

priated to the Spanish, Italian, Flemish, Dutch, French, and German schools; but those only of the two first are finished, and hung with paintings; the greater number, if not the whole of which, have been contributed from the royal palaces and country seats. The number of pictures in the Spanish school exceeds three hundred—that in the Italian five hundred. It is said that when the other schools are prepared, the king has paintings enough to fill them; and that the whole number will exceed two thousand. His majesty also possesses many pieces of ancient sculpture, chiefly from the gallery of the queen Cristina, which are to be deposited in this museum.

The general merit of the paintings is inferior to that of the paintings in the Louvre; and the reason lies not so much in the character of the masters as in the nature of their subjects, which are for the most part religious. Saints and martyrs, whose portraits are wholly imaginary, occupy a considerable part of the Spanish school, and several of the latter are represented in the attitude of suffering, which produces a disagreeable impression on the mind that no truth of colouring can remove. But there are also in this, as well as in the Italian school, some works which have few rivals in the Thuilleries, or elsewhere.

The picture of Velazquez painting the portrait of the Infanta, Margarita Maria, of Austria, daughter of Philip IV. is, with the exception of *La Perla* in the Escorial, the finest production of the pencil which I have seen. The Infanta, about the age of eleven years, is seen in the fore-ground, attended by two young female pages, who are sitting on each side of her. Her flowing flaxen hair is negligently ornamented with a bouquet of flowers, and the truth of her features is perfectly preserved in the mild beauty of her eyes, and the pale Austrian cheek, with which the roseate and animated countenances of her young companions form a charming contrast. On the right hand are two dwarfs,

painted to the life, the younger of whom, counting on the averted attention of the princess, is playing with a dog. Two elderly attendants stand behind them in the shade.— On the left hand, Velazquez himself is seen at a distance, with the brush in his hand, the canvas stretched on a frame before him, and his eyes fixed on the Infanta. The frame stands out, and his figure is seen behind it with so much distinctness, that one might almost believe himself present at the living scene. Between Velazquez and the group in the fore-ground, there seems to be actual depth of space and an interposition of atmosphere. The air of the chamber seems to float between them, and over them; thus separating their positions perceptibly, and giving to the apartment depth, height, and spaciousness. This is not all. Behind the princess, in the back of the picture, a door is opened, which leads to a staircase which the king is about to ascend, after casting the gaze of a father upon this interesting scene. One may number the steps of the stairs, and observe their gradual ascent. They shine in light, and if the king were gone, it would seem as if a breath of wind would close the door. This is the peculiar and unequalled art of Velazquez, to make depth apparent by the management of light and shade; and in that respect, as well, indeed, as in the figures and grouping, this picture may be placed amongst the noblest productions of the pencil.

There is a Bacchus crowning drunkards also by this great master, of considerable merit. His landscapes are few, his heads, saints, and portraits numerous, and all bearing the stamp of his genius. Next to Velazquez ranks, by every title, Bartolome Murillo, who had an inexhaustible affection for painting the infant Christ and his virgin mother. There is in this collection, a charming picture of the boy God by this artist, in which he is represented sitting on a stone in a field, his left hand resting on the neck of a lamb, and in his

right hand a slender reed. The divinity shines from the hair, not in a halo, which wherever it is introduced seems to me unpicturesque, but in an irregular emanation of light, which would almost appear to be the brightness of thought. The eyes beam with frankness, wisdom, and love for that human race which he came to save. There are several holy families by Murillo, in which he has represented the child, the Virgin, and Joseph engaged in domestic scenes of a playful and endearing nature. He has also produced several Magdalens, but only one in which he has succeeded. In general, Murillo, as well as other artists, found it difficult to represent a voluptuous figure, which passion had once inhabited and inspired, but whose beauty should be merged under a veil of penitence. The picture to which I allude is numbered 5 in the catalogue of the Museum. It is plain that the eyes had once been taught to reveal the desires of a corrupt heart, that the countenance and form had been endued with every qualification which could captivate a beholder. But their charms are dissolved: the eyes are filled with big tears; the cheeks are faded, stained, and neglected; the bosom is relaxed, and her very flesh weeps.

