

ception of these and innumerable other masks, a great deal February. of the spirit of broad comedy prevailed. But a group of five masks, one of whom was seated on an ass, his face turned towards the animal's tail, afforded the greatest amusement of all. By an inscription which appeared on his hat, it appeared that he was intended to represent a "Diplomatist of Verona." He held in his hand some sheets of blank paper, and he observed a most important silence. On his right hand he was attended by a mask, the representative of the Regency of Urgel; and on his left the Russian and Prussian ambassadors. The King of France was stationed at the ass's tail. They were received with shouts of laughter wherever they appeared. An old clothes man, with a bag on his shoulder, and hat of rush matting, with a leaf a yard wide, presented also a droll appearance. From the Prado he pursued his way into the streets, stopped before the balconies where he saw any ladies, viewed them for awhile through his immense tin eye-glass, and then ran off to another part of the street. A mask with the face behind, giving the idea of a man walking backwards, shook all the sides of all the old women with laughter. Some grave masks appeared on horseback; others in caleches, giving curious ideas of contrasts; and, in fact, all Madrid seemed to have taken leave of their senses on this occasion. It was observable, however, that, in all this crowded scene, not the slightest disturbance occurred, no altercation of any sort, no picking of pockets (as would have happened in London if such a scene were exhibited there), and, above all, not the least approach to indecorum was to be discovered. Every body appeared to be actuated by an innocent spirit of mirth, and, immense as the crowd was, the police deemed it unnecessary to take the least precaution for securing public order. The weather was delightfully fine.

At night the masquerade at the Teatro del Principe was

February. crowded. The theatre was not cleared until eight o'clock on the morning of Ash Wednesday. This being the first day of Lent, the Prado presented a very different aspect from that of the last three days. A penitential stillness reigned in the streets, and the churches were crowded with those persons who, during the Carnival, were perhaps the gayest of the gay. The theatres were all ordered to be shut during the Lent, as no public amusements of any sort were permitted, except musical concerts, which were conducted upon a minor scale, at an assembly-room called the Cruz de Malta. In the course of the Lent, however, this rule was a little relaxed for the first time, as operas were allowed to be performed twice a week.

13th. Madrid being exceedingly dull after the Carnival was over, I was easily prevailed upon by a friend to join him in an excursion to Guadalajara, for the purpose of visiting the royal cloth and serge factories there. There are stage-coaches established between Madrid and several of the principal towns within ten or twelve leagues all round. They are usually drawn by five or three mules, according to the distance, and very much resemble those large family coaches which were employed in England about a century ago. They have no outside seats; they carry six, not however without inconvenience, inside, and the mules are harnessed with ropes. The driver, like most of the muleteers of New Castile, is dressed in a shallow round hat, with a wide leaf turned up at the sides, and fastened on his head by a leathern thong, which is tied under the chin; a short brown spencer-jacket, gaily decorated at the back with the representation of a pot of flowers, formed by varicoloured pieces of cloth; a shaggy waistcoat, short breeches, and leathern gaiters. A gaudy silk handkerchief, folded like a rope, is tied round his neck, giving the greater part of his well-blanch'd shirt collar room to appear, and long enough to have its extremities



pinned to a red worsted scarf, which he wears round his February. waist. Having been detained some hours in order to have our passports duly signed by the Political Chief, we at last set off, at two o'clock in the afternoon, by the road of Alcala.

About a league from Madrid, on the left hand, we observed the only instance of a country-seat which I had yet seen in the neighbourhood of the capital. It belongs to the Duchess of Ossuna, is very extensive, surrounded completely by a high wall, and well planted with trees, which, however, are yet too young to afford shade, or even ornament to the situation. The house is low, and built without any pretensions to architectural beauty. The whole demesne may be said to be one garden, which is laid out in plots of vines, olives, vegetables, flowers, and fruits. It is exposed to the full beam of the noonday sun, whence, in summer, it must be far from affording a refreshing retreat. A little farther on, on the right, is seen a cluster of large buildings, called San Fernando, which were formerly used as factories of cloth, but for some years the principal building has been set apart for the reception of Magdalens.

