Berwick, who was calmly waiting to receive him. The event was such as might be well expected ; for, by this stratagem, the duke put the crown on the head of Philip : and, by his valour, he preserved it there.

The day after this engagement, the duke of Orleans, with only fourteen attendants, joined the victorious army.

*Fuente la Higuera*, a village of between two and three thousand inhabitants, is built on a rock, surrounded by high mountains of lime-stone, and looks down upon a fertile valley. This vale is not well cultivated ; yet such is the richness of the soil, that all the crops are good ; and the trees are most luxuriant in their growth. Were it well watered, it would certainly be more productive.

The village belongs, with many in its vicinity, to the marquis de dos Aguas, who names the magistrates.

When we left Fuente la Higuera, we joined company with five men, who had the charge of six horses, all loaded with dollars, and bound for France. As soon as we had descended to the plain, every man crossed himself, discharged his musket, then loaded his piece afresh, and flung it by his horse's side.

From this delightful plain we soon entered a contracted valley, shut in by lime-stone rocks, where the prospect changes at every step. All the level spots are covered with wheat, barley, oats, or maize; the higher lands are allotted to olives, figs, or vines; and the rugged moors, unfuseptible of culture, are abandoned to rosemary, thyme, mint, lavender, and the lovely oleander, whilst lofty pines vary the scene, and crown the most elevated rocks. The road, lately finished, is rounded, well stoned, and perfectly straight. As we advance, the valley widens, and we admire groves of algarrobos, with olives and extensive vineyards.



On the left hand we look up to the desolated convent and castle of *Montesa*, built for the military order of that name, A. D. 1319, by D. Jayme 2d, and ruined by an earthquake, 23d March, 1748.

This country is frequently convulsed; and it is remarkable that, previous to the shock, the wells are all affected, rising and falling suddenly between wide extremes.

At the end of every league we see a neat cottage with its garden, the habitation of the *guardia de camino*, whose office, as we have already seen, is to defend the traveller, and to mend the road.

About seven in the evening we arrived at *Roblar*, and went to the *posada del rey*, a modern edifice, built by the king, well furnished, and administered on his majesty's account. The beds are excellent, with pailasse, mattresses, and fine linen. In the morning, when I drank my chocolate, they brought me a beautiful china cup and saucer, made at the royal manufactory of the *buen retiro*, in imitation of the French. The price of every thing is fixed, and the administrator is remarkably attentive to his

guests. It is, without exception, the most comfortable inn I have met with in Spain. They have fourteen bed-rooms, a kitchen for the common carriers, a spacious coach-house, and stabling for three hundred and thirty horses, mules, and asses,

From hence we look up to *Xativa*, or *Sætabis*, now called *San Felipe*, a city containing about ten thousand souls, with eight convents for monks, and two for nuns. This circumstance bespeaks the richness and beauty of the country. Indeed no valley can be more fertile than this extensive plain; the whole appears to be a garden, covered with the most luxuriant herbage, bearing three crops in the year, and yielding wheat, barley, rye, beans, peas, rice, maize, oil, wine, and silk, in great abundance.

*Xativa* had the honour of giving birth to Joseph Ribera, better known by the name of *Españoleto*.

On these mountains we see limestone, marble, alabaster, and gypsum, of various colours. In the former, fossil-shells are found.

When we leave this plain, we again traverse

verse the mountains, where we have occasion to admire the patience and perseverance of the Spanish character. They are now making a new road, and seem resolved to keep it on a level, notwithstanding the inequality of the ground over which they are to pass, not turning either to the right hand or to the left. If they meet with a deep ravine, they fill it up; if with a hill, they cut through it. I observed them in one place, rather than deviate a little from a right line, cutting a wide passage through a limestone rock for a considerable way, to the depth of more than fifty feet. Their ambition scorns all bounds; and, by their strenuous exertions, they seem determined to remove every obstacle, which can impede them in their progress to absolute perfection.

