

The regular and only really formidable robbers have almost disappeared on the high roads, in consequence of the institution of a body of mounted and well-armed men, who are stationed in the principal routes as escorts and patrols. They are called *Guardias civiles*, to distinguish them from *military* guards. The system was borrowed from the gendarmerie of France, whence the troopers were called by the people *Hijos de Luis-Felipe*, sons of Louis-Philippe, or *Polizones*, a new word coined out of the old French *Polissons*. Diligences in periods and localities of danger are usually provided with guards of their own, and there is also in most large towns a body of armed men on foot, called *Miguelites*, whose business it is to keep the peace, and by whom convoys of value and travellers of rank are escorted. They resemble the Peelers, the police in Ireland, and are formed of active, excellent men, brave, temperate, and indefatigable. There are also few places in which an extempore protection may not be hired of *Escopeteros*, or men armed with a gun, which in truth is the definition of half the Iberian family when outside a town's walls. Except when ladies are in the case, and the localities are notoriously infested for the moment, all these precautions are needless. A riding party of armed Englishmen may dismiss the bugbear altogether, from the Pyrenees to the Straits of Gibraltar. In general Spanish robbers are shy of attacking Englishmen: they have a wholesome fear of the strength of our gunpowder, and of our disposition to show fight.

#### IX.—THE GEOGRAPHY OF SPAIN.

One glance at a map of Europe will convey a clearer notion of the relative position of Spain in regard to other countries than pages of letter-press; an advantage which every school-boy possesses over the Plinys and Strabos of antiquity, who were content to compare the shape of the Peninsula to a bull's hide. This country, placed between the latitudes  $36^{\circ} 57'$  and  $43^{\circ} 40'$  north, extends from longitude  $9^{\circ} 13'$  west to  $30^{\circ} 15'$  east: the extreme length has been calculated at about 200 leagues of 20 to the degree, and the greatest breadth at somewhat less than 200; and the whole superficies, including Portugal, is stated to contain upwards of 19,000 square leagues, of which somewhat more than 15,500 belong to Spain; it is thus almost twice as large as the British Islands, and only one-tenth smaller than France; the circumference or coast-line is estimated at some 750 leagues. This compact and isolated territory, inhabited by a hardy, warlike population, ought, therefore, to have rivalled France in military power, while its position between those two great seas which command the commerce of the old and new world, its indented line of coast, abounding in bays and harbours, offered every advantage of vying with England in maritime enterprise. Nature has provided outlets for the productions of a country rich alike in everything that is to be found either on the face, or in the bowels of the earth; the mines and quarries abound with precious metals and marbles, from gold to iron, from the agate to coal; a fertile soil and every possible variety of climate admit of unlimited cultivation of the natural productions of the temperate or tropical zones: thus in the province of Granada the sugar-cane and cotton-tree luxuriate at the

base of ranges whose tops are covered with eternal snow. The unremitting bad government of the Gotho-Spaniard has done its worst to neutralise the advantages of this favoured land, which, while under the dominion of the Romans and Moors, resembled an Eden, a garden of plenty and delight. Now vast portions of the Peninsula offer a picture painful to be contemplated by the philosopher or philanthropist: the face of nature and the minds of men, dwarfed and curtailed of their fair proportions, have either been neglected and their inherent fertility allowed to run into luxuriant weeds and vice, or their energies misdirected, and a capability of good converted into an element of disgraceful eminence in deeds of evil.

In geological construction, Spain, almost an agglomeration of mountains, is raised in a series of elevation terraces on every side from the coasts; the central portions, higher than any other table-lands in Europe, range on an average from 2000 to 3000 feet above the level of the sea, while from this elevated plain chains of other mountains rise. Madrid, placed on this central plateau, is situated about 2000 feet above the level of Naples, which lies in the same latitude; the mean temperature of the former is  $59^{\circ}$ , while that of the latter is  $63^{\circ} 30'$ ; it is to this difference of elevation that the difference of climate and vegetable productions between the two capitals is to be ascribed.

Fruits which flourish on the coasts of Provence and Genoa, which lie  $4^{\circ}$  more to the north than any portion of Spain, are rarely to be met with in the interior of the elevated Peninsula: on the other hand, the low and sunny maritime belts abound with productions of an African vegetation; and botany marks climate better than barometers or thermometers. The mountainous character and general aspect of the coast is nearly analogous throughout the circuit which extends from the Basque Provinces to Cape Finisterre, and offers a remarkable contrast to those sunny alluvial plains which extend, more or less, from Cadiz to Barcelona, and which closely resemble each other in vegetable productions, such as the fig, orange, pomegranate, aloe, and palm-tree. Again, the central table-lands, *las Parameras*, equally resemble each other in their monotonous denuded aspect, in their scarcity of fruit and timber, and their abundance of cereal productions.

Spanish geographers have divided the Peninsula into seven distinct chains of mountains. These *cordilleras* arise on each side of intervening plains, which once formed the basins of internal lakes, until the accumulated waters, by bursting through the obstructions by which they were dammed up, found a passage to the ocean: the dip or inclination of the country lies from the east towards the west, and, accordingly, the chief rivers which form the drains of the great leading channels between the principal water-sheds flow into the Atlantic: their courses, like the basins through which they pass, lie in a transversal and almost a parallel direction; thus the Duero, the Tagus, the Guadiana, and the Guadalquivir, all flow into their recipient between their distinct chains of mountains.

