

much energy does it receive from the cavities made by art in the mountain.

The semicircle, which the people called the *Perimetre*, is about four hundred and twenty-five feet in circumference; its height from the orchestra to the most elevated seats is an hundred feet, and to the end of the wall behind them an hundred and ten; the diameter of the orchestra, from the center of which every admeasurement should be taken, is seventy-two feet. The word *orchestra* signified, with the Greeks, a place for the performance of dances and pantomimes; among the Romans it had a different use and meaning, at least after Attilius Seranus and L. Scribonius Libo were ædiles curules; they followed the advice of Scipio Africanus, and allotted the orchestra to be the place for the senators.

At first there was in the orchestra a place of distinction, a kind of throne upon which the prince was seated, and

in his absence the prætor; the base of the throne still remains. The senators took their places after the vestals, pontiffs and ambassadors. In order that the last rows might not be deprived of a sight of the representation, the pavement was gradually and insensibly elevated from the seat of the prætor to the last benches behind where the knights were placed. The entrance and departure were facilitated by particular passages round the perimetre for the different classes of citizens. According to the laws *Roscia* and *Julia* made for the regulation of the theatres, there were fourteen seats allotted for the knights, towards the seventh were two entrances or cavities called *Vomitoria*, and this seat was rather wider than the others, in order that the spectators might get to their places with greater facility. The hardness of the rock was undoubtedly the reason why two entrances were not given to the places of the knights; but this deficiency was supplied by forming on each side of their benches a kind

of staircase, the foot of which is in the center of the pit..

The *Præcinctio*, which the Greeks called *Diazona*, or girdle, a kind of band, longer and wider than that by which the other seats were bordered, is still visible upon the last benches allotted to the equestrian order; it served to distinguish at first sight the different orders of the state, patricians, knights and plebeians. It also prevented all communication between them; the seats or benches the farthest from the orchestra, the most elevated, and twelve in number, were called *Summa Cavea*; these were for the people; who had different doors to enter at, either by inner arches cut in the rock, and which still exist, or by a portico at the bottom of the theatre, which served two purposes; one of giving the people a place of retreat in case of sudden rain or bad weather; the other of sheltering the seats from the fall of water or dirt. The portico contained sixteen doors, which main-
tained

tained a current of air, by which the theatre was kept cool, and the air within prevented from becoming corrupt; seven staircases terminated at these doors.

On each side of the portico was a space of twenty-eight feet, filled up with four rows of seats. It is reasonable to suppose these were for the lictors, public criers and other officers of the magistrate, that they might always be ready to receive his orders, and prevent or terminate the quarrels of the people; a regulation observed in Athens as the commentator of the *Peace* of Aristophanes has sufficiently proved: and what with me seems to give more weight to the supposition is, that from these places there were passages by secret staircases to the prisons; one of which is still remaining, where are found the iron ring and chains by which the persons of offenders were secured.

Several ranges of seats were placed over the portico, but it is difficult to

say for what kind of persons they were intended; if I may be permitted to conjecture, I should think it was from these the slaves, flower girls, and men and women of ill-fame saw the performance; for, according to a law of Augustus, persons of this description were not permitted to be present at theatrical performances, except in the most elevated places. The staircase by which these depraved classes got to their places was supported by the mountain.

There are square modillions, eight feet from each other, all round the exterior walls.

The remains on each side of the theatre attest its ancient magnificence. Several of the arcades still remain; some half gone to ruin, others entire. These served to support the covering of the stage; this roof or ceiling is intirely destroyed, not so much as a trace of it is to be found.

If we allow fourteen inches to each place, the theatre might contain seven thousand four hundred and twenty-six persons, without reckoning the seats over the portico, or the places of the senators in the orchestra; so that it may be said, without exaggeration, to have contained about nine thousand spectators.

The stage was about twenty-one feet long from the orchestra: nothing now remains of it except the base of that part which in our theatre is the place of the foot lights; this was rather lower than the stage, as appears by the little wall by which they were separated.