It is not to be inferred that those pictures of Velazquez and Murillo, which I have mentioned, are the only productions of these celebrated Spanish masters which are worth noticing in the museum of Madrid. Of those of Velazquez I might further enumerate two garden views, the head of an old man, a coach and travellers entering a wood, the portrait of a sculptor, several portraits of Philip IV. marking his advance from youth to age, and a very distinguished representation of Apollo entering the forge of Vulcan, to inform him of the amours of Mars and Venus. To these might be added (passing over his sacred subjects), his admirable pictures of Menippus and Æsop, a courtier delivering a memorial, an idiot girl, and the fool of Coria; the greater

number of which, as well as the picture of Velazquez painting the portrait of the Infanta Margarita Maria of Austria, have been engraved at Madrid in a style worthy of their excellence.

A similar mark of distinction has been paid to the adoration of the shepherds, a gipsy woman with money in her hand, and several of the religious subjects of Murillo.

There are in the Museum several cook-shops and paintings of fruit by Melendez, who would have succeeded admirably in such representations, if he had not introduced into them a little too much of the artificial grace of the French school. The same remark applies, in some degree, to the flower pictures of Bartolome Perez, whose tulips, hyacinths, and lilies are, however, incomparable. He, as well as Arellano, Espinos, and other Spanish flower painters, has contrived to animate his works by decorating the vases, in which the flowers are placed, with scenes from history and romance. There are very few pictures of Zurbaran in this collection, and these not worthy of his fame. His greatest works were to be seen in the convents and churches of Seville before the invasion of Buonaparte; but the brother and generals of that imperial robber carried away, and have never been called upon to restore his productions, as well as the best of Murillo's, which were deposited in the Alcazar and hospitals of that ancient city.

In the museum of natural history in Madrid, there are also some fine paintings; but its principal feature, as the name implies, consists in a collection of fossils, specimens dug from gold, silver, and other mines; and stuffed skins of animals. There is an immense skeleton of a hippopotamus, which is in good preservation, and looks colossal compared with the skeleton of a beautiful Andalusian horse, which is placed near it. Perhaps the most curious exhibition in this



museum is a collection of small stones, in which little landscapes, and figures of men and animals, are seen drawn, as it is said, by the pencil of nature herself. My own belief is, that she had an ingenious assistant; but if they have been originally found in the earth, or by the sea, with these strange impressions upon them, they deserve to be ranked amongst the rarest curiosities in the world.

In would lead to an interesting as well as a useful disquisition, to inquire how it has happened that different musical instruments have become allied with the customs of different nations. The harp may be said to belong to Ireland, the bagpipes to Scotland, the flute to Germany, the violin to Italy, and the guitar to Spain. The high-born Spanish maiden still delights in this harmonious instrument, the soldier takes it with him on his march and into the camp; the muleteer cheers his way over the mountains with its sound; the carriers take it with them in their covered waggons; the barber has one hung up in his shop, with which he amuses himself while waiting for a customer; through every class, from the highest to the lowest, it is preserved with affectionate feelings; it is the symbol of love, the consoler of care, and equally suited to the movements of the fandango and bolero as to the sweetness of Spanish song; or rather the dance and the ballad have followed in their figure and tone the genius of the guitar.

Hence the music of Spain bears a character quite original. The simple air, heard without the harmonies in the chords of the guitar, would seem to a foreigner to possess little merit. There are, indeed, some old airs of Spain which every nation must admire; but, generally speaking, they are pretty, rather than powerful, and they depend a good deal upon the spirit and taste of the performer for their effect. The fandangos, boleros, and rigodoons are gay and

peculiarly pleasing when well executed on the guitar, and the time marked by the motions of dancers, and the blithe sounds of the castanets. These observations, however, chiefly apply to what may be called the ancient music of Spain, as compared with recent compositions. Beautiful as many portions of that music may be, there are none of them superior, nor perhaps equal, in point of melody, to some of the new patriotic compositions. There is a fire, and at the same time a tenderness, in the best of these pieces, which, whatever becomes of the Constitution, promise them an immortality.