The Moorish geographer Alrasi took climate as the rule of dividing the Peninsula into distinct portions. *The first or northern zone* is the *Cantabrian*, the European; this portion skirts the base of the Pyrenees, includes portions of Catalonia, Arragon, and Navarre, the Basque pro-

vinces, the Asturias, and Galicia. In this region of humidity the winters are long, and the springs and autumns rainy, and it should only be visited in the summer. This country of hill and dale is intersected by streams, which abound in fish, and which irrigate rich meadows for pasture. The valleys form the dairy country of Spain, while the mountains furnish valuable and available timber. In some parts corn will scarcely ripen, while in others, in addition to the cerealia, cider and an ordinary wine are produced. Inhabited by a hardy, independent, and rarely subdued population, these mountainous regions offer natural means of defence. It is useless to attempt the conquest with a small army, while a large one starves for want of support in the hungry localities. *The second zone*, the Iberian or the eastern, in its maritime portions, is more Asiatic than European, the inhabitants partake of the Greek and Carthaginian character, being false, cruel, and treacherous, yet lively, ingenious, and fond of pleasure: this portion commences at Burgos, and is continued through the Sierras of Albarracin and Segura to the Cabo de Gata, and includes the southern portion of Catalonia and Arragon, with parts of Castile, Valencia, and Murcia. The sea-coasts should be visited either in the spring or autumn, when they are delicious. They are intensely hot in the summer, and infested with myriads of muskitoes. The districts about Burgos should be avoided as being cold, except during the summer months. Thus the upper valley of the Miño and some of the north-western portions of Old Castile and Leon are placed about 6000 feet above the level of the sea, and the frosts often last for three months at a time.

*The third zone*, the Lusitanian, or western, by far the largest, includes the central parts of Spain and all Portugal; and in the physical condition of the soil and the moral qualities of the inhabitants, portions present an unfavourable view of the Peninsula: the inland steppes are burnt up by summer suns, tempest and wind-rent during winter, while the absence of trees exposes them to the violence of the elements; poverty-stricken mud-houses, scattered here and there in the desolate extent, afford a wretched home to a poor, proud, and ignorant population. These localities, which offer in themselves little pleasure or profit to the stranger, contain however many sites and cities of the highest interest. Thus New Castile, the sovereign province, besides the capital Madrid, comprehends Toledo, the Escorial, Segovia, Aranjuez, Avila, Cuenca, which none who wish to understand Spain and the genuine old Castilian cities can possibly pass by unnoticed.

The more western portions of this Lusitanian zone are much more agreeable; the ilex and chestnut abound in the hills, while the rich plains produce corn and wine most plentifully. The entire central table-land occupies about 93,000 square miles, and forms nearly one-half of the entire area of the Peninsula. The peculiarity of the climate is its dryness; rain is so rare, that the annual quantity on an average does not amount to more than 10 inches. The olive, however, is only to be met with in a few and favoured localities. *The fourth zone*, the Bœtican, the most southern and African, coats the Mediterranean, basking at the foot of the mountains which rise behind and form the mass of the Peninsula; this mural barrier offers a sure protection

against the cold winds which sweep across the central region. The descent from the table elevations into these maritime strips is striking; the face of nature is quickly and completely changed, and the traveller passes from the climate and vegetation of Europe into that of Africa. This region is characterised by a dry burning atmosphere during a part of the year. The winters are short and temperate, the springs and autumns quite delightful. Much of the cultivation depends on artificial irrigation, which was carried by the Moors to the highest perfection; indeed water, under this forcing, vivifying sun, is synonymous with fertility; the productions are tropical; sugar, cotton, rice; the orange, lemon, and date. The *algaroba*—*ceratonia siliquastrum*—and the *adelfa*, the oleander, form the boundary marks between this, the *tierra caliente*, and the colder regions by which it is encompassed. Such are the geographical divisions of nature with which the vegetable and animal productions are closely connected. The Bœtican zone, Andalucia, contains in itself many of the most interesting cities, sites, and natural beauties of the Peninsula. Cadiz, Gibraltar, Ronda, Malaga, the Alpujarras, Granada, Cordova, Seville, Xerez, are easy of access, and may be visited almost at every portion of the year. The winters may be spent at Cadiz, Seville, or Malaga, the summers in the cool mountains of Ronda, Aracena, or Granada. April, May, and June, or September, October, and November, will, however, be the most preferable. Those who go in the spring should reserve June for the mountains; those who go in the autumn should reverse the plan, and commence with Ronda and Granada, ending with Malaga, Seville, and Cadiz; and this region will be found by the invalid infinitely superior as a winter residence than any portions of the South of France or Italy.

The internal communication of the Peninsula, thus divided by the mountain-walls of *Cordilleras*, is effected by high roads, carried over the most convenient points, where the natural dips are the lowest, and the ascents and descents the most practicable. As a general rule, the traveller should always cross the mountains by one of these. The goat-paths and smuggler-passes over other portions of the chain are difficult and dangerous, and seldom provided with villages or ventas: the farthest but fairest way about, will generally be found the best and shortest road. These passes are called *Puertos*—*porte*—mountain-gates: the precise *ghaut* of the Hindoos.