There are no picturesque landscapes to be seen near Madrid. The country all around is so uncultivated, and for the most part so desolate, that one is surprised how the markets of this capital are so abundantly furnished with vegetables. We had some fine views of the range of the Guadarama on the left, upon whose ridges the snow still remained. On the right the hills were seen irregular and barren, deeply indented by the rains of many a winter.

In the course of four or five hours, we arrived at Alcala, five leagues from Madrid, and found that there we must stop for the night. This was not all. On entering the posada we learned that we had no chance of getting any dinner, as there were no provisions in the house. My friend, an English gentleman, who had travelled a good deal in

February. Spain, informed me that this was an incident to be expected on all the Spanish roads, except those between Madrid and Bayonne, where civilization had made some progress. In every other case, when you ask what is to be had for dinner, you are told "nothing but what you have brought yourself." In consequence we went out to the butchers, and purchased, at a very moderate rate, some mutton chops, which being done on the gridiron under our inspection, we found excellent. The wine was good, and for dessert we had raisins and toasted almonds, the fruit also of our personal exertions. I lay some stress on this, as, from the difficulty which we had in getting through this affair, one would imagine that the people of the posada never knew what a dinner was. Upon looking at our beds, we found them thinly covered, hard, cold, and cheerless, so we ordered another bottle of red wine, and had it boiled in a coffee-pot, which my friend brought with him, together with some cinnamon and sugar, and found it a pleasant safeguard against the sharpness of the night.

14th. The sun was out in the morning, but the air was still cold, and we could get no light through the window without also admitting the air—for few Spanish windows in the country can boast of glass. A heavy shutter covers the whole frame, and there is a small square aperture in the middle, which you may open if you like to expose yourself to the blast. With a great deal of difficulty we succeeded in obtaining a breakfast of eggs and coffee, and then sallied forth to see the town. Alcala is seated on the river Henares, and has every aspect of having been formerly a military position of considerable strength. There are the remains of seven or eight old castles, said, as all old edifices in this country are reputed, to be built by the Moors. They are disposed so as to protect the lines of a square which they inclose; two are semicircular, and the



February.

rest quadrangular. There are no stairs in the inside; for the first twenty feet they are quite solid; that is to say, the space between the walls, which are not very thick, is filled up with a coarse cement of gravel and mud. This reaches to a height of about twenty feet, where it is arched over. There is then a small cell, which is entered by very narrow doorways at the sides, they being probably on a level with the summit of the ancient walls. In the front there are port-holes, and over this cell there is a strong arch, and the tops are slightly castellated. It is probable that the cell was the only part of the tower which was used for carrying on defensive operations. The square which these towers enclose is now the garden of the Archbishop, who has a magnificent palace here. There was formerly a famous University in Alcala, but it is now no more. The building is very extensive, and going into ruins. It is remarkable only as having been once a seat of learning; for there is nothing in its style of architecture beyond the commonest structure. There are several other buildings which are capable of surprising a stranger, at least by their extent. Among these are two colleges, and two or three convents. The scale upon which these edifices are constructed proves the riches which Spain at one time possessed. They are mostly of thin bricks, with an equal thickness of cement between them. They exhibit, however, no pillars or arches to fascinate the eye; they are shapeless and dull. The cathedral has no exterior grandeur to recommend it; but its interior is constructed and decorated with more beauty and richness than any church I had yet seen in this country. The great altar has a fine effect; it is ascended by a flight of eighteen or twenty steps. The sacred host is usually kept at this cathedral in a large cabinet of massive silver, of very old workmanship. Six tall wax lights are perpetually burning before it. The choir is constructed

February. also in a graceful style; and at the two corners towards the high altar there are two pulpits uncommonly handsome. The sanctuary is hung on each side with pieces of old drapery, which are in the best preservation. There are some good pictures in the small chapels, but none worth particular description.