I was detained a full hour one day in the streets, listening to two itinerant musicians performing a war song. One of them sung the air and played it at the same time on a violin, while his companion sung also and performed the accompaniment on the guitar. Both were blind, and neither sung nor played with much skill, and yet it was surprising how much effect they threw into the words of the song. The air had occasional bursts of grandeur, which animated their sightless countenances with a flush of inspiration. In the intervals between the verses, the leader recited passages from a prose rhapsody, the object of which was to rouse the Spaniards to the remembrance of those injuries which France inflicted on the Peninsula, during the last war, to flatter them with the event of the contest, and to bid them bind on their swords for the extermination of the approaching invaders. One would be surprised at the attention with which these two bards were listened to. Tears glistened frequently in the eyes of those who were crowded around them.

I could have wished, for the entertainment of the musical reader, that the nature of this work would have allowed the introduction of the notes of this song at least, into these pages. But such an innovation would have drawn down upon me all the wrath of the classical critics; and I shall

therefore limit myself to the insertion of a free translation of the words, for which I am indebted to a poetical friend :

TO THE NATIONAL GUARD OF MADRID.

A FREE TRANSLATION.

Abanzad, abanzad, Companeros !

CHORUS.

March away, march away, gallant brothers,
With the lance in your hands, march away ;
Leave slavery, my comrades, to others,
For freedom 's our watchword to-day.

SOLO.

We wore chains ; be their memory accurst !
We were slaves, but our hearts were still true ;
Freedom spake, and our fetters were burst,
And what Spaniards have sworn, they will do.
Our rights were unpurchased by gore,
Our joy was unclouded by woe ;
But ere we 'll be bondsmen once more,
Our hearts' blood in torrents shall flow.

CHORUS.

March away, march away, gallant brothers, &c.

SOLO.

Shall Spain's noble soul be subdued,
If a despot but utter his will ?
Let him try, he shall find in his blood,
That freedom 's too strong for him still.
If night once hung over the land,
He shall find that the darkness is gone ;
For freedom ascends bright and grand,
And Spain hails her new risen sun.

CHORUS.

March away, march away, gallant brothers, &c.

SOLO.

What has France like the glory of Spain ?
What has Russia, a savage and slave ?
What has Italy, cursed to the chain ?
May her tyrant soon find it his grave !

Let the nations do what we have done ;
 Let them cling to their rights, as we cling,
 With our people, resistless and one,
 With our charter, the king of our king.

CHORUS.

March away, march away, gallant brothers, &c.

The air, to which these verses are admirably adapted, is named in the original from the introductory line, " Abanzad, Abanzad, Companeros !" Besides this, there are El hymno del Congreso, and El hymno del Union, both of which are exceedingly beautiful. There are also several other Canciones Patrioticas, as they are called, which, together with those I have mentioned, could scarcely fail to be popular in England, if they were set to English words. I have brought over an ample collection of these compositions, which I have handed to a friend, from whose poetical and musical taste the public may soon expect a volume of Spanish melodies well worthy of their approbation.

With regard to the productive industry of Spain, it may be said to be at present in a languishing state. The discovery of America, and the floods of gold that were poured into Spain from that quarter, arrested her progress in internal manufactures at the time when the Moors had brought them to a singular degree of perfection. Spaniards being enabled by their colonial wealth to purchase the products of foreign industry, paid little attention to the growth of manufactures at home, and indeed disdained such occupations. Since the loss of her colonies, the Peninsula has been up to the present unfortunate moment involved in civil or foreign warfare, which has paralyzed her trade, and prevented her from turning to advantage those boundless resources which her diversified climate, and her mountains and valleys, teeming with corn, oil, and wine, afford. Those resources will never be fully developed until the people of Spain are

tranquil, assured of their possessions, and compelled, by the recognition of the independence of the South American states, to look for wealth at home. When that fortunate day arrives, they will find within their own territory mines infinitely more productive than those of Mexico or Peru.

