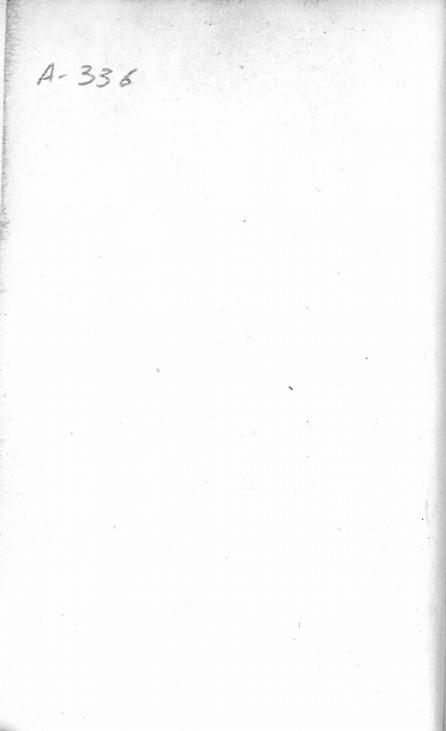


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# TRAVELS

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## S P A I N:

CONTAINING

A NEW, ACCURATE, AND COMPREHENSIVE VIEW OF THE

PRESENT STATE OF THAT COUNTRY.

BY THE

CHEVALIER DE BOURGOANNE.

TO WHICH ARE ADDED,

COPIOUS EXTRACTS

FROM THE

ESSAYS ON SPAIN

M. PEYRON.

IN THREE VOLUMES.

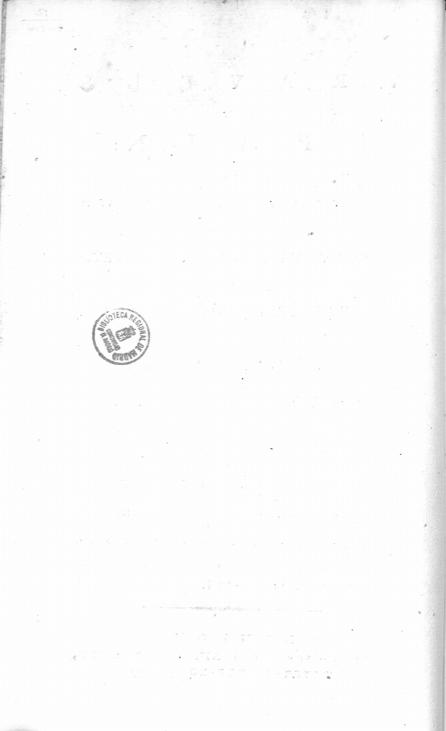
TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH.

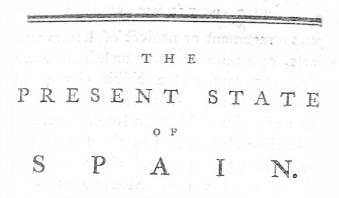
ILLUSTRATED WITH TWELVE COPPER-PLATES.

VOLUME III.

LONDON:

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The following Sheets are translated from the *Effais fur l'Espagne* of M. Peyron: as they contain nearly the whole of that Work, it has been thought proper to prefix the Author's Introduction.

# INTRODUCTION.

OST men fee things in a manner peculiar to themfelves; the fame object prefents itfelf under different appearances to the eye of the obferver; and until he has remarked them all, he cannot fay he is really acquainted with it. If this principle be true in any refpect, it is undoubtedly fo when applied to travels. The fluctuation of commerce, the Vol. III, B en-

encouragement or neglect of letters and arts, or a minifter more or lefs able, are fo many caufes of a vifible change in public affairs. Manners become corrupted; vice and foreign luxury encreafe with knowledge, and in the fpace of a few years the face and character of a nation are changed. Monuments even, by which only travellers are but too frequently attracted, fall into ruin; thefe are fucceeded by others, and infatiable curiofity never wants for food.

We have already feveral accounts of Travels in Spain. Father Labat, Colmenar, Madame Dunois, M. de Silhouette, a monk from Lombardy, and Mr. Barretti, have paffed through and defcribed feveral of the provinces of that vaft monarchy, and given fome idea of the manners and character of the Spanifh nation.

A Spaniard now living, and having feen nothing but the paintings, churches and antiquities of fome of the principal cities,

cities, has already written feveral volumes upon those fubjects. The reverend author, the Abbé Pons, poffeffes a confiderable knowledge of the fine arts, and judges of them like an amateur and an able critic. His book was my only guide in the cities of which it gives a defcription; but the author makes no obfervation upon manners, cuftoms and laws. Were it neceffary to apologize for his work, it might be urged that he wrote for his countrymen; and that his chief aim was to give them a knowledge of the different kinds of national monuments they poffefs. He wished by this means to roufe the Spaniards from that indolence with which they are reproached, and the more fo, as it is not natural to them to improve the national tafte and revive the love of the arts. His wifhes and efforts, therefore, deferve the higheft eulogium.

