

his royal revenues. With this view he petitioned CLEMENT VII. to grant him the profits arising from the sale of those indulgences, which are contained in the *bull of the crusade*. The Pope very complaisantly granted the request; and the contrivance compleatly answered that prince's expectation: For indulgences have always sold better in SPAIN, than in any other country. There are four *bulls* granted by the see of ROME to SPAIN exclusively; these are,

I. *The Bull of the Crusade*, which grants plenary indulgence to all who shall serve personally for the space of one year in war against the infidels; or if they send soldiers to that service; or if they contribute *two rials of plate* (about the value of an English shilling) for that purpose. In the INDIES, where money was to be had in greater plenty, the price of this bull was prodigious; it has been sold for a pound of gold. Those that purchase this bull twice in one year, have a *double* indulgence or absolution: For it lasts only for the space of one year, so that a new one must be bought annually by every individual. The next bull is,

II. *The Bull for the Dead*. This being bought for any dead person, it ensures them absolution from all sin, and sets them free from purgatory.

III. *The Bull of Composition*. This entitles the purchasers to a right to any stolen goods, or such effects as they may be unlawfully possessed of; for by buying this indulgence, they compound with the Pope for them. How much shorter a process is this, than our English method of hearings in the King's Bench, or a tedious chancery-suit! One twelve-penny indulgence adjudges the property to the thief himself. This the Pope does by virtue of his being supreme lord of all *temporal*, as well as spiritual goods.

IV. The last is *the Bull of Milk*. This is an indulgence to eat flesh, butter, cheese, and eggs in Lent.

THUS you see the business of this council, or *general commission of Crusade*, is to distribute those bulls; to raise a revenue to the crown,

crown, under a pretence of levying a tax for crusading: Its great object is the maintenance of CEUTA, for that is the *sole tenure* by which they hold the grant of those bulls: For were they to lose CEUTA, they would lose all pretensions to this tax, which would revert to the see of ROME. In this council all books of religion are examined; no breviary nor missal can be printed without its licence. It is the depositary of stolen goods unowned. It was erected in the year 1525. All the King's subjects are obliged to buy the indulgence belonging to the *bull of the Crusado*, to enable them to go to confession, receive absolution, and to communicate; for if they bring not this bull, the priests will neither absolve them, nor give them the wafer. This very considerable part of the crown revenues was given in consequence of Cardinal XIMENES's expedition into AFRICA. All the benefices in SPAIN are taxed for the crusade. TOLEDO alone pays 50,000 ducats yearly, (6250 pounds;) the contribution of the clergy is great, but of the laity still more: These bulls are said to produce yearly, in SPAIN only, 1,200,000 ducats (above 57,000 *l.* sterl.) and about double that sum in AMERICA. Those who die without having bought them, die excommunicated.

XVII. *Board of Works and Forrests.*

XVIII. *Council of Commerce, Money, and Mines; or a board of trade.*

XIX. *Junta de Facultades y de Viudedades.*

What the nature of this board is, I cannot say, having made several enquiries in vain about it: Tho' I am inclined to believe, that it relates to cases of property and personal estates, and particularly widows jointures.

XX. *Apostolical Junta.*

To appoint missionaries.

XXI. *Junta of Tobacco.*

To manage the farm of the tobacco.

XXII. *Junta*

TRIBUNALS AND ACADEMIES. 47

XXII. *Junta of the Provisions.*

This is a council of persons of rank and property, who are obliged to furnish MADRID with bread and all other provisions at a fixed price. It has the preference of the first purchase at all markets.

XXIII. *Tribunal of the first Physician.*

DON JOSEPH SUNOL, of the Council of his Majesty, and first Physician of the Chamber, *President.*

DON MIGUEL BARBON, of the Council of his Majesty, and his Physician of the Chamber, *Vice-president.*

DON JOSEPH AMAR, Physician to his Majesty, and first Physician.

DON ANDRES PIQUER, Physician of the Chamber of his Majesty, and first Physician.

DON MATTHIAS DE LA RUBIA, *Assessor.*

DON FR. ANT. DE VERGARA, *Fiscal.*

DON FR. XAVIER DE QUESADA, *Secretary.*

XXIV. *Tribunal of the Nonciature, or Concordate.*

This related, among other articles, to the disposal of *ecclesiastical preferments.* It was abolished by an agreement between the courts of ROME and SPAIN, in 1753.

ACADEMIES ERECTED

In this Court under the Royal Protection.

XXV. ROYAL SPANISH ACADEMY.

HIS EXCELLENCE THE DUKE OF ALVA, Dean of the Council of State, *Director.*

DON FRANCISCO DE ANGULA, *Secretary.*

XXVI. ROYAL ACADEMY OF HISTORY.

D. AUG. DE MONT. Y LUYANDO, perpetual Director for his Majesty, and Secretary of the Chamber of Grace and Justice, and Estudo of Castille.

D. EUG.

D. EUG. DE LLAGUNO AMIROLA, *Secretary* \*.

XXVII. ROYAL ACADEMY OF THE THREE NOBLE ARTS,  
Painting, Sculpture, Architecture, with the Title of SAN  
FERNANDO.

His Excellency D. RICARDO WALL, Protector and Counsellor  
of State.