For instance, not only in every province, but in every farm, I may say, there are different wines of the most exquisite flavour and body, which are not known beyond the gardens where they are grown. The reason is, that from the mountainous nature of the country, there are no cheap means of conveyance. There are no navigable rivers, with the exception of the Guadalquivir, and, I believe, a portion of the Ebro. For the last century a canal has been in progress, for the purpose of facilitating the communications of Aragon with Castile; but it is not yet finished, and it has been found so enormously expensive, that it is not probable the government will soon attempt a similar work in any other part of the country.

Townsend says, that it is a pity to convert any of the Spanish wines into brandy. The remark is just; but from the superabundance of their grapes, the Spaniards are obliged to distil a great proportion of their produce, and the process is so defective, that no foreigner can touch the spirits so manufactured. An improvement in this branch of industry, and new facilities of conveyance by the construction of roads, and the introduction of light waggons, would greatly contribute to increase the wealth of the Peninsula.

Her wools, which formerly were prized in all parts of the world for their fineness, have latterly been little sought after, not only because in other nations, in England and France particularly, the growth of wools has been greatly improved, but also because the wools of Spain have degenerated. This is said to arise from the changes in national property and seigniorial privileges, which have been brought about by the

Constitution, and which have done away the licence that the flocks formerly enjoyed to wander over extensive tracts of level and mountainous pastures.

The breeds of cows and oxen are badly distributed through the provinces: in some there are too many, in others too few. In some districts the inhabitants never have cows' milk; they subsist on that of goats, numerous herds of which may be seen in and near Madrid, which supply the capital the greater part of the year. The race of mules and horses has been greatly deteriorated, from a strange policy which infected the government, of confining the horses to gentlemen, and encouraging the propagation of mules amongst the operative classes. The government, as is usual in cases of its unnecessary interference, succeeded in reducing both to a degenerate order. They allowed neither the importation nor exportation of entire horses, and by limiting the breed to those of Spain, they enfeebled it. The saddle-horses are many of them very beautiful animals. Their form is quite Arabian, and their tails are permitted to sweep the ground. But they are unfit for severe labour, and the peasantry know nothing of what we call in England a good roadster, or a good cart-horse.

The harvest of oil may be estimated on an average at about six millions of arrobas*. It may be increased to at least double that amount with facility, and might be constituted a source of immense wealth, as it is an article which all the northern nations want. In the extraction and purification of the oil, the process however which is used in Spain stands in need of alteration. Some diligence has been used in this respect in Andalusia, Valencia, Catalonia, and Aragon; but it cannot be concealed, that the flavour

* An arropa is calculated at twenty-five pounds in weight, and at twelve quarts in liquid measure.

may be rendered much more delicate, and that it requires such an improvement.

The annual produce of Spain in silk does not exceed a million and a half of pounds, though, with suitable encouragement, it might be augmented to a vast extent. The manufacture of linen increases every day: in Galicia they weave annually upwards of six millions of yards. It is not, however, to be compared in texture or fineness with the linen of Ireland: they are not sufficiently acquainted with the chemical process of bleaching, nor have they the machinery necessary for this branch of industry.

In Catalonia the manufacture of cotton made great progress before the commencement of the civil war; and in the royal factories of Guadalajara and Brihuega private individuals had opportunities of seeing English machinery for the manufacture of cloths, which they have imitated with great success in different parts of the country. Their best specimens are indeed inferior to those of England and France; and their method of dyeing is a century behind ours, as they have not yet learned to apply the discoveries of chemistry to that important part of the process.

In speaking of Cadiz, I made some observations upon the foreign trade of Spain, which may be said to be extinct, except in the article of Sherry wine. Her internal trade has been paralyzed by the civil contentions which have vexed her provinces for the last two years. Her population is estimated by the latest census at about eleven millions and a half.