The term *Sierra*, which is commonly applied to these serrated ranges, has been derived from the Spanish *sierra*, a saw; while others refer it to the Arabic *Sehrah*, an uncultivated tract. *Montaña* means a mountain; *Cerro* a hog-backed hill; *pico*, *picacho*, a pointed height. *Una cuesta*, a much-used expression, means both an ascent and descent. *Cuesta arriba*, *cuesta abajo*, up hill, down hill. There are few of the singular-shaped hills which have not some local name, such as *Cabeza del Moro*, the Moor's head; or something connected with religion, such as *San Christobal*, *El Fraile*, &c.

There are 6 great rivers in Spain—the arteries which run between the 7 mountain-chains, the vertebræ of the geological skeleton. These 6 water-sheds are each intersected in their extent by others on a minor scale, by valleys and indentations in each of which runs its own stream. Thus the rains and melted snows are all collected in an infinity

of ramifications, and carried by these tributary conduits into one of the 6 main trunks, or great rivers: all these, with the exception of the Ebro, empty themselves into the Atlantic. The Duero and Tagus, unfortunately for Spain, disembogue in Portugal, thus becoming a portion of a foreign dominion exactly where their commercial importance is the greatest. Philip II. "the prudent," saw the true value of the possession of Portugal, which rounded and consolidated Spain, and insured to her the possession of these outlets of internal produce, and inlets for external commerce. Portugal, that *angulus iste*, annexed to Spain, gave more real power to his throne than the dominion of entire continents across the Atlantic. Nor has the vision of a Peninsular union ever faded from the cabinets of Spain. The *Miño*, which is the shortest of these rivers, runs through a bosom of fertility. The *Tajo*, Tagus, which the fancy of poets has sanded with gold and embanked with roses, tracks its dreary way through rocks and comparative barrenness. The *Guadiana* creeps through lonely Estremadura, infecting the low plains with miasma and ague. The *Guadalquivir* eats out its deep banks amid the sunny olive-clad regions of Andalusia.

Spain abounds with brackish streams, *Salados*, and with salt-mines, the remnants of the saline deposits, after the evaporation of the seawaters. The central soil, strongly impregnated with saltpetre, and always arid, is every day becoming more so, from the Castilian antipathy against trees. No skreen checks the power of evaporation; nothing protects or preserves moisture. The soil, more and more baked and calcined, has in some parts almost ceased to be available for cultivation: from want of plantations and dykes the slopes are liable to denudation of soil after heavy rain. Nothing breaks the descent of the water; hence the naked, barren stone summits of many of the sierras, which, pared and peeled of every particle capable of nourishing vegetation, loom forth, the skeletons of a land in which life seems extinct; not only is the soil thus lost, but the detritus thus washed down forms bars at the mouths of rivers, or chokes up and raises their beds; thus they are rendered liable to overflow their banks, and to convert the adjoining plains into pestilential swamps. The volume of water in the principal rivers of Spain has diminished, and is diminishing. Rivers which once were navigable, are so no longer, while the artificial canals which were to have been substituted remain unfinished: the progress of deterioration advances, as little is done to counteract or amend what every year must render more difficult and expensive, while the means of repair and correction will diminish in equal proportion, from the poverty occasioned by the evil, and by the fearful extent which it will be allowed to attain. The majority of Spanish rivers—torrents rather—scanty during the summer time, flow away with rapidity when filled by rains or melting snow; they are, moreover, much exhausted by being drained off, *sangrado*, bled, for the purposes of artificial irrigation. The scarcity of rain in the central table-lands diminishes the regular supply of water to the springs of the rivers; and what falls is soon sucked up by a parched, dusty, and thirsty soil, or evaporated by the dryness of the atmosphere. An absence of lakes forms another feature in this country of mountains.

These geographical peculiarities of Spain must be remembered by the traveller, and particularly the existence of the great central eleva-

tion, which, when once attained, is apt to be forgotten. The country rises in terraces from the coast, and when once the ascent is accomplished, no *real* descent takes place. The roads indeed *apparently* ascend and descend, but the mean height is seldom diminished, and the interior hills or plains are merely the undulations of one mountain. The traveller is often deceived at the apparent low height of snow-clad ranges, such as the Guadarama, whose coldness will be accounted for by adding the elevation of their base above the level of the sea. The palace of the Escorial, which is placed at the foot of the Guadarama, and in a seeming plain, stands in reality at 2725 feet above Valencia, while the summer residence of the king at *La Granja*, in the same chain, is 30 feet higher than the summit of Vesuvius. This, indeed, is a castle in the air—a *château en Espagne*, and worthy of the most German potentate to whom that element belongs. The mean temperature on the plateau of Spain is as  $15^{\circ}$ , while that of the coast is as  $18^{\circ}$  and  $19^{\circ}$ , in addition to the protection from northern winds which their mountainous backgrounds afford; nor is the traveller less deceived as regards the height of the interior mountains than he is with the table-land plains; his eye wanders over a vast level extent bounded only by the horizon, or a faint blue line of other distant sierras; this space, which appears one level, is intersected with deep ravines, *barrancos*, in which villages lie concealed, and streams, *arroyos*, flow unperceived; another important effect of this central elevation is the searching dryness and rarefaction of the air. It is often highly prejudicial to strangers: the least exposure, which is very tempting under a burning sun, will bring on ophthalmia, irritable colics, and inflammatory diseases of the lungs and vital organs. Such are the causes of the *pulmonia* (the endemic disease of Madrid), which carries off the invalid in a few days.