From the summit of these mountains we have an extensive prospect, and look down upon the rich valley of Valencia.

Here I picked up some beautiful red gypsum. Several veins of cinnabar have been discovered in this neighbourhood in calcareous rock; but I do not mean to insinuate that the gypsum is coloured by this mineral,

mineral, because I rather suspect that the tincture is from iron.

About four in the evening we arrived at Valencia, having travelled, in three days, twenty-seven leagues, or about a hundred miles.

VALENCIA.

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## V A L E N C I A.

**T**HE situation of Valencia is delightful, and the country round it is a perfect garden, watered by the Guadalaviar, on the banks of which the city stands. It is divided into fourteen parishes, including the cathedral, and is said to contain a hundred thousand souls. On the average of two years, A. D. 1782 and 1786, the marriages were six hundred and eighty-one; the births, two thousand six hundred; the burials, two thousand five hundred and twenty-five. The city is evidently flourishing; and, were we to judge by the returns to government, we should be inclined to think the progress, in respect of population, since the commencement of the present century, had been rapid. In the whole province, A. D. 1718, when the equivalent  
was

was settled, they reckoned sixty-three thousand seven hundred and seventy families, and two hundred and fifty-five thousand souls. A. D. 1761, these amounted, when numbered for the quintas, or levies for the army, to one hundred and fifty-one thousand one hundred and twenty-eight families, and six hundred and four thousand six hundred and twelve souls. A. D. 1768, Count d'Aranda obtained an account from the bishops of one hundred and seventy-nine thousand two hundred and twenty-one families, and seven hundred and sixteen thousand eight hundred and eighty-six souls; and now, by the last returns, we may calculate them at one hundred and ninety-two thousand nine hundred and seventy families, because we find seven hundred and seventy-one thousand eight hundred and eighty-one souls. In this province they reckon only four persons to one vecino or master of a family.

In a city like Valencia we naturally expect to see many convents: they are indeed numerous, being no fewer than forty-four, nearly divided between the monks and nuns.

nuns. Beside these, we find ten churches, belonging to congregations, colleges, and hospitals.

The streets are narrow, crooked, and not paved; yet they are clean, and therefore healthy.

The principal buildings are, the cathedral, the convents, and the university; of which the former, without comparison, is the most worthy of attention. It is of Grecian architecture; light, elegant, and highly finished, more especially in the dome, and in six of the larger chapels. Altogether I never saw a more pleasing structure.

Near to the entrance, the first chapel to the right, opposite to the high altar, is dedicated to S. Sebastian. This contains a good picture of the saint, by Pedro Orrente of Murcia. Next to this, when you have passed the entrance to the chapter-house, is the chapel *de la comunión*, with its cupola and three altars. Similar to this are the chapels of S. Francis of Borja, of S. Pasqual, and of S. Thomas. The former of these is elegantly fitted up by the counts

tefs of Peñafiel, who, as dutchefs of Gandia, owes peculiar reverence to S. Francis, once the lord of Gandia, and now its patron. The cross iles have each four altars, and mafive marble pillars. Behind the great altar, eight little chapels, decorated with marble columns, contribute much to the beauty of this edifice. To the north, the church is fitted up in much the fame manner as we described it in the fouth; and round the choir, in twelve reffes, are twelve altars, making altogether fifty-four altars, at moft of which incenfe is daily offered.

The great altar, thirty feet high by eighteen wide, is filver; and the image of the Blessed Virgin, fix feet high, is of the fame precious metal: the workmanfhip of both is admirable. On the altar, in eight feveral compartments, are represented, in bold relief, as many facred fubjects, executed by the beft mafters, who lived at the clofe of the fifteenth century. Thefe are protected by folding doors, of greater value for their paintings than the altar itfelf for the filver it contains. The fubjects are twelve; fix on the outside, and as many



on the inside, the production of Francis Neapoli, and of Paul Aregio.