The plan of a small semi-circular space, in which stood a curved wall, and which was called *Valva Regia*, on account of its magnificence and the ornaments which served to decorate it, is seen opposite to the centre of the orchestra. The Greeks, according to Pol-
lux, called this little inclosed space *Ba-
sileion*, or the royal habitation; this kind
of

of arch was placed between two doors of the same form, called *Hospitalia*, because they were the places for strangers who came to see the performance. Some vestiges of that on the left side yet remain. Upon the pediments of the doors were placed different paintings suitable to the representation, which were varied like scenic decorations; for a comedy they were public squares, streets and houses; for a tragedy porticos, colonades, and the statues of heros; for satire or farce, grottos, fauns, gardens, and other rural objects.

The scenes and decorations rapidly changed, and with great facility, according as the piece required. Some of the walls which served to support the pulleys and counterpoises, by which the machinery was lifted up, have not yet quite gone to ruin. The *Bronteion* was a place behind the stage, whence, with goat skins filled with little pebbles, and shaken in the air, an imitation of thunder was produced. To these divisions
of

of the theatre must be added the *Choragia*, which must have been spacious for the disposition of the choruses, and keeping the dresses, masks, and different instruments proper to the stage.

To prevent the waters from injuring the theatre, two walls were built with a canal, so disposed as to contain and convey them to the precipices of the mountain; and the rain which fell within the theatre ran to the centre of the orchestra, and thence under the foot lights, where it was received into a cistern which remains to this day.

The time when the theatre was built, and the names of the magistrates who presided at the building of it are unknown; but on that account it is no less a proof of the vast genius of the Romans who never in any of their works lost sight of posterity. In all of them they knew how to join beauty of form to extent, solidity and elegance, and even

in their pleasures were always great; whilst, in the present age, public edifices resemble the slender and elegant decorations with which the heads of women are ornamented, and will last but for a season.

The place upon which the convent of the Trinitarians now stands, was formerly the site of a temple dedicated to Diana. A part of the materials served to build the church, and the rest were sold to build San Miguel de los Reyes, near Valencia. There are several sepulchral stones in the exterior walls and the cloister, on which are the following inscriptions:

SERGIAE M. F
PEREGRINAE
THEOMNESTVS. ET LAIS
ET DIDYME LIBERTI

ANTONIAE. L. F.
SERGILLAE
VEGETVS
LIBERT.

L. ANTONIO L. F GAL
 NUMIDAE PREFECT
 FABRVM TRIBVNO MILIT.
 LEG. PRIMAE ITALICAE
 L. RVBRIVS POLYBIVS AMICO

△ SERGIAE M. F.
 PEREGRINAE
 L. IVLIVS ACTIVS
 ET PORCIA MELE E

ANTONIAE L. F
 SERGILLAE
 L. TERENTIVS FRATERNVS
 ADFINI

These five inscriptions, very well preserved, are inserted in the wall on each side of the church door of the Trinitarians.

The

The inscription following is in the cloister. The characters are unknown: I copy them such as they are.

ΗΛΗΘΨΥΛΟΣ Δ
 ΙΝΔΝΥΝΨΙΔΟΣ
 ΚΝΝΕΘΟΝΝΔ

The following are found in the castle.

C. LICINIO

Q. F. GAL

CAMPANO

AEDILI II VIRO

FLAMINI

EX DD

AVLO AEMILIO

PAVLI F. PAL

REGILO XV VI

SACRIS FACIENDI

PREFECTO VRB.

IURI DICUND

QUESTORI

TI. CAESARIS AV.

PATRONO

Q. FABIO CN. F.

GAL GEMINO

PONTIF SALIO

DD

OF SPAIN.

95

DIS MAN
GEMIN. MYRINES

ANN XXX

L. BAEB PARDUS

OMNI BONO

DE SE MERITÆ

FECIT

M CALPVRNIO M. F.

GAL LVPERCO

AED II. VIR. PONTIFICI.

MANLIA CN. F

P. BAEBIO L. F.

GAL MAXIMO.

IVLIANO AED. FLAM

POPILIA AVI^{IA}

EX TESTAMENTO

C. POPILII CVPITI

PATRIS

M. ACILIO M. FC

... FO PROCVRA.

CAESARVM CON

VENTVS TARRACHON

The three following are near the great church. The characters of the last are similar to those found in the cloister of the Trinitarians.

