

before in a state of cultivation pay one-fifth of the crop; lands recently brought into tillage one-sixth; vineyards, olive plantations, and orchards an eighth or a ninth. At the same period one hundred thousand acres were watered by this canal; and a few years afterwards lands, formerly sold at from 100 to 150 reals an acre, rose to the value of 4 or 5000. Can there be a stronger argument in favour of canals, and that of Arragon in particular?

This canal is to have thirty-four locks. None of them are required however between Tudela and Saragossa; but from the latter place to Sastago, where the canal will enter the Ebro, the elevation of the ground renders them indispensable. In 1793, six only were finished, the expense of the twenty-eight others is not alarming; each of those already made cost no more than 200,000 reals. Thus it will require only six millions for those still remaining to be executed.

They have besides made for the advantage of the canal,

1. Sluices (*Almenaras de desagüe,*) in order to carry off the superfluous water.

2. Cuts for watering the adjacent fields, (*Almenaras de riego.*)

3. Small bridges, or *Alcantarillas*, in order to carry the canal over ravines. Cross roads pass under these bridges.

4. Superficial currents, (*Corrientes superfis-*

ciales,) by means of which the torrents glide over the surface of the canal, after having deposited in a kind of pit, the stones, mud, and gravel, which generally accompany them.

When it is found necessary to cleanse the canal, it can be drained dry in four or five hours. At one and the same instant all the sluices are opened, and the water runs off into the Ebro.

The cut made from this river below Tudela, does not perceptibly diminish its waters; and it requires greater care to guard against an overflow than a scarcity; but every thing has been so well arranged that they can furnish almost to the tenth of an inch the quantity of water required for the canal.

In short, there is not a more useful establishment in Spain. For a long time the course of the Ebro had been an insufficient medium of communication for the three provinces through which it runs, Navarre, Arragon, and Catalonia. The canal in question will be twenty-six great leagues in length, from Tudela to Sastago. At this last place the Ebro begins to be navigable, with slight interruptions, as far as Tortosa, and thence to the sea. Along this river there is another canal, twelve leagues in length, and which was finished even before the reign of Charles the Fifth. This is the canal of *Tauste*, but being merely intended for watering the neighbouring grounds, it was neglected and consequently not of much utility. The directors of

the new canal undertook to restore the old one; but in the expectation that the new dyke would serve both canals at once, they have allowed the old canal to remain, although half a league higher.

The Ebro itself, notwithstanding all these improvements, is not totally useless to the country through which it runs. But being navigable for four or five months in the year only, from Saragossa to the sea, it is a precarious resource, even for navigation, and contributes nothing towards irrigation. The new canal, on the contrary, serves both purposes. Its least depth is nine feet, and the largest barks carry about 2700 quintals.

The Bocal is very near Navarre. The village of *Fontellas* is situated towards the east, upon an eminence adjoining the canal. We there cross it to go to *Tudela*, which is only two leagues off, and is the principal town of this part of the kingdom of Navarre.

On leaving Fontellas, we find a specimen of the excellent roads with which it has been provided before any other part of Spain, by the care of its viceroy, the Count de Gages; these roads traverse Navarre from one extremity to the other. It is well known that one of the roads leading from France into Navarre, is that from French, or Lower Navarre to Upper Navarre. Setting out on horseback, or on mules, from St.

Jean Pied-de-Port, a small town, situated at the foot of the very rugged Pyrenean mountain, called *Altovizar*, we are two or three hours ascending it before we reach Ronceveaux, placed at the foot of the Pyrenees on the other side. Ronceveaux, the name of which is famous in romances and in fabulous history, is at present nothing but a village, where there are some tolerable inns, and a monastery of regular canons.

From this place to Pampeluna, the distance is only six leagues of good road, through deep vallies and among high mountains, partly covered with wood. In this stage we have, upon the right, the valley of Bastan, which has been, up to the present time, the theatre of the quarrels of the respective frontier powers. We may easily conceive it to be an apple of discord, when we have passed through it. It is five or six leagues in diameter. The Bidassoa here has its source; it has not much corn, but it abounds in fruits, maize, and meadows covered with flocks.