In the sacristy, I saw a massive sepulchre of silver gilt, designed for the reception of the host on good Friday; a magnificent throne and canopy of silver, for Easter Sunday; and, of the same metal, two custodias, one with Corinthian columns, and images of the two patron saints; the other, twelve feet high, with a gold border, innumerable gems, and a little image of S. Michael the archangel, composed entirely of brilliants. This was added to the treasures of the church in the year 1452.

All the best pictures are disposed of in the sacristy and chapter-house. Those by the canon Victoria, and by Vergara, are excellent; but the most beautiful, and little inferior to Raphael's, are many by Juanes; more especially his Holy Family, in the chapter-house, and his Ecce Homo, in a chapel of that name.

Among the relics, those held in the highest estimation are, many thorns of the Redeemer's crown; the curious cup in which he drank at his last supper; and a  
wretched

wretched picture of the Blessed Virgin, painted by S. Luke.

The revenues of this church are considerable. The archbishop has one hundred and sixty thousand pesos, or twenty-four thousand pounds a year; seven dignitaries have each from eight to fourteen hundred pesos; twenty-six canons, ten lecturers, a master of ceremonies, chantors, assistants, &c. to the number of three hundred, are all well provided for.

Whenever the nation shall be reduced to the necessity of doing as the French have done; what amazing wealth, now stagnating and useless, will, by circulation, become productive!

After satisfying my curiosity in the cathedral, with the edifice, the treasures, and, above all with the paintings, I ascended the tower to take a view of the city and of the surrounding country. The prospect is extensive, and highly interesting. You look down upon a vale plentifully watered, wooded, and well cultivated, adorned with a rich variety of orchards and of corn-fields; yet, from the numerous habitations,

tations, appearing like one continued village. To the east, you see this valley open to the sea; but bounded in every other direction by distant mountains.

In the convents I found some good pictures, more especially in the following: in the two Carmelites, the Capuchins, the Dominicans, Franciscans, Augustines, the convent allotted to the nuns of Jerusalem, and the congregation of S. Philip Neri. In these, the artists whose works are most worthy to be admired are, Jacinto de Espinosa, Juan Bautista Juanes, Francisco Ribalta, Don Joseph Ramirez, Vicente Victoria, who was a disciple of Carlo Maratti, with many others, all natives of Valencia. In the church of San Juan de Mercado, the roof is painted in fresco by Palomino, who was likewise of Valencia. The famous Supper of Ribalta is in the college of Corpus Christi.

This seminary is worthy of attention, not merely for the pictures, which are beautiful; but for the library, which is well chosen, considering the age in which the patriarch of Antioch lived. He finished his college in the year 1604, and all the books

were collected by himself. Among the relics in the sacristy, I took notice of a piece of sculpture so minute, that in the size of an octavo volume it contained more than a hundred figures carved with the greatest elegance and truth.

In this college twenty-three masses are repeated daily for the dead, and for each the officiating priest receives four reals. In Spain few people of distinction die without making a provision for this purpose; but as the religious houses sometimes receive the legacy, and neglect the obligation connected with it, this proves a source of frequent litigation between the community and the friends of the deceased.

Of all the parish churches, not one, beside S. Nicholas, appeared worthy of attention. In this I admired the roof, executed in fresco, by Vidal, a disciple of Palomino, and the dome painted by Victoria. S. Thomas, of Villanueva, does credit to the pencil of Vergara. Three pictures by Espinosa, and two by Juanes, of which one is the Last Supper, painted by that great master for the altar, must be reckoned among the finest pictures of Valencia.

The revenue of the religious houses is said to be considerable; but the most wealthy society in Valencia is the one last established; for when the convent of Montesa was destroyed by the earthquake of 1748, the monks removed their habitation, and settled here. They have lately fitted up their church with much taste, and at a considerable expence. This they can well afford, because, for the maintenance of four and twenty friars, they have a nett income of nine thousand pefos, or something less than fourteen hundred pounds a year.