These are the geographical, geological, and natural divisions of the Peninsula, throughout which a leading prevailing principle may be traced. The artificial, political, and conventional arrangement into kingdoms and provinces is so much the work of accident and of absence of design; indeed, one who only looked at the map might sometimes fancy that some of the partitions were expressly devised for the sake of being purposely inconvenient and incongruous.

These provincial divisions were however formed by the gradual union of many smaller and previously independent portions, which have been taken into Spain as a whole, just as our inconvenient counties constitute the kingdom of England. Long habit has reconciled the inhabitants to these divisions, which practically suit them better than any new arrangement, however better calculated according to statistical and geographical principles. The French, when they obtained possession of the Peninsula, with their fondness for departmentalization, tried to remodel and recombine ancient and antipathetic provinces, to carve out neatly and apportion districts, à la mode de Paris, in utter disregard of the wishes, necessities, and prejudices of the respective natives. No sooner was their intrusive rule put to an end, than the Spaniards shook off their paper arrangements, and reverted, like the Italians, to those which pre-existed, and which, however defective in theory, and irregular on the map, suited their inveterate habits. In spite of the failure of the French, Spain has been recently re-arranged, and the

people parcelled out like pieces on a chess-board. It will long, however, defy the power of all the reformers, commissioners, of all the doctrinaires, of all the cortes, effectually to efface the ancient, deeply-impressed divisions, which are engraven on the retentive characters of the inhabitants of each distinct province, who next to hating their neighbours, hate innovations.

The political divisions of former times consisted of 14 large provinces, some of which were called kingdoms, as Granada, Seville, Cordova, Jaen, Murcia, Valencia, &c. : others principalities, like Asturias : others counties, like Barcelona, Niebla, &c. : and lastly, others were called provinces, like New and Old Castile, Estremadura, &c. : Biscay was termed *el Senorio*. Spain, was then divided by "decree," into 49 provinces, viz. : Alava, Albacete, Alicante, Almeria, Avila, Badajoz, las Baleares, Barcelona, Burgos, Caceres, Cadiz, las Canarias, Castellon de la Plana, Ciudad Real, Cordoba, la Coruña, Cuenca, Gerona, Granada, Guadalajara, Guipuzcoa, Huelva, Huesca, Jaen, Leon, Lérida, Logroño, Lugo, Madrid, Malaga, Murcia, Navarra, Orense, Oviedo, Palencia, Pontevedra, Salamanca, Santander, Segovia, Sevilla, Soria, Tarragona, Teruel, Toledo, Valencia, Valladolid, Vizcaya, Zamora, Zaragoza. There is now a scheme to reduce these 49 into 20 provinces, in the hopes of diminishing departmental expenditure and malversation, and to further the centralizing system, which France has made the fashion.

The present population, with a slow tendency to increase, may be taken at 13,000,000, although Madoz rates it at 15,000,000. *Drought*, the great bar to the fertility of soil, also tends to check fertility of women. The prevalence, again, of foundling hospitals, and the large number of natural children exposed by unnatural parents in these charnel-houses to a certain massacre of innocents, and the drain of deadly Madrid on the provinces at large, keeps down the scanty population. The revenue may be taken at some 12,000,000*l.* Badly collected, and at a ruinous per centage, it is exposed to infinite robbery and jobbery. In Spain a little money, like oil, will stick to every finger that handles it.

Spain, in the time of Ferdinand VII. one of the most backward nations in Europe, has since his death made considerable advance. The sleeper has been awakened by the clash of civil wars, and, however far the lagging is yet in arrear, a certain social and administrative progress is perceptible. The details connected with each ministerial department, their separate duties, and what is or ought to be done under each head, Justice, Finance, Home, Board of Trade, War, and Marine, are set forth in the *Spanien und seine fortschreitende Entwicklung*, Julius v. Minutoli, Berlin, 1852, but the infinite details of the working and social life are put by him in too complimentary a style. Most Spanish things so tinted *à la rose* on his paper appear perfect ; but when tested by practice, many a magazine will turn out to be an arsenal of empty boxes, and many an institution of peace and war be found "wanting in everything most essential at the critical moment." A swelling, pompous show of canvas is spread over a battered, unseaworthy hull. The use made of our *Handbook* by this industrious Prussian, and also by his countryman Zeigler in his recent *Reise in Spanien*, 1852, is flattering.

No doubt Spain has taken part in the general progress of the last

score of years, and a marked improvement is perceptible, especially in medical science, and in the national education of the people. While in 1803 only 1 in 340 were educated, it is now, we are told, calculated that to every 1 in 17 the means of elementary schooling is offered. If this be true, then England, the leader of *moral* civilization as France is of *sensual*, may well take a leaf from the horn-book of Spain.