Pampeluna, the capital of Spanish Navarre, and the seat of the governor and viceroy, is built upon an eminence, on the banks of the small river Arga. It contains no more than 3000 houses; it is protected by a citadel and fort, and, in 1795, preparations were here made to oppose some resistance to our victorious

armies. The six leagues between Pampeluna and Tafalla pass through a rich and populous country. Of the eleven leagues between Tafalla and Tudela, the last six also pass through a highly cultivated country, if we except the *Bardena del Rey*, a wild district, but abounding in pasture.

Tudela, which is only a great league from the frontiers of Arragon, is but an inferior kind of city, but it is well built. At the extremity of the broad street, which runs through it, is a stone bridge over the Ebro, after crossing which you enter upon the excellent road leading to Pampeluna, a distance of seventeen leagues. The ground around Tudela, hitherto little known, except for its red wine, would be fit for every kind of culture; but the ill-judged avidity of the rich proprietors, among whom it is divided, has devoted it almost entirely to that of the vine. *Peralta*, the wine of which is also in repute, lies but a few leagues from Tudela, very near the road from Pampeluna.

The kingdom of Navarre, conquered by Ferdinand the Catholic from Jean d'Albret, forms like Biscay, a separate province, preserving its customs, particular privileges, and tribunal; and in several respects it is considered as lying beyond the frontiers. Most kinds of foreign merchandize find free admission without paying

any duties. They are not inspected until they arrive at *Agreda*, the first custom-house of Castile, on the side of Navarre.

But let us now return to Arragon, and quit this canal, which deserves the attention of all the admirers of useful and durable enterprizes, and of all those who have the public welfare at heart. Even if it were never finished, it would be sufficient to immortalize the name of Ramon Pignatelli; who, regardless of the two circumstances which invited him to idleness, his ecclesiastical profession, and his high birth, has evinced himself, in spite of intrigues and the forbidding coldness of the court, one of the most active and enlightened citizens of whom modern Spain can boast.*

* Upon the death of Don Ramon Pignatelli, the Count de Sastago, an Arragonese nobleman, personally interested himself in the success of the canal of Arragon, and was appointed to preside *ad interim* over the continuation of these works; but he only filled this place about three years, when it was intrusted to the general superintendants of roads and bridges, established at Madrid. It was soon discovered that the enterprize could not succeed under the auspices of a distant council, and occupied with other matters. One of the judges of the court of justice at Saragossa, was appointed director of the canal. He was zealously and successfully fulfilling these new functions, when he was promoted to a higher situation, which obliged him to remove to Granada; and it is from the latter city that he has to direct the works at the canal of Arragon, which cannot make much progress under such changes. Besides this, the want of money has thrown new obstacles in the way. The pre-

Saragossa is upon one of the two roads from Madrid to Barcelona; but this road is one of the most disagreeable in Spain, and gives no favourable idea either of Arragon or of Catalonia. No tract indeed can be more desert, more depopulated, more dreary, than a great part of the country which we pass through, after leaving Villa Franca, where we begin to lose sight of Saragossa, until we are two leagues beyond the gloomy town of Fraga, situated on the banks of the Cinca, at the foot of a rugged mountain, of difficult ascent, on the way to Lerida. After Villa Franca, the *Venta de Santa Lucia* presents itself; the most disgusting inn of all Spain. Proceeding from this place through the town of *Bujaraloz*, we arrive at the

sent director had, indeed, succeeded in reserving a fund of about five millions of reals, from the produce of the canal; but the minister of the finance seized it, in 1803, and applied it to more urgent necessities. Here we have too many reasons why this project, not less useful than splendid, has not yet realized all the hopes conceived from it. In 1804, the principal canal of Arragon did not pass beyond the Carthusian convent which is a league from Saragossa. They had, however, recently made some small sluices for watering the fields, one of which goes as far as the village of Burgo, two leagues from Saragossa, and another to the beginning of the district of the little town of Fuentes, which is three leagues from that city. With respect to irrigation, Arragon begins at least to enjoy very sensibly the benefits of its canal. Its agriculture is improved, and, in 1804, it was enabled, by the transmission of grain from Saragossa to Madrid, to assist in relieving the horrors of the famine which then desolated Castile.

miserable village of *Candasnos*, separated from Fraga by five long dismal leagues, after which we enter Catalonia. Lerida is nearly at the same distance from it. But we shall treat elsewhere of this important city, and of the twenty-five leagues between it and Barcelona.