C. VOCONIO C. F.
 GAL. PLACIDO AED
 II. VIRO II. FLAMINI. II.
 QVESTORI
 SALIORUM MAGISTRO

POPILIAE L. F.
 RECTINAE AN XVII
 CLICINIVS C. F.
 GAL. MARINUS
 VOCONIVS ROMANVS
 VXORI.

ΝΕΡΣΥΡΨΝ
 ΙΛΕΡΨΝΧΣ

The wall adjoining to the city gate is covered with fragments of inscriptions: the following are intire.

D. M.
BΛEBIΛENICE
FELIX VXO
DULCISSIM

FABIA Q.L. HIRVNDQ
AN XXX

V F
G. GRATTIVS
HALYS SIBI E
GRATTIAE MYRSINI
VXORI KARISSIM
AN XXXXVII
SIBI ET SUIS

Upon a column of white marble, to the left, on entering the city, we read,

DEO
AVRELI
ANO

The most curious of all these inscriptions is that found by the side of the house door of M. Jean Duclos.

M. ACILIVS L. F.
FONTANVS

ERIPVIT NOBEIS VNDE VICENSVMVS ANNVS
INGRESSVM IVENEM MILITIAM CVPIDE
PARCAE FALLVNTVR FONTANVM QVEA RAPVERVNT
CVM SIT PERPETVO FAMA FVTVRA VIRI.

Father Flores, in the second part of his Treatise on the Coins of the Colonies and municipal Cities of Spain, has collected most of those which belonged to Saguntum. Three pieces of a battering ram are preserved in Morviedro: I saw one in the castle, which I should have suspected to have been the axle-tree of
some

some enormous carriage made to carry the materials employed in that vast edifice.

Morviedro does not at present contain more than from three to four thousand inhabitants; the environs are fertile, and produce silk, wine, oil, hemp and corn; these productions would still be increased were not the river Toro dry the greatest part of the year.

OF THE KINGDOM OF
VALENCIA.

THE kingdom of Valencia extends from north to south, and is about sixty leagues in length: its greatest breadth does not exceed twenty-five leagues. It is bounded on the south and east by the Mediterranean; on the west by New Castile, and the kingdom of Murcia; and on the north by Catalonia and Aragon. It was formerly inhabited by the Celtiberians, the Turdetani, the Lusani, &c. &c.

This kingdom is watered by thirty-five rivers, all of which run toward the east: the principal of these are the Segura, which has its source in Andalusia in the Sierra de Segura, whence it takes its name; its course from the south to the north is about forty leagues; after having crossed Murcia it washes the walls of Orihuella, and falls into the sea at Guardamar. The Xucar, which rises

in

in New Castile, waters the kingdom of Valencia through its whole extent, and is lost in the sea near Cullera, which gives its name to a neighbouring Cape. The Guadalaviar, which in Arabic signifies *clear water*, and called by the Romans *Turias*, has its source near that of the Tagus in Arragon; the mouth of it is not far from Valencia. This river is not deep, but has an abundance of fish, and its banks are covered with shrubs, flowers and verdure.

Valencia is, in proportion to its extent, one of the best peopled provinces of Spain; it contains seven principal cities, sixty-four great towns, and upwards of a thousand villages; it has four sea-ports, the most considerable of which is that of Alicant; the soil is extremely fertile, although divided by mountains. These contain mines of cinopica *, iron and

* Found in the New Jerseys also, and there called by the people blood-stone, from the staining the hands of a bloody colour. T

allum. There are also found quarries of marble, jasper, plaster, lapis calaminaris, and potters clay, of which different kinds of earthen vessels are made.

Several authors have written of the city and kingdom of Valencia; the most distinguished of them are Viziana, Beuter, Escolano, and Diago. This small province contains eight hundred thousand inhabitants; it annually produces nearly a million weight of silk; an hundred thousand arrobas* of hemp, an hundred and thirty thousand arrobas of oil, and three million cantaros † of wine; so that its active commerce with France, England, and Holland is considerable; it is calculated at ten millions of piastres per annum, which make about forty million of French livres (above six hundred thousand pounds sterling) This estimate, however, appears to be rather exaggerated.