#### TOURS IN SPAIN.

However much the Gotho-Spaniards have destroyed, disfigured, and ill-appreciated the relics of the Moor—in their eyes an infidel invader and barbarian—the remains of that elegant and enlightened people will always constitute to the rest of mankind some of the foremost objects of curiosity in the Peninsula, and are indeed both in number and importance quite unequalled in Europe.

#### TOUR FOR THE IDLER AND MAN OF PLEASURE.

Perhaps this class of travellers had better go to Paris or Naples. Spain is not a land of fleshly comforts, or of social sensual civilization. *Oh! dura tellus Iberiæ!*—God there sends the meat, and the evil one cooks:—there are more altars than kitchens—*des milliers de prêtres et pas un cuisinier.*

Life in the country, there, is a Bedouin Oriental existence. The inland unfrequented towns are dull and poverty-stricken. *Bore* is the Genius Loci. Boasted Madrid itself is but a dear, second-rate, inhospitable city; the maritime seaports, as in the East, from being frequented by the foreigner, are more cosmopolitan, more cheerful and amusing. Generally speaking, in Spain, as in the East, public amusements are rare. The calm contemplation of a cigar, Mass and telling of beads, and a *dolce far niente*, *siestose* indolence, appear to suffice; while to some nations it is a pain to be out of pleasure, to the Spaniard it is a pleasure to be out of painful exertion: leave me, leave me, to repose and tobacco. When however awake, the *Alameda*, or church show, and the bull-fight, are the chief relaxations. These will be best enjoyed in the Southern provinces, the land also of the song and dance, of bright suns and eyes, wholesale love making, and of not the largest female feet in the world.

Before pointing out other objects to be observed in Spain, and there only, it may be as well to mention what is *not* to be seen, as there is no worse loss of time than finding this out oneself, after weary chace and wasted hours. Those who expect to find well-garnished arsenals, libraries, restaurants, charitable or literary institutions, canals, railroads, tunnels, suspension-bridges, polytechnic galleries, pale-ale breweries, and similar appliances and appurtenances of a high state of political, social, and commercial civilization, had better stay at home. In Spain there are few turnpike-trust meetings, quarter-sessions, courts of *justice*, according to the real meaning of that word, no tread-mills or boards of guardians, no chairmen, directors, masters-extraordinary of the court of chancery, no assistant poor-law commissioners. There are no anti-tobacco-teetotal-temperance-meetings, no auxiliary missionary propagating societies, no dear drab doves of peace societies, or African slave emancipationists, nothing in the blanket



and lying-in asylum line, little, in short, worth a quaker's or a revising barrister of three years' standing's notice. Spain may perhaps interest a political economist, as affording an example of the decline of the wealth of nations, and offering a fine example of errors to be avoided, and a grand field for theories and experimental plans of reform and amelioration. Here is a land where Nature has lavished her prodigality of soil and climate, and which man has for the last four centuries been endeavouring to counteract. *El cielo y suelo es bueno, el entresuelo malo*. Here the tenant for life and the occupier of the peninsular *entresol*, abuses, with incurious apathy the goods with which the gods have provided him, and "preserves the country" as a *terra incognita* to naturalists and every branch of ists and ologists. All these interesting branches of inquiry, healthful and agreeable, as being out-of-door pursuits, and bringing the amateur in close contact with nature, offer to embryo authors, who are ambitious to *book something new*, a more worthy subject than the *decies repetita* descriptions of bull-fights and the natural history of mantillas, ollas, and ventas. Those who aspire to the romantic, in short, to any of the sublime and beautiful lines (feelings unknown to the natives, and brought in by foreigners themselves), will find subjects enough in wandering with lead-pencil and note-book through this singular country, which hovers between Europe and Africa, between civilisation and barbarism; this land of the green valley and ashy mountain, of the boundless plain and the broken sierra; those Elysian gardens of the vine, the olive, the orange, and the aloe; those trackless, silent, uncultivated wastes, the heritage of the bustard and bittern;—striking indeed and sudden is the change, in flying from the polished monotony of England, to the racy freshness of that still original country, where antiquity treads on the heels of to-day, where Paganism disputes the very altar with Christianity, where indulgence and luxury contend with privation and poverty, where a want of much that is generous, honest, or merciful is blended with the most devoted heroic virtues, where the cold-blooded cruelty is linked with the fiery passions of Africa, where ignorance and erudition stand in violent and striking contrast.