How was it poffible for him to fpeak of abufes ? In this cafe he must have gone to the fource, and founded the depth of  $B_2$  an

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an abyfs enveloped in a facred obfcurity and dangerous to defcend. He contemplated it from afar, and was forry, perhaps in his heart, not to be able to remove every obftacle to his progrefs. How often muft he have fighed in defcribing fo many churches in which the richeft and moft abundant treafures are buried ! He has, however, ventured to put into the mouth of an old man, one of his friends, a few words to the following effect:

"Would not the exceffive donations to convents, those whims of devotion, gratified at fuch an enormous expence, be better employed in conftructing roads and bridges? This would be doubly confecrating them to public utility, as the people who live in a vicious poverty would then find employment for their time. Works of real piety are useful to mankind, and not confined to pampering a few felfish and ignorant hermits." The observation is just, full of fentiment, and difcovers

covers the zeal with which the author was animated.

Father Labat, with much wit and judgment, is not always to be depended upon; he generalizes too much certain particular cuftoms observable in a family, and applies them to the whole nation. He fays the Spaniards, men, women and children, go without hats, and have their heads shaved to facilitate perspiration. The monk deceives us, or cuftoms are greatly changed. A Spaniard never goes out without a broad hat. His hair, which he does not cut off, is contained in a piece of filk network, called Redezilla. The women wear a veil over the fame envelop for the hair. The Spaniards are known to be much attached to their hats, which are heavier, broader and more warm than ours; they were the occasion of an infurrection in Madrid, and the capital is the only place where the King has been able to prohibit them. The French are indifputably the people who make the leaft ufe of hats.

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Colmenar, diffufe and dull, and fatiguing to read, is not always exact. He makes no fcruple to repeat paffages and reflections from his own work, wherever he thinks them neceffary, without even changing a word. After reading his *Delices*, and having made the tour of Spain, it requires no great penetration to difcover that a great part of his travels were performed in the clofet. Notwithftanding this he is ftill one of the beft Spanifh guides.

The public are alfo acquainted with the letters of an English Lady to a female friend in Paris, written about a century ago, upon Spain, and in which the fair authorefs aims much more to excite and gratify the emotions of the heart than to exercife her wit and judgment. She, however, does not want difcernment, nor that kind of erudition proper to her fex; but as a woman of feeling, and taking the title of an English Lady, she feems mostly attached to adventures of love and fentiment, which, for her, are undoubtedly

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doubtedly more in character than decyphering ancient infcriptions, or fatiguing her eyes, formed to infpire the tendereft paffions, upon ftones and marble almoft deftroyed by time. Her work is amufing and inftructive, and contains many characteriftics of the Spaniards of the prefent age; but fince the letters were written, the nation has changed, and is, perhaps, become lefs interefting than Madame Dunois defcribed it to be in her time.

When the book of the Lombard Monk appeared, the Spaniards complained of his fatire and want of fincerity. Government endeavoured to get the work prohibited in Italy, but failed in the attempt. I think this was unmerited, and am far from being of opinion that Spain had reafon to be offended. The work of Father Caymo is full of information relative to the fine arts: he was really a connoiffeur, but his travels were confined to a very fmall portion of Spain. He has juftly blamed certain B 4 cuf-

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cuftoms and fuperftitions; and the Abbé Pons has not anfwered him by faying the Italians are as much to be cenfured on the fame account. The whole world is the country of a traveller; and the reverend Lombard would have cenfured in Italy what he blamed in Spain.

If Father Caymo be alive, I am of opinion he is not well fatisfied with his tranflator. Befides his having injudicioufly curtailed feveral parts of the work, he has frequently rendered in bad French the pure and elegant Italian of the original. The monk is indeed to be accufed of rather too much partiality for his own nation; but he has certainly both tafte and judgment joined to great erudition. He has written upon England and Portugal alfo, but the tranflator has not thought proper to make thefe works known.

M. de Silhouette was very young when he travelled poft through Spain; he fcarcely mentions the cities through which

#### TIOF SPAIN.

which he paffed, and when he does he names them inaccurately. He made his tour in three months in the year 1729. I do not believe he had any great opinion of his work, or that he ever thought it would convey much information to his reader.