At two o'clock in the afternoon we took advantage of a coach, which was going on to Guadalajara. As we advanced, we found the scenery more diversified, and somewhat better cultivated; but the hills, though partially greened, presented that brown, parched, and barren aspect which characterizes the southern mountains of Spain. In five hours we arrived at Guadalajara, and fixed our temporary abode at a tolerable posada—considering the general run of these houses. We had for dinner pigeons and fried only fare which the house contained, good wine, grapes half eggs, the dried for dessert, and beds, of which we had no reason to complain.

15th. Agreeable as our posada was, in comparison with others which we had encountered in Spain, we found, on rising in the morning, that we had no chance of obtaining tea or coffee for breakfast from our landlady. She had nothing to offer us but wine, bread, and fried eggs. My friend, however, remembered that there was a "fonda," or tavern, in the town, so we went out in quest of it: when, after some search, we discovered it, we had the felicity of learning that we could get no breakfast. There was neither coffee nor milk to be had, and to put the matter beyond all doubt, the cook was sick in bed, and had been sick for the last week. Our next project was to see if it were not possible to buy some coffee or tea at a shop, and after a good deal of inquiry, we learned that there was only one shop in the whole town where these articles were sold, and that shop was the apothecary's. Thi-



ther we repaired, asked for some coffee, which was weighed to us out of a bottle, and we found that he sold both this article and tea as medicine. One would hardly believe, if he had not witnessed the fact, that there is a town within ten leagues of Madrid, where coffee and tea are to be had only as medicines out of an apothecary's hands. However, we found it good, though it savoured a little of the shop. Our landlady was not doctress enough to know how to manage it: we were obliged to take the compounding of it on ourselves, and at last found the dose tolerable enough. February.

By this time it was near the dinner hour of the men employed in the cloth factory, and having heard or read something of the Pantheon of the family of the Duke del Infantado, we resolved to pay it a visit. We were told that it was in the church of the convent of St. Francisco, and that a porter in the employment of the Duke had the keys. For this man we inquired in vain. He was not to be found, high or low. In order to compensate ourselves in some measure for this disappointment, we determined to survey at least the exterior of the convent, which is on a hill a little way out of the town. A few minutes brought us to the place, and the first thing we observed was a number of port-holes in one of the walls, which we afterwards learned were formed by the French in 1808, who took possession of the whole of this building, and converted it into a barrack. We had occasion to admire the vastness of this structure, and the singular beauty of its situation. It commands a complete view of the town on one side, and on the other looks over hills and vales planted with olives. On going round the convent we perceived an aperture large enough to afford admittance. Curious to explore the place, I got in, and my friend followed: we at once found ourselves in a kind of hall, the roofing of which was partly taken down, probably to serve the French with fuel. Passing through a door

February. nearly opposite to where we entered, we perceived that we were in a court-yard, though covered with ruins. Having gone thus far, we thought of returning again, as we knew not what might be the result. Instead, however, of going out through the door at which we entered, we went through another, which conducted us into a garden. Like the court-yard, it was in a ruinous state; the vines and other fruit trees wasting away for want of attendance, the earth full of weeds and rank grass, and strewed with bricks and stones.

From the garden we directed our steps towards another part of the building, and entered the refectory. It is a large square apartment; seats and tables are placed round three sides of the room, and the pulpit also still remains undisturbed. From this a door leads into the kitchen, a store-room, and other offices. Our curiosity began to get the better of our discretion, and in exploring our way from the refectory, we got into the cloisters, which enclose a square grass-plot planted with cypresses. By winding stairs we ascended to the second tier of cloisters, from which are the entrances to thirty or forty cells, formerly occupied by the monks. These are comfortable airy rooms; the part of the chamber destined for the bed is nearly enclosed by a brick partition. We examined several of these cells, thinking we might find a staircase from one of them by which we might descend to the church, but to no purpose. While passing through this set of cloisters we heard a little choir of birds chirping amid the cypress trees in the grass-plot. My friend, who is a good sportsman, immediately perceived that they were grouped around a large white owl, which seemed to be the sole sovereign of these lonely dominions. Our voices affrighted him from one tree to another, until at last he found refuge in the steeple.