There let the antiquarian pore over the fossils of thousands of years, the vestiges of Phœnician enterprise, of Roman magnificence, of Moorish elegance, in that land "potted" for him, that repository of much elsewhere long obsolete and forgotten, and compare their massiveness and utility with the gossamer Aladdin palaces, the creatures of Oriental gorgeousness and imagination, with which Spain alone can enchant the European F.S.A.; how tender the poetry of her envy-disarming decay, fallen from her high estate, the dignity of a dethroned monarch, borne with unrepining self-respect, the last consolation of the innately noble, which no adversity can take away; how wide and new is the field opened here to the lovers of art, amid the masterpieces of Italian genius, when Raphael and Titian strove to decorate the palaces of Charles, the great emperor of the age of Leo X. Here again is all the living nature of Velazquez and Murillo, truly to be seen in Spain alone; let the artist mark well and note the shells in which these pearls of price shine, the cathedral, where God is worshipped in a manner as nearly befitting his glory as finite man can reach—the Gothic gloom of the cloister, the feudal turret of Avila, the vasty Escorial, the rock-built alcazar of im-

perial Toledo, the sunny towers of stately Seville, the eternal snows and lovely vega of Granada; let the geologist clamber over mountains of marble, and metal-pregnant sierras; let the botanist cull from the wild hothouse of nature plants unknown, unnumbered, matchless in colour, and breathing the aroma of the sweet south; let all, learned or unlearned, listen to the song, the guitar, the castanet; mingle with the gay, good-humoured, temperate peasantry, free, manly, and independent, yet courteous and respectful; live with the noble, dignified, high-bred, self-respecting Spaniard; share in their easy, courteous society; let all admire their dark-eyed women, to whom ages and nations have conceded the palm of attraction, to whom Venus has bequeathed her girdle of fascination; let all—*sed ohe! jam satis*—enough for starting on this expedition, where, as Don Quixote said, there are opportunities for what are called adventures elbow-deep. “*Aqui, Hermano Sancho, podemos metir las manos hasta los codos, en esto que llamam aventuras.*”

In suggesting lines of routes in Spain, a whole year would scarcely suffice to make the grand and complete tour. It might be performed in the following manner; the letters annexed signify that the means of progress can be accomplished S. by steam, C. by public conveyance, R. by riding:—

#### THE GRAND TOUR.

*Start from England by the Steam-packet about the end of March for Cadiz, and then proceed thus—*

	Puerto, by Steam.		Alberca, R.	Sept.	Burgos, C.
	Xerez, Coach.		Ciudad Rodrigo.		Valladolid, C.
	Bonanza.	July 24.	Salamanca, R.		Segovia, R. C.
	Seville, S.		Zamora, R.		Escorial, C.
May 6.	Cordova, C.		Benavente, R.		Avila, R.
	Andujar, C.		Astorga, R.		Madrid, R.
	Jaen, C.		Ponferrada, R.		Toledo, C.
May 20.	Granada, C.		Lugo, R.	Oct.	Aranjuez, C.
	Alpujarras, Ride.	Aug. 5.	Santiago, R.		Cuenca, R.
	Berja, R.	Aug. 10.	La Coruña or		Madrid (winter),
	Motril, R.		Ponferrada.		or at
June 5.	Malaga, R.		Orense, R.		Valencia, C.
	Antequera, R.		Tuy, R.		Xativa, C.
	Ronda, R.		Vigo, R.		Villena, R.
	Gaucin, R.		Santiago, R.		Murcia, R.
	Gibraltar, R.		La Coruña, C.		Cartagena, C.
	Tarifa, R. or S.		Oviedo by the		Orihuela, R.
June 25.	Cadiz, R. or S.		coast, R. S.,	Spring.	Elche, C.
	Seville, S.		or by Cangas		Alicante, C.
	Aracena, R.		de Tineo, R.		Ibì, R.
	Badajoz, R.	Aug. 10.	La Coruña.		Alcoy, R.
July 5.	Merida, C. R.		Oviedo, R.		Xativa, R.
	Alcantara, R.		Leon, C.		Valencia, C.
	Coria, R.		Sahagun, R.		Tarragona, C. S.
July 16.	Plasencia, R.		Burgos, R.		Reus, C.
	Yuste, R.		Santander, C.		Poblet, R.
	Abadia, R.		Bilbao, R.		Cervera, R.
	Batuecas, R.		Vitoria, C.		Igualada, R.

Spring.	Cardona, R.	Huesca, C. R.	Pamplona, R. C.
	Monserrat, R.	The Pyrenees, R.	Elizondo, R.
	Martorell, R.	Tudela, C.	Vera, R.
	Barcelona, R.	Pamplona, C.	Irun, R.
	Zaragoza, C.	Summer. Tolosa, C.	
Summer.	Jaca, R.	Irun, C. or	

## HINTS TO INVALIDS.

The superiority of the climate of the South of Spain over all other regions of Europe, which was pointed out in our former editions, is now ratified in the able and practical treatise of Dr. Francis,\* the "Clark of Spain," and the first to grapple professionally, after much personal experience and examination, with this hygienic subject. Fair Italy, with her classical prestige, her Catholic associations, her infinite civilization, and ready access, has long been the land of promise to our travellers expatriated in search of health. But the steam and rail of England have now annihilated time and space, and her pen has pioneered the path to distant Spain, and dissipated the delusions and dangers of banditti and garlic. Independently of a more southern latitude, the geometrical configuration of Spain is superior; while the *Apennines*, the backbone of Italy, stretching N. to S., offer no barrier to northern cold, the *sierras* of Spain, running E. and W., afford complete shelter to the littoral strips. Again, where the skiey influences of Italy are enervating and depressing, the climate of the Peninsula is bracing and exhilarating. Free as a whole from malaria, *dryness* is the emphatic quality of the climate. *Malaga*, on the whole, may be pronounced the most favoured winter residence in Europe, and justly claims to be the real Elysian fields—*pace* those of Paris and Naples.