The university of Valencia is a respectable community. It was founded at the solicitation of S. Vincent Ferrier, A. D. 1411; and soon after its institution, D. Alonso III. of Arragon, granted the privilege of nobility to all the students who should graduate in law. It was lately much on the decline; but the present rector has raised the reputation of his seminary, and they now reckon two thousand four hundred students. When I was at Valencia, he was just returned from Madrid with his new plan of study, approved of by his majesty. (22d Dec. 1786.) The professors

are seventy, viz. seven for the languages, including Latin, Greek, Hebrew, and Arabic; four for the mathematics, comprehending arithmetic, algebra, geometry, mechanics, hydrostatics, optics, astronomy, and experimental philosophy. In philosophy, including logic, metaphysics, moral philosophy, and physics, three permanent and as many temporary professors. In this branch they take father Jacquier for their guide. For medicine, with chemistry, they have eleven professors; six permanent, the other five changed at the end of three years. In this science they have adopted the best modern authors, such as, Beaumè, Macquer, Murray, Heister, Boerhaave, Home, Van-Swieten, and Cullen. They have adopted the practice of the latter; but unfortunately, they have overlooked his best performance, which, without a question, is the *Synopsis Nosologiæ Methodicæ*; and they appear not to be acquainted with the works of Haller and of Gaubius. Like the medical school at Edinburgh, they have a clinical ward, visited daily by the students, and clinical lectures given by the professors. Beside these, with singular liberality of sentiment,

timent, they permit the professors to take what bodies they think proper from the hospital, to be dissected by their surgeons.

For civil law, for canon law, and for ecclesiastical discipline, ten permanent professors are appointed, with nine assistants, who are chosen for a time, and changed in rotation every year.

Eighteen professors, of which eleven are permanent, teach theology, including ecclesiastical history, and what they call theologia escolastico-dogmatica.

These lectures begin the first of October, end the last of May, and are interrupted by as few holidays as the catholic religion will admit of.

During the month of June, all the students are publicly examined in the lectures they have attended the preceding year; if approved, they receive their matriculation, and pass on to a superior class; if not approved, they continue another year in the same class, and being then found deficient, they are expelled the university. To excite their emulation, prizes of books and money are proposed, and distributed at the end of the examination, to those who have made the greatest progress in the sciences.

To graduate, if in arts, the student must, for a bachelor's degree, have obtained two matriculas, that is, he must have attended lectures two years, and must, at the public examination, have been twice approved; and to be master of arts, he must have gained three matriculas. In divinity and law, after four matriculas, he may claim his bachelor's degree; but to be doctor, he must have gained five. For the bachelor's degree in medicine, he must have attended the medical classes five years, and five times he must have passed his examinations. After this he must practise two years in the hospital before he can be admitted to his last degree. This certainly is an improvement on the plan pursued at Edinburgh, where three years study, or rather three years attendance on the lectures, and a slight examination, is all that is required for the degree of doctor. In Valencia, the candidate for this degree is privately examined by the professors. After this, if approved, he performs public exercises, and submits to a second examination. The professors then enter the chapel, and give their votes in private. If these are favourable, they proceed to examine



mine him once more in public, and if he acquits himself to their satisfaction, it is finally determined by vote that he shall be honoured with a degree.

The candidates for professorships form a distinct and separate class, and to be admitted into this, a man must have gained a certain number of matriculas in every science which can be useful in his line, and must pass a severe examination, both in public and in private. Thus, for instance, in medicine, to be what they call *opositor*, that is, to be admitted into the class of those who may be hereafter candidates for a vacant chair, whether permanent or temporary, he must have obtained two matriculas in Greek, two in mathematics, and one in the mechanics; he must defend a thesis, and be examined in every branch of medicine, by three censors at least, both in public and in private. After the examination, the censors with the rector enter the chapel, and having sworn before the altar to judge impartially, they decide by ballot whether the candidate be qualified or not. If all his exercises meet with their approbation, he is publicly received, invested