POSTSCRIPT.

In conclusion, I would add, that if the reader have found any parts of the narrative or descriptive matter of this volume familiar to his memory, from having read them before in a respectable and very widely extended journal of London, he will be justified in inferring that they were communicated to that journal by the author of this work.

One word more:—As an eye-witness, who is bound to represent events in the shape in which they came before him, I have been under the painful necessity of relating scenes which I witnessed, and of speaking of the government and finances of Spain, in a manner which her ardent friends in England may think unjust. Upon the latter points, time shall vindicate or condemn my observations; upon the former, I know I have spoken the truth, and I appeal to those impartial English friends who were in Madrid when I resided there.

But if any reader, after perusing these sheets, conclude from them that I am unfriendly to the liberties of Spain, I should regret it extremely. I went to that country perfectly unbiassed; I soon saw that the Constitution was impracticable, and I perfectly agreed with those who wished that it was as much as possible assimilated to the Constitution of England. But I did then abhor, as I do still, and ever shall abhor, the entry of a foreign power armed for the purpose of carrying those improvements into effect. Under such auspices no alterations can be effectual, and I am sure they cannot be for the benefit of freedom.

The French bayonets may prescribe a new Constitution for Spain, but they will write it in sand. As soon as they retire, the tide of liberty will set in again, and break up all their futile and laborious calculations.

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...I should regret it extremely, I were to that country perfectly unbiased; I soon saw that the Constitution was impracticable, and I perfectly agreed with those who wished that it was as such as possible assimilated to the Constitution of England. But I did then appear as I do still, and ever shall appear, the enemy of a foreign power aimed for the purpose of carrying those improvements into effect. Under such auspices no alterations can be effectual; and I am sure they cannot be for the benefit of freedom.

The French deputies may prescribe a new Constitution for Spain, but they will write it in sand. As soon as they retire, the tide of liberty will set in again, and break up all their futile and laborious calculations.

APPENDIX.

No. 1.

Principal Articles of "The Statutes of the Confederation of the Spanish Comuneros."

" Article 1. The Confederation of the Spanish Comuneros is the association of all the Spanish Comuneros scattered through the territory of the Spains for the purpose of imitating the virtues of those heroes who, like Padilla and Lanuza, lost their lives for the liberties of their country.

" 2. The Confederation is understood to be composed of each Comunero in particular, with all the others, and of all the others with each in particular, thus constituting a homogeneous body in the strictest union.

" 3. The essential object of the Confederation is to support, at any sacrifice, the rights and liberties of the Spanish people, as they are laid down in the political Constitution of the Monarchy, recognizing as an unalterable fundamental principle the third article of the said Constitution. [This article is as follows:—The sovereignty resides essentially in the nation, and therefore to it appertains exclusively the right of making its fundamental laws.]

" 4. The Confederation is divided into communities.

" 5. A community is the assembly of all the Comuneros of one merindad.

" 6. One merindad is the territory of one province of Spain, according to the geographical division already established, or which is proceeding to be established.

" 7. Each merindad is divided into an indefinite number of torres.

" 8. A torre is the house where one section of the community assembles, whose maximum will consist of fifty members, and whose minimum of seven.

" 9. Every military corps is excepted from this rule, of whatever description it may be, as this will always form one section, of whatever number it may consist.

" 12. All Comuneros are equal as to their rights and obligations.

" 13. Their rights are those of aspiring to all the honorary offices of the Confederation, and of being under its protection.

“ 14. Their obligations, besides those which they contract by their oaths, are to contribute punctually to the fortress to which they belong, according to the quota appointed to them, for the expenses of the Confederation, unless exempted from it by the competent authority, in consideration of limited means.

“ 15. Each member is also under the obligation of prudently reminding his brother Communeros of the faults which he observes in their public or private conduct, giving them at the same time the most salutary advice which his experience and his zeal for the prosperity of the Confederation and the honour of the Communeros may dictate.