As Spain itself is a conglomeration of elevated mountains, the treeless, denuded interior, scorching and calcined in summer, keen, cold and wind-blown in winter, is prejudicial to the invalid; the hygienic characteristics of the maritime coasts to the W. from Vigo to San-Sebastian, are soothing and sedative—a relaxing influence prevailing as the French frontier is approached; the strip to the E., from Barcelona to Cadiz, is more bracing and exhilarating; midway, in Murcia, occur the driest regions in Europe, with Malaga for the happy medium.

The benefits derived by well-timed change of climate in cases of consumption, dyspepsia, bronchitis, and chronic complaints, the climacteric failure of *vis vitæ*, and the vivifying influence on the health of mind and body—reoxxygenated, as it were—are matters of fact. The stimulus of glowing light, and the effect of warm and constant sunshine on surfaces chilled by the wet blanket of fog and cloud, works wonders. The insensible transpiration proceeds constantly; the skin then does its work to the relief of the internal organs. The water drunk in Spain, where—in the warmer portions—diabetes and dropsy are little known, is deliciously pure. The wines of the south especially—Malaga and Manzanilla—are dry, cheap, and wholesome. The *cuisine*, in a country where people eat to live, not live to eat, will indeed keep body and soul together, but will tempt no weak and wearied "*stomach*" to re-

\* Change of Climate, &c., with an account of the most eligible places of residence for invalids in Spain, Portugal, Algeria, &c., by D. J. T. Francis, M.D. London. 1853.

pletion. The peptic benefits of climate on the natives are evident by the way they digest an oil, vinegar, and vegetable diet, and survive chocolate, sweetmeats, and bile-creating compounds. The *sustaining* effect is proved by the untiring activity of the very under-fed masses, where many seem to live on air, like chamelions. How strong are Spanish lungs—*teste* their songs—and how few are their winter-coughs—*teste* their churches!—The *brain*, again, in a land of *No se sabe*, and where there is no reading public, no hourly penny-post or *Times*, is left in comparative rest—rare boons these for the two organs that have the least holiday under the mental and physical toil entailed by our over-refined civilization. The very dullness of Malaga—Prose is the tutelary of Spanish towns—benefits the invalid. There are no wearying æsthetic lions to be encountered—no Madame Starké to be “*done*”—no marble-floored and peopled Vaticans to be slidden through—no cold Coliseums to be sketched—no Fountains-of-Egeria picnics—no “*season*” dinnerings and late balls, to excite, fever and freeze by turns: at Malaga the invalid leads a quiet life, calm as the climate, and, blessed with an otiose oriental real *dolce-far-niente* existence, can leave nature to her full *vis medicatrix*. To be always able to bask in the open air, to throw physic to the dogs, to watch the sun, the country, and the people, with the satisfaction of every day getting better, are consolations and occupations sufficient. The invalid will, of course, consult his medical adviser on the choice of residence best suited to his individual case: and the specialities of each locality are given by Dr. Francis with medical detail. The precautions necessary to be observed are no less fully set forth by him, and the general benefits derived from a *riding tour* in Spain pressed on the convalescent. And we too, who have thus wandered over many a hundred leagues of wild and tawny Spain, can fully speak to the relief thus afforded to severe dyspepsia, and may be permitted to say a little word.

Cato, a great traveller in ancient Spain, thought it a matter for repentance in old age to have gone by sea where he might have gone by land. And, touching on the means of locomotion, Rails and Post-horses certainly get quicker over a country, but the pleasure of the remembrance, and the benefits derived by travel, are commonly in an inverse ratio to the ease and rapidity with which the journey is performed.\* In addition to the accurate knowledge which is acquired of the country, (for there is no map like this mode of surveying), and of a considerable and by no means the worst portion of its population, a *Riding Expedition* to a civilian, is almost equivalent to serving a campaign. It imparts a new life, which is adopted on the spot, and which soon appears quite natural, from being in perfect harmony and fitness with everything around, however strange to all previous habits and notions; it takes the conceit out of a man for the rest of his life—it makes him bear and forbear. There is just a dash of difficulty and danger to give dignity to the adventure: but how soon does all that was disagreeable fade from the memory, while all that was pleasant alone remains—nay, even hardships, when past, become bright passages to the recollection. It is a capital practical school of moral discipline, just as the hardest

\* In the first edition of this Handbook the whole subject of a riding tour, horses, servants, and *modus operandi* is discussed at much length.