Let us now proceed towards the south of Spain, beginning with the beautiful residence of Aranjuez.

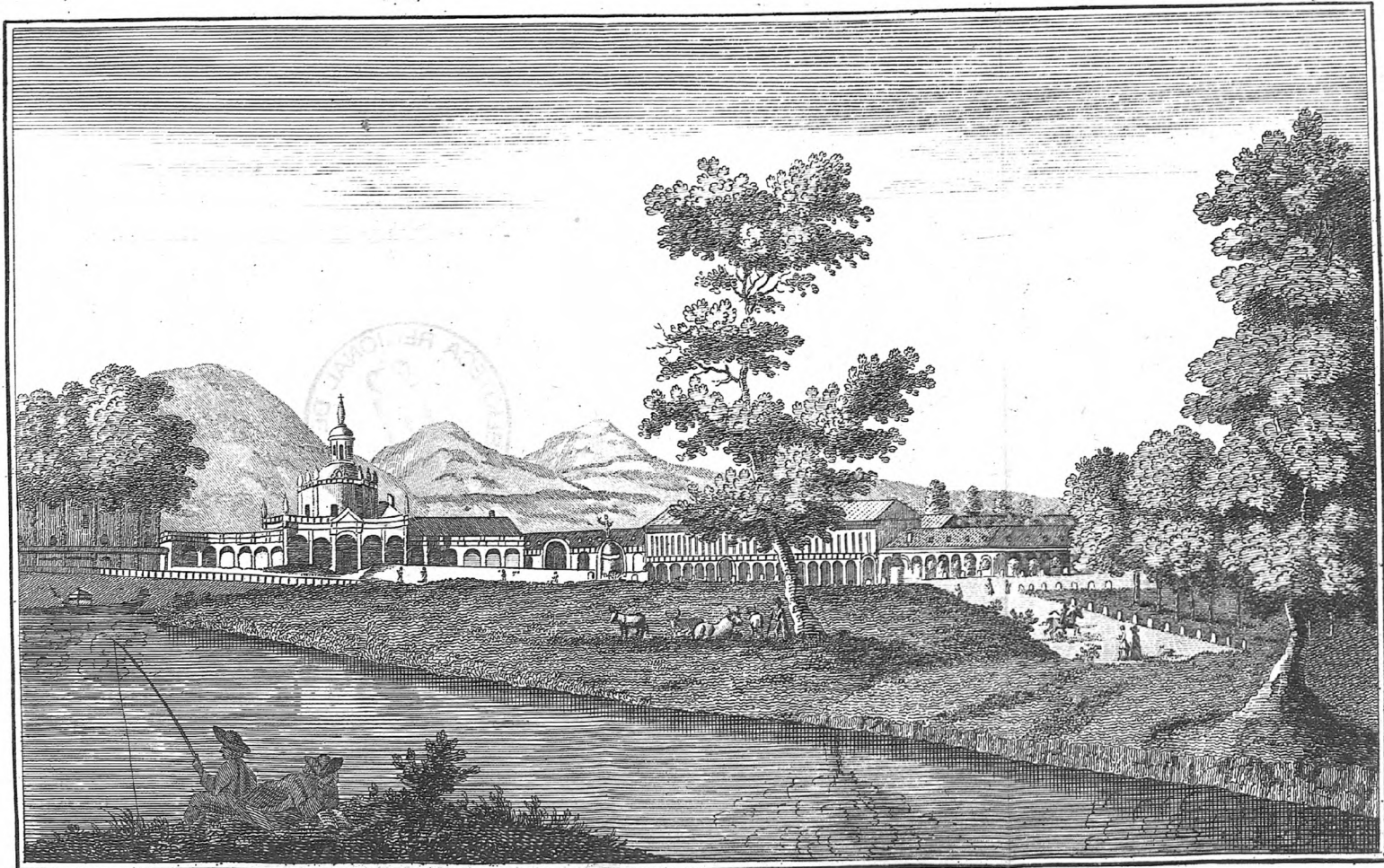
CHAP. III.