To the steeple, also, we bent our steps, hoping that it was connected by a staircase with the church. We were not



deceived ; for, after groping some time in the dark, we pushed open a door which led into the Friars' Gallery. It was stripped of nearly all its furniture, organ, music, stands, benches, and paintings. Three small pictures of saints still remained cemented to the wall, which seemed to have escaped the ravages of the French by reason of the height at which they were placed. There also remained on the roof two paintings of the arms of the Infantado family, exquisitely coloured. From this gallery we had a fine view of the interior of the church. It consists of one extensive and very lofty aisle, and before the last invasion of the French, I understand it was magnificently decorated. Little more remained now than the bare walls. February.

By this time the old porter, who was sent after us, arrived with the keys, and conducted us to the Pantheon. It is a very magnificent vault under the great altar. The stairs leading to it, as well as the sides, floor, and roof, are cased with red marble. The principal chamber is of an oval form, in the sides of which there are twenty-six recesses ; in each of these was formerly deposited, on a wide marble slab, a sarcophagus of similar material, supported on gilt feet, and covered with a heavy lid, beautifully carved. When the French had possession of the convent, they broke open and destroyed several of these tombs, under the idea that the Infantado family had secreted their treasures amongst the relics of their ancestors. Mutilated lids and cases incumbered the floor, and several of the recesses were vacant. The remains of the dead, which lay scattered about until the French were expelled from Madrid, were collected by the present Duke del Infantado ; and, as it was impossible to distinguish them, they were cased up in different portions, and decently deposited in an inner vault of plain brick and mortar.

The Pantheon is lighted by the window of the oratory,

February. which is of plain glass, and recently substituted for one that was exquisitely painted. That fine piece of art was also destroyed by the French. The altar in the oratory is of costly marble, and the floor of curious mosaic. On the tops of four columns, which are disposed round the oratory, are figures of cherubs handsomely executed. The French entertained their lust of destruction by firing at the hands, faces, and legs of these figures, mutilating them with a capricious barbarity. How strange it is that a country, which boasts of its unrivalled civilization, should have sent forth from its bosom such a set of Vandal brigands as composed the late French army!

We had but little time to visit the cloth factory, after leaving the Pantheon. However we observed enough of it to convince us that it was a stupendous establishment. Hitherto it had been carried on by the government, together with a serge factory, in the same town, and another cloth factory at Brihuega. There is also a fulling mill connected with it, which is a short distance from Guadalajara, and built on the river Henares—in itself an extensive and valuable set of buildings. The whole, as national property, was assigned to the *credito publico*.

At one time the establishments at Brihuega and Guadalajara gave employment to no fewer than thirty-two thousand men; but on account of the number of offices connected with them, the cloths and other goods which they produced never covered their expenses. Both in the cloth and serge factories at Guadalajara, I observed several English machines, which must have been smuggled into the country. In the serge factory all the wool is still spun by the hand in the old way, and in the machinery for pressing and singeing they are very much behind England. When Bessieres approached Guadalajara, all the cloth was removed to a place of safety, and since that time there had not been more than



fifty or sixty hands a day employed. The reason assigned February. was, the fear of the factious; but the fact was, that the government had no wool, nor money to buy it, and in consequence these fine establishments were at a stand\*.