mariners are nurtured in the roughest seas. Then and there will be learnt golden rules of patience, perseverance, good temper, and good fellowship: the individual man must come out, for better or worse; on these occasions, where wealth and rank are stripped of the aids and appurtenances of conventional superiority, he will draw more on his own resources, moral and physical, than on any letter of credit; his wit will be sharpened by invention-suggesting necessity. Then and there, when up, about and abroad, will be shaken off dull sloth. Action! will be the watchword. The traveller will blot out from his Spanish dictionary the fatal phrase of procrastination—*by-and-by*, a street which leads to the house of *never*, “*por la calle de despues, se va á la casa de nunca.*” Reduced to shift for himself, he will see the evil of waste, “*sal vertida, nunca bien cogida;*” the folly of improvidence and the wisdom of order, “*quien bien ata, bien desata;*” fast bind, fast unbind. He will whistle to the winds the paltry excuse of idleness, the “*no se puede,*” the “*it is impossible*” of Spaniards. He will soon learn, by grappling with difficulties, how they are *best* to be overcome,—how soft as silk becomes the nettle when it is sternly grasped, which would sting the tender-handed touch,—how powerful an element of realising the object proposed, is indomitable *volition*, and the moral conviction that we can and *will* accomplish it. He will never be scared by shadows thin as air! when one door shuts another opens, “*cuando una puerta se cierra, otra se abre,*” and he who pushes on surely arrives, “*quien no cansa alcanza.*” These sorts of independent expeditions are equally conducive to health of body: after the first few days of the new fatigue are got over, the frame becomes of iron, “*hecho de bronce.*” The living in the pure air, the sustaining excitement of novelty, exercise, and constant occupation, are all sweetened by the “*studio fallente laborem,*” which renders even labour itself a pleasure; a new and vigorous life is infused into every bone and muscle; early to bed and early to rise, if it does not make all brains wise, at least invigorates the gastric juices, makes a man forget that he has a liver, that storehouse of mortal misery—bile, blue pill, and blue devils. This *health* is one of the secrets of the amazing charm which seems inherent to this mode of travelling in spite of all the apparent hardships with which it is surrounded in the abstract. Escaping from the meshes of the west end of London, we are transported into a new world; every day the out-of-door panorama is varied; now the heart is cheered and the countenance made glad by gazing on plains overflowing with milk and honey, or laughing with oil and wine, where the orange and citron bask in the glorious sunbeams. Anon we are lost amid the wild magnificence of Nature, who, careless of mortal admiration, lavishes with proud indifference her fairest charms where most unseen, her grandest forms where most inaccessible. Every day and everywhere we are unconsciously funding a stock of treasures and pleasures of memory, to be hived in our bosoms like the honey of the bee, to cheer and sweeten our after-life; which, delightful even as in the reality, wax stronger as we grow in years, and feel that these feats of our youth, like sweet youth itself, can never be our portion again. Of one thing the reader may be assured—that dear will be to him, as is now to us, the remembrance of these wild and joyous rides through tawny Spain, where hardship was forgotten ere

undergone: those sweet-aired hills—those rocky crags and torrents—those fresh valleys which communicate their own freshness to the heart—that keen relish for hard fare won by hunger—the best of sauces—those sound slumbers on harder couch, earned by fatigue, the downiest of pillows—the braced nerves—the spirits light, elastic, and joyous—that freedom from care—that health of body and soul which ever rewards a close communion with Nature—and the shuffling off the frets and factitious wants of the thick-pent artificial city.

### MINERAL BATHS.

These are very numerous, and have always been much frequented. In every part of the Peninsula such names as *Caldas*, the Roman *Calidas*, and *Alhama*, the Arabic *Al-hāmūn*, denote the continuance of baths, in spite of the changes of nations and language. From *Al-hāmūn*, the Hhamman of Cairo, the name of our comfortable Covent Garden Hummums is derived; but very different are the Spanish accommodations, which are mostly rude, inadequate, and inconvenient. The *Junta Suprema de Sanidad*, or Official Board of Health, has published a list of the names of the principal baths, and their proper seasons. At each a medical superintendent resides, who is appointed by government; and who will swear—if given a double fee—that his waters in particular will cure every evil under the sun.

Names of Baths.	Province.	Vicinity.	Seasons.
Chiclana . . . .	Andalucia.	Cadiz.	June to Oct.
Paterna de la Rivera .	do.	Medina Sidonia.	June to Sept.
Arenocillo . . . .	do.	Cordova.	do. do.
Horcajo . . . .	do.	do.	{ May to June. Aug. to Sept.
Alhama . . . .	do.	Granada.	{ Apr. to June. Sept. to Oct.
Graena . . . .	do.	Purullena.	{ May to June. Aug. to Oct.
Lanjaron . . . .	do.	Lanjaron.	May to Sept.
Sierra Alamilla . . .	do.	Almeria.	{ May to June. Sept. to Oct.
Guarda vieja . . . .	do.	do.	do. do.
Marmolejo . . . .	do.	Jaen.	{ Apr. to June. Sept. to Nov.
Frailles . . . .	do.	do.	June to Sept.
Carratraca . . . .	do.	Malaga.	do. do.
Archena . . . .	Murcia.	Murcia.	{ Apr. to June. Sept. to Oct.
Busot . . . .	Valencia.	Alicante.	{ May to June. Sept. to Oct.
Bellús . . . .	do.	Xativa.	{ Apr. to June. Sept. to Oct.
Villa vieja . . . .	do.	Castellon.	{ May to July. Aug. to Sept.
Caldas de Monbuy .	Catalonia.	Mataró.	{ May to July. Sept. to Oct.
Olesa y Esparraguera	do.	Barcelona.	July to Sept.