Description of Aranjuez.

THE road from Madrid to Aranjuez is one of the finest and in the best repair of any in Europe. At first setting out, we come to the wide and long bridge of Toledo, a massy piece of architecture the parapets of which are loaded with ornaments in a wretched taste. We may avoid this bridge, however, and save a circuit of a quarter of a league, when the waters of the Mançanares are very low; and we then cross, by a small bridge, the canal intended to unite this river with the Tagus, begun under the administration of M. de Grimaldi, but abandoned after proceeding for about three leagues, for want of funds, and because such men as Don Ramon Pignatelli are still very scarce in Spain. The only revenue derived from it is the produce of some mills; and this is swallowed by the keeping up of bridges and locks, and by the salaries of overseers, &c. For almost every where, no sooner is an establishment set on foot, than the expenses of its support are as considerable as if it had been finished.

A little further on, we ford the Mançanares; after which we find ourselves once more upon the fine road to Aranjuez, with groves of olive trees scattered at intervals on each side. At the end of six leagues of a straight and level road, we descend into the charming valley of Aranjuez. The Xarama flows along the hills which form the northern side. As soon as we reach the valley, the parched and naked plains of Castile disappear; the climate and soil are changed: we now proceed under the shade of large trees, amidst the roaring of cascades and the murmuring of rivulets. The meadows are enamelled with flowers; the parterres display the most lively and most variegated colours. The most luxuriant vegetation is every where exhibited. We surmise the proximity of a river which fertilizes and enlivens the landscape. The Tagus, which enters the valley at the east end, winds along it for nearly two leagues, and then unites with the Xarama, after having reflected from its surface the image of the most beautiful plantations.

The embellishments of Aranjuez are modern, (Plate XIV.) The first Spanish monarch who established his residence there for some time, was Charles the Fifth. He began the building of the palace inhabited by his successors. Ferdinand VI. and Charles III. added a new wing each. Under this new form, it is not so much



VIEW OF ARANJUEZ,
from the Tagus .
Published & sold by J. G. Scudder, New York.



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a royal residence, as a very fine country seat. The Tagus, runs at right angles with the eastern façade, coasts along the parterre, and forms an artificial cascade almost under the windows. A small branch of this river escapes from the cascade and approaches so near to the walls of the palace, that the king may enjoy the pleasure of angling from his terrace. This branch afterwards unites with the principal arm, and thus forms a delightful island, which is but one extensive garden of an irregular form; coolness and shade are here found at all seasons. On penetrating the labyrinth formed by the numerous alleys, we enjoy the luxuriance and serenity of nature, and we may fancy ourselves at a distance from courts in the bosom of rural solitude. Large trees, lofty walls of verdure, some cascades plainly decorated; these are all the ornaments of this insular garden. If it were more splendid it would please us less.

Charles the Vth and Philip the II^d would scarcely recognize Aranjuez, which has been rendered by the improvements of succeeding monarchs, one of the most agreeable residences in Europe. Its principal alleys however, and that in particular called the *Calle de la Reyna*, are of much older date than the late reigns. The height of the trees, their enormous trunks and thick foliage, attest their antiquity, as well as the goodness of the soil which has borne

them for many centuries. But they do not form the only ornament of the valley of Aranjuez. Under Ferdinand the VIth, this residence had scarcely any thing to shew but the palace. Some ruinous houses scattered over an uneven piece of ground, at some distance from the royal habitation, served for the dwellings of the attendants upon the court and the ambassadors. These have given way to uniform houses, built with elegant simplicity. The principal streets are shaded by two rows of trees, at the foot of which runs a stream of water. All of them are perfectly straight and very wide; perhaps too broad in proportion to the lowness of the houses, and the heat of the climate. M. de Grimaldi was the author of the plan upon which the new village of Aranjuez was built. Before he was sent to France as an ambassador, or elevated to the post of prime minister, he had filled a diplomatic situation at the Hague, where he conceived the idea of founding a Dutch town in the centre of Castile.