* The arropa weighs twenty-five pounds.

† A measure which contains sixteen pints.

OF SPAIN. 103
OF THE ENVIRONS OF
VALENCIA.

AFTER leaving Morviedro, on our way to Segorbe, we perceive to the right a kind of circular boundary which incloses a valley in which are a great number of villages; the principal are Almenera, Benecalaf, Faura, Canet and Benediten.

We afterwards arrive at Torres Torres, a small town which some writers pretend was the ancient *Turdeta*, the capital of *Turdetania*; if this be true, the hatred its inhabitants swore against those of Saguntum, and which was revenged by the Romans, may be said still to exist in all its force, for were they not subjects to the same prince they would be in a state of perpetual warfare. Their disputes and antipathy arise from the waters which serve to overflow the country in dry seasons, and who knows, says the Abbé Ponz, but their ancient quarrels had the same foundation?

Farther on upon the road we come to a cluster of mountains, in the bosom of which is a celebrated chapel, called the chapel of *Nuestra Senora de la Cueva Santa* (our lady of the holy grotto) The concourse of people at this chapel is incredible, especially on the 8th of September, which is the festival. The image of the virgin is placed at the bottom of a deep grotto, to which the devout descend by a wide staircase. The virgin performs many miracles, and if, as it is said, the image be of plaster, and has been preserved two centuries in that damp place, this is a miracle sufficiently remarkable, because figures made of the same materials are dissolved there in two days. The duties of the chapel are performed by priests, who live in a large house built by the side of the grotto, and which, at the same time, serves for a vicarage and an inn.

Segorbe is two leagues from this solitary chapel. Some of the historians of Spain insist, and others deny, that

Segorbe was the ancient *Segobrica*: Diago says, with some appearance of truth, that modern Segorbe was formerly the capital of Celtiberia, and that it is the city mentioned in inscriptions and ancient coins. In its present state it contains not more than from five to six thousand inhabitants. It is surrounded by well cultivated gardens; the climate is mild, and the country abounds in every kind of fruit.

The Jesuits had a college in Segorbe; their house has been converted into an episcopal seminary. The tomb of Peter Miralles, the founder of the college, is to the right of the great altar. Miralles left Bexis, the place of his birth, when he was very young, and after serving his sovereign with much reputation and success, both in Europe and the Indies, returned very rich to his country, with the intention of employing an hundred and sixty thousand piastres, about six hundred and some thousand livres (twenty-six thousand pounds) in founding a col-

college, an asylum for poor orphans, and a convent of reformed Augustin monks: he had at first resolved to make these foundations in Bexis, but his countrymen, for some reason now unknown, opposed him in his design. His statue of stucco, as large as life, and in a kneeling posture, is upon the urn which contains his ashes; and round it the principal actions of his life are represented in six bas-reliefs. The whole work is very well executed.

The greatest curiosity in Segorbe is the fountain; which even at its source furnishes water sufficient to turn two mill-wheels, and water all the neighbouring country. The water is wholesome, clear, and well tasted; it does not breed either reptiles or flies, and becomes not corrupt by being kept; but its most remarkable property is that of petrifying the roots and branches of the trees which grow by its side, and even the channels through which it passes. It is necessary to observe, that the greater or
 -100
 lesser

leffer quantity of the strong sediment it deposits, which then becomes hard and may be compared to the pumice stone, is in proportion as its course is more or less rapid. Notwithstanding this, the inhabitants of Segorbe are not more subject to the stone and gravel than those of any other part of the world.

Xerica is two leagues from Segorbe, and situated upon the banks of the Palencia, at the foot of a mountain, upon which are the remains of a castle which appears to have been formerly a place of great strength. The chief productions of the neighbouring country are wine, wheat and indian corn, and the soil abounds in excellent pasturage for cattle. This city has been the subject of many disputes among antiquarians; some asserting that it was the ancient Ociferda or Etobefa; others that it was called Laxata, afterwards Laxeta, which at length became Xerica.

There

There are a few fragments of Roman inscriptions in Xerica and in Vivel, which is at the distance of half a league, but they appeared to be less deserving of attention, and not more likely to please the greatest lovers of antiquity than a modest inscription, which is modern and found on the bridge over the Palencia, between Segorbe and Xerica.