“ 16. He is also strictly bound to investigate the causes of the evils which may afflict his country, or impede its happiness, whether it be through the fault of the public functionaries, or through the ignorance of the people concerning their rights, and to propose to the Confederation, in the assembly to which he belongs, whatever measures he deems expedient to remedy them, promoting, by every means in his power, the national prosperity.

“ 17. Although the Communeros are under the obligation of favouring each other mutually, no one of them shall court the favour or the influence of the Confederation, in order to gain official appointments, since these ought to rest solely on his services and merits: but the Confederation will influence them by all the legal means which are within its reach, in order that they may fall to persons of probity, of enlightened minds, and of known attachment to the constitutional system.

“ 18. 19, 20, and 21. A Communero may withdraw from the Confederation, but not without the absolute license of the President; he must, in this case, give up all distinctions and documents, which he is at the same time obliged, under the strictest responsibility, to keep secret during his life, so far as they relate to the affairs of the Society, and to do nothing against its institutions.

“ 22. Every Communero is subject, for his faults, to the penalties laid down in the Code of the Constitution.

“ 23. The supreme government of the Confederation is representative.

“ 24. This government is confided to a Supreme Assembly, consisting of one Procurator from each merindad.

“ 25. In each merindad there will be a Governing Junta, which is to be charged with the government of the fortress in its district.”

26. This article determines the manner of constituting the Supreme Assembly, which is to be elected by a majority of the votes of the Procurators of the merindads; points out also its powers, which are to resolve, in common with the other members of the Supreme Assembly, whatever may be deemed expedient to the prosperity of the Confederation.

“ 27. The attributes of the Supreme Assembly are—to direct the business of the Confederation according to its institution, and in conformity with the political circumstances of the nation ;—2dly, to enforce the observance of the statutes, the rules, and the code of the Confederation ;—3dly, to constitute merindads, authorising them with proper patents ;—4thly, to grant letters of admission to all the Comuneros, and the necessary patents to the torres ;—5thly, to communicate its resolutions and measures to the governing juntas, with suitable injunctions for the circulation of, and compliance with, them, in all the sections of their district ;—6thly, to receive, apply, and publish the state of the funds, and of their application ;—7thly, to change the words, the signs, and countersigns, when necessary ;—8thly, to dispense from the payment of contributions such Comuneros as may be limited in their means.

“ 28. The Supreme Assembly will reside in the capital of the realm, unless a foreign invasion, or an atrocious persecution on the part of the enemies of liberty, should compel them to establish themselves in some other place.

“ 29. The Supreme Assembly cannot deliberate, unless there are present at least two-thirds of its Members.

“ 30. The place where it holds its sittings is to be called the Alcazar of the Supreme Assembly.

“ 31. The Supreme Assembly will elect from its own body, by an absolute majority of votes, a Commander, a Lieutenant-Commander, an Alcaide, a Treasurer, and four Secretaries.

“ 32. It will elect besides three Committees, under the titles of Justice, Vigilance, and Administration.

“ 33. The Commander will distribute the business amongst the Secretaries, and will name the extraordinary Committees, which may be necessary for the preparation of the labours, or other objects of the Supreme Assembly ; he will take care that order and decorum are observed in the debates ; he will give precedency in them, according to the order in which it may have been demanded ; he will open and close the sittings with the prescribed forms, and will summon extraordinary meetings whenever he thinks it expedient.”

34, 35, and 36, prescribe the duties of the Alcaide (the keeper of the Alcazar, the place where the sittings are held), the treasurer and secretaries : 37, 38, 39, and 40, prescribe the powers of the three Committees above named, which refer only to the internal management of the Confederation.

“ 41. In the month of April every year, the Supreme Assembly will issue a report of the points of public utility upon which it has been employed, showing the state of the consolidation and perfection of the Constitutional System and the public property.”

42. Immaterial : 43 and 44 prescribe the form of the patent for authorizing the merindads, which are to be signed by the