The village is separated from the castle by an extensive, but irregular square decorated by a fountain. Charles III. caused a portico almost entirely covered, to be constructed. It begins at one end of the principal streets of the village, and forming a part of the enclosure of this square, unites with the adjoining buildings of the palace.

We should never finish, were we to lead our readers through all the fine plantations at Aranjuez: we shall therefore, confine our observations to the principal ones. On arriving from Madrid, we pass through a circular enclosure, called *Las Doce Calles*, from the twelve alleys which diverge from it. One of these alleys leads to the entrance of *Las Huertas*, a vast orchard, where we may admire the astonishing fertility of the soil of Aranjuez. If we wish to see a specimen of cultivation on a larger scale, and not less luxuriant, we may take the road towards Toledo and visit the *Campo Flamenco*, so called, without doubt, because it resembles the fine gardens of Flanders. We must not neglect the *Cortijo*, another enclosure, surrounded with an open railing, where the soil, cultivated with particular care, repays with usury, the efforts of the agriculturist, and those of the king, who has here planted slips of vines from different places in the kingdom.

Lastly, the *Huerta de Valencia* exhibits some successful attempts at cultivation, and a kind of foretaste of the kingdom of Valencia. Besides fields of hemp, artificial meadows and vineyards, we here find plantations of chesnuts, and a building consecrated to the labours of the silk worm. But what is most remarkable, and best known among the plantations of Aranjuez, is the *Calle de la Reyna*, which forms,

as it were, its back-bone. It pursues, for nearly half a league, a direction from east to west, and is terminated at a stone bridge thrown over the Tagus. It then proceeds for no less a distance and ends at another bridge upon the same river, the sinuosities of which, can only be followed by the imagination, through a valley shadowed with shrubs and large trees, which conceal its course at intervals from our view. Behind one of these thick curtains is hidden a cascade, the noise of which is heard at a great distance, and is the only interruption to the tranquillity that reigns in this solitary spot. It has for its object to draw away from the Tagus part of its waters. The arm of this river, thus turned from its bed flows into a deep artificial channel and proceeds to refresh some of the plantations of Aranjuez, and provide for the wants of its inhabitants. But the shade and the verdure suddenly cease; and nothing is to be seen but the bare hills surrounding the valley, and which art concealed from the view in order to prevent the frame from spoiling the effect of the picture. At the foot of these hills are the king's stables, where the breed of Spanish horses still keeps up its ancient beauty. The passage of the Latin poet, *Vento gravidas ex prole putares*, serves for an inscription for this building, for which it seems to have been expressly composed.

The king attaches much importance to the prosperity of the stud at Aranjuez; the embarrassments of the war however suspended the care which this establishment requires. But in 1796, a council was appointed exclusively for this purpose, under the title of Supreme Junta of Equitation. The stud at Aranjuez contains at present, about four hundred mares and twenty stallions. Besides these, the Prince of the Peace, who is particularly fond of every thing connected with the cavalry, keeps here, on his own account, 18 stallions and 150 mares. Aranjuez has also a stud of mules, for the court is not inclined to dispense entirely with these animals, ignoble perhaps, but yet serviceable, and which have also their particular description of beauty. Under the same roof with the stallions, eight male asses are kept, and 300 beautiful mares are exclusively set apart for them.

Leaving these stables upon our left, we enter upon the great alleys leading into the *Calle de la Reyna*.

The trees we have mentioned, are not the only embellishments of this valley. Upon the right hand, it is bordered with shrubs and under-wood, which render its regularity more pleasing. Here, during the reign of Charles III. peaceably bounded the numerous herds of deer, against which his successor has declared war.