D. TIB. DE AGIRRE, *Vice Protector* of the Council of the Or-  
ders.

D. IG. DE HERMOSITTA, *Secretary*.

XXVIII. ROYAL ACADEMY OF PHYSIC AT MADRID.

DON J. SUNOL, *Counsellor* of his Majesty, and his first Physician,  
perpetual *President* for his Majesty.

DON A. PIQUER, Physician of his Majesty, *Vice President*, and  
first Physician.

DON J. DE ORTEGA, *Secretary*.

\* The Academy of History at MADRID was founded in 1713, by the Duke de  
ESCALONA, who is well known to the republic of letters. There is another Aca-  
demy at SEVILLE, chiefly relating to the Mathematics.

LETTER

## LETTER IV.

STATE of LITERATURE, LETTERS, and  
MEN of LEARNING in SPAIN.

IN regard to learning, and the belles lettres, SPAIN evidently labours under two material disadvantages; which are, the want of a liberty of the press; and the being subjected to the censure of the inquisition. It is easy to imagine how many valuable works of wit, humour, satire, and genius are entirely rendered abortive for want of this liberty; and though it may be attended with some evils and inconveniencies, yet its advantages are evident, from the many entertaining and useful productions, which in our island solely owed their birth to it: for, as one well said, Is it not better for the public, that a million of monsters should come into the world, which are sure to die as soon as they are born, than that one *Hercules* should be strangled in his cradle? Let us bear patiently with the infamous productions of infidelity and faction, as long as we can receive from the same channel, the admirable discourses of a *SHERLOCK*, or a *HARE*; the political writings of a *BOLINGBROKE*, or a *BATH*, and the various masterly and elegant compositions of a *LYTTLETON*. What would have become of the wit and buffoonery of *Dr. SWIFT*, the elegant observations of *Mr. ADDISON*, and the genteel humour of *Sir RICHARD STEELE*, if their free and unshackled spirits had been chained down like those of the *Spaniards*? Where would have been those many pleasing and instructive writings which daily sprung up, thro' this liberty, at different periods, in the many controversial wars which

H

we

we have had upon subjects of party, politics, learning, and even religion? Would not all these have been destroyed in the bud, if we had seen, as Mr. POPE says, under the throne of Ignorance or Superstition,

Beneath her footstool Science groan in chains,  
 And Wit dread exile, penalties and pains.  
 There, foam'd, rebellious Logic, gagg'd and bound;  
 There, stript, fair Rhet'ric languish'd on the ground?

It is a matter of much more surprize to me, when I consider things in this light, to find that the *Spaniards* are advanced so far as they are in arts and science, than to wonder, that they are got no farther. If we add to this the power and uncontrouled licence, which the Inquisitors or Dominicans have to censure all works printed there, and if they please, to chastise and punish the authors, it would surely make a full apology for SPAIN in this article. I know not well how many *licences* a book must have before it can actually pass the press, but I think at least three. It is usually read by as many censors, and is carefully cleansed by the Catholic sponge, before it falls under the eye of the public. The inquisition never grants any licence, reserving to itself the freedom of condemning or absolving afterwards, as it may judge expedient. The art of this management is apparent. The index of the *Libri Prohibiti* published by the holy office is now increased to two large volumes in folio; and a man must fairly turn over all that work, before he can well know what he dare read. The classics that I opened in the royal library at MADRID were anathematized in the title with these words, *Auctor Damnatus*, and many whole prefatory discourses were erased and blotted out, because, as the librarian told me, *Ils sont contre notre religion*. I have been told by a Spaniard, a friend of mine, that the Dominican library, consisting only of books which they have seized, and which of course are forbidden, is one of the largest and finest in MADRID. I have heard many of them own, that the prohibited books were generally the most worth reading. One in particular told me, that as Father PAUL's history of the council of TRENT was forbidden to be read any where upon earth, he took it with him, and read it at sea. It is no uncommon thing here to see the

the works of our LOCKE, NEWTON and BACON, those immortal glories of human nature, shut up in durance. But how should it be otherwise, when, as BAYLE tells us, in an extract from JOHN of SALISBURY, that Pope GREGORY VI. not only banished mathematics from the court, but burnt a library of heathen learning, in order to give the Scripture more authority. ERASMUS found the weight of this millstone upon the neck of science almost insupportable at the time that he was making such noble efforts for the revival of letters: And the ignorance and indolence of the monks, which he so much exclaims against in those days, is very little altered for the better in the present. Few of them, even now, either understand or talk the Latin tongue; and fewer still are employed in studies of real or useful learning: they are chiefly confined to the narrow limits of the scholastic writers, the polemic divines, and Thomastic or Augustin theology. I speak only in general, for doubtless there are some exceptions, such as a FLORES, a PONCE, a BURRIEL, or a FEIJO; but these are rare, and shine, like lamps in sepulchres, amidst the numerous cells of those useless ecclesiastics. Great part of this dearth of scholars is certainly owing to the want of a due encouragement, a restriction of the liberty of the press, and their subjection to the yoke of the inquisition. And how much they have suffered from these curbs may be easily gathered from a few facts that have passed in SPAIN only. Poor MIGUEL CERVANTES, the inimitable author of *Don Quixote*, underwent many severe sufferings in combating those triple monsters, prejudice, ignorance, and superstition. The incomparable JOHN DE MARIANA, whose labours and studies have done such lasting honour to himself, and to his country, was confined twenty years in prison, and when he wrote his History, he dared not to bring it down any nearer to his own times, for fear of giving offence. And even within these two or three last years, Dr. ISLA, who wrote that pretty satire, *Frey Gerundio*, upon the monks and preachers of these times, has been persecuted and silenced by the inquisition for his impertinent wit.