We had also intended to visit the Duke del Infantado's mansion, but we could not gain admittance, as the municipality had taken possession of the keys when Bessieres came to Guadalajara. With respect to the factious, we learned from various sources, that they conducted themselves with the strictest discipline during the short time they were in possession of the town. We did not hear of a single act of violence having been perpetrated by them. They asked for food, or money in lieu of it, and the people of the town supplied them abundantly with the former. The infantry were badly clothed, consisting of Catalonians and Aragonese of small but hardy frames, and well armed. The cavalry, especially the lancers, were well clothed, and their horses, like the Catalonian men, small but vigorous and spirited. On inquiry into the political sentiments of the inhabitants, I received the same answer in every instance, which I had already frequently heard—"We want nothing but peace."

The following day I returned to Madrid.

16th.

\* It is understood that an English firm is at present in treaty for the establishments at Guadalajara, and that the government has intimated an intention of giving them a preference, if they are to be disposed of by private contract. It has every appearance of a precarious speculation in the present state of Spain. It will require a vast capital in the first instance, and, in the next place, who can assure the purchaser that faith will be kept with him? In a different state of things, the speculators might expect to make rapid and princely fortunes.

## CHAPTER XV.

REMOVAL AND RE-INSTALEMENT OF THE MINISTRY.—  
TUMULTS IN MADRID.

February. IN the sitting of the 15th, the Cortes passed a decree, authorizing the government to remove its residence to whatever place the king should name, if the exigencies of the threatened invasion should require such a measure, between the closing of the session of the extraordinary Cortes and the opening of that of the ordinary Cortes. The ministers lost no time in obtaining the sanction of the king to this decree; soon after which they went up to his Majesty in a body, and presented to him a request in writing that he would name a place to which the government might be removed; and also appoint a day for setting out upon his journey. They pressed the subject of the paper which they presented by several arguments; and during the whole scene, according to their own account of it\*, no uncourteous or unpolished expression escaped their lips, nor did they quit the apartment of his Majesty whistling or singing, as had been charged against them.

18th. In an interview, however, with which the king honoured Bertrand de Lis the following morning, his Majesty did not hesitate to say how disagreeable it was to him to be urged to quit Madrid, especially when as yet there appeared no immediate danger to cause his departure; his Majesty was much surprised that it was not considered that, by his leaving the capital before the necessity arose, the public

\* Espectador, February 23.



opinion and spirit would decline considerably ; giving room, February. at the same time, to the belief that the ministers had a double and sinister view in removing him from Madrid ; that by taking him to a less important place, it would then, indeed, be said that the king possessed no liberty, and that he was oppressed by a faction—an imputation which, in the opinion of his Majesty, ought to be avoided, because the enemies of liberty, both at home and abroad, would, perhaps, avail themselves of this circumstance, and make such use of it as would be convenient to their purposes, and prejudicial to the interests of the country.

This is stated on the authority of a letter, written and published at the time by Bertrand de Lis, giving an account of the interview ; and he adds—“ What passed between his Majesty and his ministers, and whether or not his Majesty had weighty reasons for being displeased with them, are subjects into which I do not think proper to enter, nor can I do less than avoid touching upon them, since, according to what has transpired, they form an anecdote little honourable to the ministry, and to the nation at whose head they are placed.”

Ever since the approach of Bessieres to Madrid, rumours were afloat of a change of ministry. Latterly these reports had acquired a certain consistency, and it was understood that a new ministry was arranged, which would be nominated immediately after the termination of the session, an event which was to take place on the 19th. The new arrangements comprised Cevallos, as Minister of State ; the Prince of Anglona, as Minister of War ; Romarate, as Minister of Marine ; Romanillo, as Minister of Grace and Justice. The Duke of Frias was also spoken of as destined to a department. Several of these individuals were members of the Council of State ; and it may be recollected, that when Bessieres was almost at the gates of Madrid, the Cortes sus-

February. pended the law which prevented a member of that body from accepting any office in the appointment of the crown. The day before the session terminated, the Cortes repealed that decree of suspension, without prejudice to the appointments already made by the government, a measure which effectually dissolved the administration that was proposed to be named.