But the chief decoration of the *Calle de la Reyna*, is the garden of *Primavera*, or of spring. Under Charles III. it extended only a thousand paces along one side of the *Calle de la Reyna*. Charles IV. carried it forward along the whole of this alley to the banks of the Tagus.

Nothing can be more delightful than this garden during the season from which it derives its name. It is here that the fertility of the valley appears in all its luxuriance; nor are the useful articles of cultivation neglected. Fruits, flowers, and vegetables of every description prosper here. Clumps of trees oppose their hospitable shade against the heat of the noon-day sun. Odoriferous shrubs perfume the morning gale; and the balmy vapours they exhale, descend again at sun-set, to heighten the charms of the evening promenades! It is only twenty years, since the whole ground between the enclosure of the garden of the *Primavera* and the banks of the Tagus, was uncultivated and overrun with weeds. The present king, when prince of the Asturias, took possession of it, and converted it into one of the most agreeable spots in the whole valley. Verdant lawns, shrubs, and parterres have supplanted useless trees; serpentine walks lead through these new treasures of vegetation. From one spring to the other, we see a vast

blooming garden displaying an infinite variety of forms, as well as of productions. A small dock-yard has been preserved in this enclosure, and communicates with the Tagus by a gentle slope. Here ship-building is carried on in miniature, and this little navy has its carpenters and sailors. Further on is a kind of harbour, defended by a battery adapted to the situation. Some gondolas are anchored under its protection, and small frigates elegantly decorated, which return the salutes of the artillery in the harbour. The noise of these discharges, the cries of the sailors occupied in manœuvring the vessels, and the sight of the streamers and flags floating in the wind, excite an idea that we are present at the games of Mars and Neptune. Happy, indeed, would it be for mankind if they confined themselves to these imitations; if avarice, and the mad love of glory, had not converted into instruments of destruction those properties of the elements which nature perhaps intended only for their pleasure!

Aranjuez affords every kind of entertainment to be found at a country retreat: hunting, fishing, walking and riding. No where can it be more delightful, to enjoy the pleasure of wandering either with book in hand among the shrubberies, or of riding on horseback or in a carriage through the alleys, which

extend farther than the eye can reach. Formerly, deer and even wild boars were seen peaceably walking in the streets, and you would have taken them for domestic animals. Buffaloes, brought from Naples, perform the office of beasts of burden. I have also seen a few robust camels patiently submit to laborious drudgery at Aranjuez, but they were not long able to resist the influence of a foreign climate. At the same period two zebras, and two guanacos,* were to be seen sporting as if in their native country, in a meadow contiguous to the road, while an elephant, with his unwieldy form stalked peaceably along, amidst the curious spectators who thronged to behold him. It is thus that sovereigns should expose openly to view the foreign animals which they keep locked up in their menageries, with the exception of those whose ferocity might render them dangerous if unchained.† These magnificent prisons, the

* *Camelus Llamia Sylvestris*. Peruvian sheep.

† This has been realized for several years in the Garden of Plants at Paris, where several foreign animals, enjoying a kind of liberty and the light of day, display the peculiarities of their natures, and satisfy the public curiosity without any danger. Under a climate so temperate as that of Spain, a similar establishment might be extended to a greater number of quadrupeds imported from the warmer regions of the Spanish colonies, and would evince, in a manner worthy of their magnificence, the patronage afforded to the sciences and particularly within the last thirty years, to natural history by the Spanish monarchs.

master-pieces of cruelty, still more than of luxury, evince the tyranny of man, without proving his power. The kings of Spain have not at least to reproach themselves with this revolting magnificence. They have in their gardens at Buen Retiro, some lions shut up in small buildings, from which we sometimes hear their hoarse and menacing roar. They have a fine pheasant walk in the interior of the gardens of St. Ildefonso, but no where have they any thing like a real menagerie.