Mr. Baretti, whofe letters to his brothers have lately been translated, in which he defcribes his journey from England to Italy, paffing through Portugal and Spain, is advantageoufly known in the literary world by works in which he has given proofs of wit and judgment as well as philosophy. The man of information as well as the obferver of acute difcernment appears in his letters; but as he wrote them by way of relaxation from the fatigues of travelling, most objects were alike to him; he fought after fuch as might enliven his mind and his pen. The voluptuous dances at which he was prefent, in an inn at Badajoz, and the portrait of his amiable Pauline, are defcriptions full of livelinefs and fentiment:

ment; but he feems frequently to enter into too minute details, which could not be interesting except to his own family.

However eftimable and inftructive all thefe travels may be, and two or three others I have not mentioned becaufe they are lefs confiderable. Spain is not yet well known, nor do I flatter myfelf with the idea of being able to give a complete defcription of it. I propofe the obfervations I have made in travelling through that kingdom as fimple effays, and fhall endeavor to prefent the objects in the manner they appeared to me.

I am aware of the difficulty of my undertaking, and it, perhaps, behoves me to follow the advice of Fontenelle, and fhut my hand if I have really found the truth. Men like not to fee it in front; and various means are neceffary to gain it admiffion. Great delicacy is required in the choice of expression, that felflove may not be mortified. If the historian be impeded in his progress by humane

mane confiderations, for a long time, and even ages after the events he relates, what must be the situation of the traveller, whofe pen is confined to prefent objects, and who dares to judge of nations and men in power as well as of received and deeply rooted abufes ? He proceeds tremblingly, because every step he takes furrounds him with enemies. He cannot always flatter; and it would not be worth while to quit his native country for the purpole of balely applauding, in a foreign clime, that which is repugnant to reafon and not unfrequently to humanity.

It would undoubtedly be much better not to write, and that a traveller fhould go in purfuit of knowledge for his own fatisfaction; but in fuch a cafe the powerful incentive of being ufeful would be wanting. His obfervations would be fo negligently made, as but feldom to difcover the truth; and having found much amufement for his eyes, and but little for his mind, he would return home with his

his head full of phantoms, like that of a child who has paffed feveral hours before a magic lanthorn.

Be not offended, brave and generous Spaniards, from whom I have received fo many open marks of friendthip; do not blame me if, fometimes, carried away by my fubject, blinded by my national prejudices, or tempted by a liberty of thinking yet unknown amongft you, I have feen, with an evil eye, certain of your received manners, cuftoms and inflitutions, and the laws which tyrannife over you. Let my excufe be found in the love of truth and the franknefs of my character.

I thall fpeak of monuments alfo, and with my own thoughts upon them give those of others. My intention is to relate and describe, and but very feldom to judge. I shall conduct my reader to the several cities through which I have pasfed, and there point out to him what appeared to me most worthy of attention, admi-

admiration, or cenfure. In order to give him fome relaxation from the fatigue of travelling, I fhall communicate to him my ideas on legiflation, commerce, manners and cuftoms, as they may arife from the fubject, without aiming at any other order or plan throughout the whole work. I do not mean to go provided with a fquare and compafs to take the height of fteeples, and give the exact dimensions of churches, but I shall not fo far fubject myself to this prohibition as not to measure any: my intention is to introduce fome variety into the too great uniformity of a travelling journal.

# GENERAL VIEW OF ANCIENT AND MODERN SPAIN.

WERE not a refearch after etymologies equally fruitlefs, difgufting and fatiguing, I would willingly dedicate fome time and paper to a long differtation on the different names given to Spain, repeating what the ancients, before me, have faid of them, and call to the recollection of my reader the appellations of Iberus, Hifpalis, Hefperus, Tubal, and the Rabbits, the Phœnician name for which, Sepana, was, we have been told, the root of that of Spain. But the proofs of this illustrious origin would not at prefent be well received, and but little regard would be paid to my extenfive erudition, fince facts are generally allowed to be much preferable to words.

Spain is placed by nature in the moft happy fituation: furrounded by feas and mountains, fhe enjoys a temperature of climate

climate the most conducive to health, and the most favourable to pleasure. The kingdom contains immenfe riches; gold, precious stones, and iron, still more ufeful, wait but for the hand of the workman to recompence his labours. The foil, without requiring a fatiguing cultivation, is naturally fertile, and produces every neceffary of life : the men who inhabited it were, according to historians, robust and warlike. By what means, then, has this vaft monarchy. which could never be fubjugated by want, fo often become the prey of its neighbours? The folution of this curious problem must be fought in the intestine wars of the colonists and the native inhabitants. This country, unfortunate by the beneficence of nature, was long a fcene of bloodshed, and ever disputed and envied. These feem to have been the unhappy confequences of its mild and fertile climate, which became the nurfery of rival and inimical nations.