SUCH being then the true state of the case, we are certainly much obliged to those wits and geniuses in SPAIN, who have had firmness enough to break through all these obstacles, and have

produced works, which have made their names the theme of their own countrymen, and respected and esteemed abroad. The *COMPLUTENSIAN Bible*\* has undoubtedly been the best monument to the memory of Cardinal XIMENES, and would atone, if any thing could atone, for the share which he had in establishing the inquisition. This certainly doubles the merit of such writers, who have been so hardy as to step forth in this country: such as, CERVANTES, COVARRUBIAS, FAXARDO, ZURITA, CABRERA, SANDOVAL, MARIANA, ANTONIO PEREZ, GARCILASSO DE LA VEGA, LOPEZ DE VEGA, CARPIO, ANTONIO DE GUEVARA, CALDERONI, ANT. DE SOLIS, HERRERA, &c. It makes us regard in a much higher light such men as ANTONIO AUGUSTINO, VILLALPANDO, L. RAMIREZ DE PRADO, SANCTIUS, and others.

BUT in order to set this point in a clearer view, I will now make some general remarks upon the present state of Divinity, History, Physic, and Poetry in this country, and then subjoin a list and account of the most remarkable writers in each branch.

IN regard to Divinity, it consists much, as it formerly did, in the study of the fathers, councils, the decrees of the popes, and their canons, and in systems of Thomastic and Augustine theology. The knowlege of the learned languages, and explication of the text of the sacred writings, has very little to do with it. In this track of criticism they are almost utter strangers; and I cannot find any thing of late years published in this way: It is holy ground, and therefore dangerous to be approached. In casuistry indeed they are very well versed, and this makes a constant part of the studies of their pastoral office: I suppose it is in some measure necessary to such as must be confessors; but whether it is so far requisite, as to run into such obscene disquisitions, as refine, and reduce sinning to a system, it will be difficult to persuade our divines.

\* This was the first *Polyglot* ever printed, and was done at the expence of the cardinal, then archbishop of Toledo. It was about four years in printing, from 1514 to 1517, but not published till 1520, when it came out in 6 volumes, including the Lexicon: It was printed in four languages, the Hebrew, Chaldee, Greek, and Latin. This served as a model to that of Mr. Walton, which is more useful and exact, and to that of Mr. Le Jay, printed at Paris with many expensive ornaments.



But that this kind of casuistry is too infamously studied, appears from the many tomes that have been published in this country, and particularly in that curious research of *Sanchez de Matrimonio*. When I say the fathers, take notice I mean the Latin fathers; for as to the Greek, there are very few amongst them, who are able to undertake that task: for the study of the learned languages is here but at a low ebb; Hebrew seems to be rather the most cultivated. It may not be improper to observe, that I am told there is a MS. of St. AUGUSTINE in the Bodleian library at Oxford, in which there is a passage allowing the clergy to marry; which passage is not extant in any Roman-catholic copy that was ever heard of.

THE lawyers in this country get as much money as the practitioners in other countries; and whatever may be said of the slowness of our chancery suits, the tediousness of theirs will at least equal them: A friend of mine, a great merchant at CADIZ, has just obtained a cause at MADRID, after *nine* years attendance; and I could mention some others, which are at this time depending, which probably will never be determined at all. Bribery operates too much in this country; and to do the *Spaniards* justice, they do not disown it. It appeared very plainly in the famous cause of the ANTIGALLICAN privateer, in which the late Sir BENJAMIN KEENE took such patriotic and disinterested pains; and in many others, which might be mentioned.

IN History, the Spaniards have many valuable writers. The detail of particular wars, as that of GRANADA, between PHILIP IV. and the MOORS, by MENDOSA, said to be a masterly work; the relation of the succession-war, or partition of the Spanish monarchy, by SAN FELIPPE, &c. the ecclesiastical history of SPAIN by Father HENRY FLORES, in fifteen volumes 4to. &c. the history of particular cities, such as *Toledo*, *Seville*, &c. Their great antiquarians are FLORIO OCAMPO, AMBROSIUS MORALES, MARIANA; REQUESENDIUS for those of PORTUGAL. But I cannot find, that any writer of credit (for some have attempted it) has been yet bold enough to take up the thread of their general history, where MARIANA left it off, that is to say, with FERDINAND and ISABELLA (for the supplement and continuator  
MI-