The horses at Aranjuez contribute to its embellishment in a particular manner. It is here that they develop all the beauty of their movements and all their velocity. It is here that the king in person exercises the fine horses furnished by his stud. Formerly the *Calle de la Reyna* was the course where the race horses exhibited their swiftness in presence of the court, the different branches of which betted keenly upon the powers of these animals. The present king, when Prince of Asturias, substituted, in place of races, a kind of spectacle called the *Parejas*. He formed a squadron of four in front and twelve deep. The four files were directed by himself, the two infants his his brothers, and one of the most distinguished persons of his court, and each had a particular colour. The forty-eight horsemen were clothed

in the genuine Spanish costume, which gave an antique military appearance to the spectacle, and seemed to recal the tournaments of their ancestors. They proceeded in columns to one of the great courts of the castle, to the sound of trumpets and kettle-drums, and preceded by elegantly dressed grooms leading spare horses richly caparisoned. Here they would break their ranks, separate and form again; sometimes galloping round the circumference of the court, at others crossing diagonally, they displayed their skill in horsemanship and the beauty of their rich caparisons. This cold and feeble image of the ancient tournaments, recalled them in a slight degree to the recollection of the spectators; but made them regret those festivals at which, in presence of princes and the fair, the ancient chevaliers obeyed the double impulse of love and glory; festivals where the applause of those who reigned over their hearts was the inestimable prize of their address and courage. Accordingly the most devoted of the courtiers received no kind of pleasure from this *Ball of Centaurs*, except they were permitted to take part in it with the sons of their sovereign, and to contribute to their pleasures.

The king has for some years laid aside these amusements at Aranjuez, and has sub-

stituted others in their place still more agreeable to his own taste. One of those, which he is fondest of, is to make experiments with artillery in the *Huerta de Valencia*; the noise of which disturbs the tranquillity of this charming residence much oftener than pleases the softer sex, or those who partake of similar feelings.

But he takes the greatest pleasure in embellishing his garden, which is partly bounded by the Tagus. Within it has been formed a small lake, out of which rises a *kiosk*, a small Greek temple, a heap of rude stones, or, if you please, a rock, surmounted with a marble statue of Apollo. Near it is a Chinese bark, prepared for the navigation of this lake in miniature; exhibiting an incongruous assemblage of objects which, notwithstanding a profusion of ornaments, have but a mean appearance. But nature has done so much for this spot; flowers and exotic plants are so profusely scattered; foreign trees remarkable for their beauty or singularity, and particularly the long alleys of weeping willows and of catalpas, have succeeded so well, and afford such a refreshing shade; there are so many fertilizing streams, such varieties of situation, although upon an entirely plain surface, that the garden of Aranjuez certainly forms one of the most agreeable

promenades in Europe. I owe it this homage in gratitude for the delicious hours I have spent under the shade of its bowers; for while wandering among the beds of flowers and lawns of Aranjuez, I have frequently enjoyed amidst the vegetable treasures of both hemispheres the sweetest recreation from the solitudes of an arduous negociation.

The palace and other buildings at Aranjuez are handsome, but not magnificent. The royal apartments contained few pictures of any value during the reign of Charles III. They have been lately enriched, however, with the spoils of St. Ildefonso, and now contain upwards of 400 pictures, among which are several by Guido, Guercino, Lanfranc, Poussin, &c. The chapel of the castle is new, and built in a good style, and the sculpture and gilding are distributed with taste and without profusion. It contains some pictures by Mengs, which contribute not a little to its decoration.

There are, besides, three churches in the *Sitio* of Aranjuez: the most modern belongs to a convent of Franciscans, called the Church of San Pascual, founded by the confessor to Charles III. in the highest part of the *Sitio*. We read upon the walls of the vestibule of this convent some pious stanzas in the most oracular style. Opposite the church is a royal hospital, excel-

lently situated, and worthy of being held up as an example, for the relief it affords to every description of disease.

Sickness is common at Aranjuez, although it is so delightful a residence in other respects. While the temperature is here moderate, every thing is enchanting to the senses, and we relish the happiness of existence. But when the dog-days approach, when the hot air stagnated in the valley is loaded with the exhalations of a muddy and sluggish river, and with the nitrous vapours taken up by the sun from the hills between which the Tagus flows, then is this vale of Tempe pregnant with disease and death.