Spain

Spain is bounded on the north by the Pyrenees, which feparate it from France; on the eaft by the Mediterranean, on the fouth by the Streights of Gibraltar, and on the weft by Portugal and the Atlantic Ocean: it is upwards of two hundred and fixty leagues in length, from the fouth-weft to the north-eaft, and a hundred and feventy leagues in breadth.

The higheft mountains of Spain are the Pyrenees, which extend from the Ocean to the Mediterranean. The mountains of Oca, those of Guadarrama, which separate the two Castiles, and the Sierra Morena which borders upon Andalusia, and seems to render it inaccessible to the rest of the kingdom.

This peninfula is watered by many very confiderable rivers: there are upwards of an hundred and fifty in number; but the most diffinguished by their extent, breadth and depth, in a word, those which in their course fwallow up the others, and afterwards empty their waters

#### ATATOF SPAIN.

ters into the fea, are the Ebro, the Guadalquivir, the Tagus, the Guadiana, the Douro, the Guadalaviar, and the Segura. In giving a defcription of each province, I fhall have occafion to fpeak of the rivers by which they are watered, and to fix the place of their fource, and that where they are received into the ocean.

Spain, from its polition, climate and fertility, has been the victim of hoftile nations. The Phœnicians are the first of which we find traces in hiftory. This people, to whom commerce taught philofophy, landed upon the coafts of Spain, and their first settlement was, it is faid, at Cadiz. The native favages did not think themfelves fufficiently powerful to repel the new comers, or thefe, at first, treated them with mildnefs, and thereby gained their efteem and admiration, and were even aided by them in fome of their first enterprizes. The Phænicians founded a colony upon that coaft which na-Vol. III. C ture

ture had marked out to become the center of commerce. The neighbouring favages foon received laws, which were prefently followed by their natural confequences, manners, habits and morals. Thus commerce possesses the means of ennobling itfelf, and covers, with a refpectable veil, the interest by which it is animated. The Phœnicians, at first, made feveral voyages with the confent of the natives : they acquired, in exchange for their merchandize, certain portions of land which they were defirous to occupy, and the first years of this alliance were for them equally peaceful and lucrative; but becoming more avaricious, and the old inhabitants better understanding their true interests, they foon ftained with blood a country inhabited by people whom they were come to civilife. However, if it be true that men are rendered more happy by being enlightened, the Phœnicians became the first benefactors and legislators of Spain. Their fettlements extended to the fouthern STUIS

ern coafts, and into the country as far as Cordova.

Much about the fame time, the Greeks or Phœnicians, after having founded Marfeilles, went to Spain and planted there feveral colonies; they poffeffed a part of the kingdoms of Valencia and Catalonia; their fettlements were afterwards extended to Arragon; and, according to Strabo, as far as Galicia.

The Carthaginians, not lefs defirous of profit and of plunder, and being merchants and navigators as well as their rivals, thought proper to difpute with them a foil lefs fcorched and more fertile than that of Africa; they alfo founded colonies, but not without first having fhed much blood.

The ancient inhabitants having but few other wants than those of nature, and not discovering their future tyrants in the new colonists, who came from all C 2 quarters

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quarters into their country, amufed themfelves with hunting, fifhing, and peacefully drinking the milk of their flocks. Poffeffing but little knowledge of commerce and navigation, they left the care and profits of thefe, and with them all difputes, to the Greeks and the Carthaginians.

But the wars between these people were not of long duration, because commerce loves tranquillity, and endeavours to repel violence without aiming at military fame. All their quarrels would have been terminated by a folid peace; Greeks, Carthaginians and Phœnicians would tranquilly have exchanged their commodities and dug into the earth in fearch of its valuable metals, had Rome feen without envy the aggrandifement and fuccefs of her rival. In the prefent age, England, Holland and France, work, from Cadiz, the mines of Peru, and thefe nations although jealous of each other, go, in this refpect, hand-in-hand, and think erstraun

think of nothing but the profits arifing from their enterprize.

The Romans took the first opportunity of driving the Carthaginians from Spain. This kingdom became the theatre of two of the most famous wars of antiquity. By the first, which lasted twenty-four years, Rome obliged Carthage to cede to her a part of her conquests; and by the second, which continued but for seventeen years, Carthage was entirely stripped of her posfessions and her power.

The Spaniards, wholly civilifed, if a part of Afturia and the mountains of Bifcay, into which the Roman arms penetrated with difficulty, be excepted, then breathed only peace and a love of arts and letters; the country became as famous by its artifts, and the magnificent cities with which it was decorated, as by its immenferiches, and the diffentions of those by whom it was governed: it C 3 was