19th. In this state of things, the Cortes met on the morning of the 19th: and, the king being unable to attend from an affliction of the gout, the President read, in the name of his Majesty, the following speech, which the Secretary of State for the Interior handed to him :

“ Deputies,

“ On closing the session of this extraordinary legislature, I feel happy in expressing my satisfaction and gratitude for the decision, the patriotism, and the zeal which have shone forth in all your labours.

“ A necessity has arisen for some sacrifices, both in men and money, in order to remedy the evils of the State, and the salutary effects which I expected have corresponded to the promptitude with which they have been granted. The factious, who meditated the ruin of the fundamental law, are yielding the field to the valour of the national troops. That junta of perjured men, who titled themselves the Regency of Spain, have disappeared like smoke, and the rebels, who calculated on such secure and easy victories, have already begun to feel the severe results of their folly.

“ The soldiers, who sustain the national cause with so much glory, are worthy of every praise; and among the consolations which victory has given them, it will not be the least, that the extraordinary Cortes have occupied themselves in giving them regulations analogous to the fundamental code which governs them. This work, already far advanced, is a sure guarantee for them, that the civil and



military laws will be soon in harmony, and that that difference February. between both, which has caused so many inconveniences, resentments and disputes, shall soon cease to exist.

“ Other labours equally useful have distinguished this extraordinary legislature. The regulation of the police, the law of replacement, the measures conceded to my government for the purpose of consolidating the constitutional system, and others besides presented to the Cortes within this period, attest the assiduity, the constancy, and the advantage with which the representatives of the nation have fulfilled the trust reposed in them.

“ Several of the sittings of this legislature will be celebrated for the pure patriotism which it exhibited. It has decreed rewards to those who, on the 7th of July, deserved well of their country; and the principal leaders, who distinguished themselves in that memorable event, have presented themselves at its bar. The sittings of the 9th and 11th of January will shine above all, and will form the chief lustre of this extraordinary Cortes. The shout of national honour resounded in the sanctuary of the laws in the sublimest manner, and all Spaniards have felt that there is nothing comparable to the felicity of having a country.

“ Some diplomatic relations have been interrupted during the sitting of this Cortes; but these disagreements of cabinet with cabinet have augmented the moral force of the nation in the eyes of the whole of that part of the civilized world, which has any regard for honour, probity, and justice. On seeing that Spain does not surrender herself to degradation, they will have formed an idea of her firm character, and of the auspicious influence of those institutions which govern her.

“ The King of France has intimated to the two chambers of the legislature his intentions with respect to Spain. Mine

February. are already public, and have been delivered in the most solemn manner.

“Valour, decision, constancy, love of national independence, and the conviction, more deep than ever, of the necessity of preserving the Constitutional Code of 1812: here are the vigorous answers which a nation ought to give to the anti-social principles promulgated in the speech of the Most Christian King.

“The circumstances in which our public interests are placed are of a grave character; but nothing ought to induce either my government, or the Cortes, to give ground. My firm and constant union with the deputies of the nation will be a sure pledge of the success, and of the new days of glory which await us. The day of again opening the session of Cortes is near. A new field of patriotism is about to offer itself to the representatives of the nation, and new motives to me to make my sentiments known to the world.

“Palace, Feb. 19.

“FERNANDO.”

The President, after reading the above speech, closed the session of the extraordinary Cortes at a quarter past twelve o'clock; and at one o'clock a circular royal decree, countersigned by the Minister of Finance, was sent to all the other members of the cabinet, informing them that the king exonerated them from the offices which they respectively held. From the circumstance of Egea's signing the decree, it was at first inferred that he had separated his interests from those of his colleagues. But it was not so. They had all expected that such a decree would be issued, and they agreed that the minister who should first receive it should countersign and circulate it amongst his colleagues.

In two or three hours after this event took place, the intelligence of it was known in every part of the capital. I