JOANNES A MVNATONES
 EPS. SEGOBRICENSIS VIATO
 RVM PERICVLIS PROS
 PICIENS HVNC PONTEM
 A FVNDAMENTIS EREXIT
 ANNO 1570.

The road from Xerica to Vivel runs by the side of gardens delightfully shaded. The town of Vivel is situated on the Palencia; it is said to have formerly been a city of Celtiberia, called *Bel-Sinum*, and afterwards *Vivarium*, which by corruption is now become Vivel: at present it does not contain more than three hundred

dred inhabitants, who are all employed in the cultivation of their lands, which are well watered and fertile. Escolano and Diago give several inscriptions found in the town; some of these afford reason to conjecture that different branches of the family of Porcia were established in this part of Spain, and that they went thither with M. Portius Cato. In others we find the names of Agricola, Domitian, Emilius, and the family of Cornelia.

Two leagues from Vivel we arrive at Bexis, a considerable town situated upon a little eminence, and surrounded by high mountains. The country is watered by a river called Toro, from the name of the village near which it has its source; it is the same river which falls into the sea near Morviedro; in one part of it, for the distance of two or three leagues, it furnishes excellent trout. Several antiquarians place at Bexis an ancient city named *Bergis*. The present town is the chief place among the towns,
vil-

villages and hamlets belonging to the order of Calatrava.

After leaving Bexis, the road descends into a deep valley and becomes delightful; it lies through the bosom of mountains covered with pines, verdure and aromatic plants; the vine also is cultivated there in situations properly exposed to the sun. The Canalen rolls its waters through this delightful abode, and the road afterwards crosses the mountains, the highest of which is called la Vellida. From the top of this mountain the eye takes in an immense country, a vast extent of sea, the city of Valencia, and the plains by which it is surrounded. Canales, a little village, where the ice, so necessary to the people of Valencia is deposited, is but at a little distance from la Vellida.

The road from Canales descends for the space of a league, and in a deep bottom we discover Andilla. This town merits celebrity on account of the fine
paint-

paintings contained in its church. The great altar is ornamented with ten Corinthian columns of the most just proportions, and between which are several bas-reliefs representing the mysteries of the incarnation of Christ: the crown is composed of several angels, who hold the different instruments of his death. The altar is shut in by great doors, which are more to be admired than any thing contained in the church. They were painted by Ribalta, whilst his great abilities retained their full vigour. The subjects are taken from the scriptures, and executed in the most striking and masterly manner; the correctness, colouring and composition of these paintings are not to be surpassed.

The inhabitants of Andilla have great merit in having preserved these precious productions instead of imitating those of several other villages who, to decorate their churches after the modern manner, have destroyed several master-pieces of art. The former, however, are blame-
able

bale for having uselessly expended a sum of money for the purpose of building a high tower by the side of their church ; since, considering the situation of their village, which is entirely surrounded by very high mountains, had they raised their tower to four times the height it has, it would never have been seen at a distance, nor could any thing have been discovered from it ; this luxury is besides shameful in two hundred inhabitants at the bottom of a deep valley : the money might undoubtedly have been better employed.

From Andilla the road almost continually ascends for two leagues, at the end of which we arrive at Alcublas, and, after passing over a plain of four leagues, at Liria. This city was famous in antiquity ; it is universally allowed to have been the ancient *Edeta*, built by the first inhabitants of Spain. A stone with some Roman characters was discovered in 1759, near the public fountain. Don Joseph Rios, vicar of Cullera, explained

plained the characters in the following manner, in a dissertation full of erudition.

Templum Nympharum 2. Sertorius Euporistus Sertorianus & sertoria festa à solo, ita uti sculptum est, in honorem edetanorum & patronorum suorum:

And lower down,

Sua pecuniâ fecerunt.

Liria is situated between two little mountains, and contains about sixteen hundred inhabitants, most of whom are employed in agriculture; the front of their church exhibits some fine architecture: Martin de Olindo was the architect.

The Carthusian monastery of *Portaceli* is two leagues from Liria, and Valencia four from the monastery.