Every person then removes from Aranjuez, seeking a more wholesome atmosphere upon the neighbouring heights, and particularly in the little town of *Ocaña*. Aranjuez, which, during May and June, was the rendezvous of all who were eager for pleasure and for health, containing a population of 10,000 souls, now becomes as it were a desert, where only those remain who are prevented from leaving it either by their avocations or their poverty.

Formerly the king did not visit Aranjuez until after Easter, and remained there till the end of June. The new court, preferring Aran-

Aranjuez to all the other palaces, repairs hither in the beginning of January.

Aranjuez is upon the road from Madrid to Cadiz. I shall now proceed thither with my readers.

CHAP. IV.

Road from Aranjuez to Cadiz. La Mancha. Colonies of the Sierra Morena. Baylen. Anduvar. Cordova. Kingdom of Granada.

It is only since 1785, that a post-chaise could travel from Madrid to Cadiz, this way of travelling being formerly entirely unknown in Spain, except upon the roads between the capital and the royal country residences.*

Two leagues from Aranjuez, we first come to the small town of Ocaña, remarkable for its riding school for cavalry, which has prospered for several years past, under the auspices of General Ricardos.

* Within these few years, people have travelled post in Spain in several directions, particularly between Madrid and Cadiz, in small chaises, furnished by the establishment of the general post-office; but the custom of travelling short journies in *coches de colleras*, with six mules, or in *calesines*, with two, also prevails very generally. One may travel still more economically upon a mule, the owner of which follows, or precedes it, on foot; or with messengers, called *ordinarios*, who at stated times travel from one great city to another. But there is not any stage coach, properly so called, throughout all Spain, that from Bayonne to Madrid not having been re-established.

On leaving Ocaña, the view extends over a vast and perfectly level plain, the first specimen of La Mancha. We arrive at *Guardia*, which, with the exception of the church, seems a vast heap of ruins; then at *Tembleque*, a town with 1500 houses, and not without appearances of industry. A little saltpetre is procured from the country around it; but this is no embellishment to the place. *Tembleque* has a very fine promenade, an object that cannot be too highly prized in the arid plains of La Mancha.

The next stage is a solitary house, called *Cañada de la Higuera*, the most wretched inn on the road.

Two leagues further is *Madridejos*, a fine village, on leaving which we are agreeably surprised to find, in the midst of plains totally stript of verdure, an alley of white elms, and some elusters of trees, *rari nantes in gurgite vasto*.

After traversing three leagues of an uniform and unvaried country, we arrive at *Puertolapiche*, a small village, at the foot of two hills, near which Don Quixote armed himself, on entering upon his career.

At *Villalta* are manufactures of coarse cottons. Before we reach this place, we cross a long narrow stone bridge, on each side of which is a large fen, covered with plants peculiar to marshy situations. This is the river

Guadiana, which at some distance, suddenly hides its sluggish waters under ground, afterwards re-appears at a place called *los ojos de Guadiana*, passes through Estramadura and part of Portugal, and empties itself into the sea, forming the boundary between that country and Spain.

Five long leagues intervene between Villalta and *Mançanares*, one of the largest towns in La Mancha, where the carbineers have one of their principal quarters, and where the abundance which they diffuse through the district is counterbalanced by their violations of the rights of hospitality at the expense of morals.

The wine in the neighbourhood of *Mançanares* is very little inferior to that of *Val-de-penas*, another town five leagues distant. There are two kinds of wine produced here; the first is of a fine deep ruby colour; it is stronger and much richer than any of our French wines, if we except those of Roussillon and the banks of the Rhone; but there is scarcely a drop of Spanish wine which has not a taste of pitch, contracted from the casks. White wine is not so frequently to be seen as red. The former resembles champagne in colour, but it has a little tartness. It is exported to England and America, but the red is almost entirely consumed in the country.

Santa Cruz, two leagues beyond *Mançanares*,