

empire having none but weak and effeminate generals and troops to oppose to them, found no difficulty in driving the Romans almost entirely out of Spain : they ruined the little kingdom of the Suevi also, and remained undisturbed possessors of the monarchy. They reigned there an hundred and thirty years. Roderic was the last of their kings ; the famous battle of Xeres, in 712, put the Moors in possession of the greatest and finest part of Spain. The history of Roderic is enveloped in a number of fables. He is said to have entered a grotto at Toledo, where he found a sheet upon which was painted a man of gigantic stature, in an African habit, and holding an inscription, signifying that Spain should one day be subjugated by such a race of men. A fable repeated by several historians, as is also that of the daughter of Count Julian, undoubtedly more natural and probable, but which, according to the most judicious critics, is equally void of truth. We know that Roderic having ill treated *Cara*, a young and beautiful lady of his court, and treated with indignity Count Julian her father, who demanded satisfaction for her injured honour ; the latter, then governor for the Goths of that part of Africa which terminates at the Streights, invited the Moors into Spain to be revenged on his sovereign.

However this may be, other Moors, Arabs, Saracens, or Africans, succeeded to the first, and conquered without difficulty all the fine provinces of Spain, except those of the north, where steep and barren mountains were always an asylum of liberty for the inhabitants, and served as a nursery to that race of kings who were one day to be the avengers of Spain and religion for the invasion and oppression of the Moors.

These, however, becoming quiet possessors of their brilliant and rapid conquests, the dawn of the resplendent reigns of the sovereigns of Cordova, Seville, and Granada, began to appear. The court of Abdalrahman was the center of arts, sciences, pleasures, and gallantry. Tournaments, the image of war, in which love and address were substituted for valour and courage, continued for several centuries the amusements of a rich and fortunate people. The women were constantly present at games, the only end of which was to please them, and excited a tender emulation. They distributed to the conquerors scarfs and ribbons which their own hands had embroidered. The voluptuous Arabs aimed at splendid achievements to render themselves more worthy of their mistresses. To them are we indebted for plaintive romance, in which seductive love assumes the air of melancholy, the better

to interest our affections: poetry and music were favourite arts with the Moors. The poet, in this climate, in which pleasure and imagination jointly reigned, shared in the veneration which the public had for his works: the number of academies and universities increased in Cordova and Granada; even women gave public lectures on poetry and philosophy; and literary resources abounded in proportion to the progress of science. I recollect to have read, that at that time there were seventy public libraries in Spain. Toledo, Seville, Granada, and Cordova, which now present nothing but ruin and depopulation, certainly contained from three to four hundred thousand inhabitants; and the country, peopled with labourers, abundantly furnished them with every necessary and convenience of life.

Granada is the only place in which vestiges of the splendid reign of the Moors are to be found. The Alhambra and Generatif would alone be sufficient to authenticate the brilliant descriptions preserved to us in a great number of Arabian Tales; and there is no exaggeration in saying that poets took for models the monuments erected by architects, or that the latter built edifices according to the imagination of poets.

Nothing can be more confused than the dynasties of the Moors and Arabs who reigned in Spain. That of the Christian monarchs who

disputed with them the kingdom, and, taking advantage of their divisions, drove them out of it, is not less so. Doctor Cassiri has given a list of the former in his famous library of Arabian manuscripts in the Escorial, a work which does equal honour to the reigning monarch and the author: it is translated from cotemporary Arabian authors; but however exact it may be, it has too much precision, and leaves much to be desired. The work is not less worthy of the greatest eulogium; it is necessary to read it to conceive a just idea of the talents of every kind which rendered the Arabs illustrious.

Their glory was at its greatest height, when civil wars, treason, and frequent assassinations, disturbed the peace of these powerful kingdoms, jealous of each other. The Christian monarchs, long accustomed to conquer the Moors thus divided, had within little more than a century taken from them Toledo, Cordova, Seville, and Murcia. Granada still flourished, and was become their strong hold, when Castile and Arragon, united in the persons of Ferdinand and Isabella, formed too great a power to be resisted by a kingdom enfeebled by intestine commotions. Granada was reduced, in 1492, after a siege of two years. The Moors had reigned in Spain about eight centuries, and were totally ruined by this defeat; persecuted, despoiled, burned, or converted and baptized by thousands, they

were at length driven from the kingdom in the reign of Philip III.

Such are the most striking revolutions to which Spain has been subjected; my intention was merely to relate them according to the order in which they are found in history; where their causes and progress must be sought. One only reflection occurs to me from this long course of unsuccessful wars and revolutions, which is, that Spain seems exhausted, the inhabitants enervated, and the soil without cultivation from a want of vigorous husbandmen: the Spaniards have no more domestic enemies to conquer, and their vigour is lost. The reign of Charles V. was among the glorious times of Spain; the succeeding reigns differ not from each other except in the degradation and langour by which they are characterised; the conquests in the new world, and the gold of Mexico and Peru, have accelerated the period of her imbecility.

Spain is at present divided into fourteen provinces, which are Navarre, Biscay, and the Asturias to the north; of which Biscay is subdivided into the provinces of Alva, Guipuscoa, and Biscay, properly so called: to the west are Galicia and Estramadura: to the south upper and lower Andalusia and the kingdom of Murcia: to the east that of Valencia, Arragon, and Catalonia: and, in the middle of the monarchy, the kingdom of Leon and the two Castiles.

ENTRANCE INTO SPAIN BY CATALONIA.

THE fine roads of France terminate a few leagues from Perpignan. Two pillars which serve as supporters, one to the arms of France, the other to those of Spain, mark the frontiers of each kingdom. The Castle of Bellegarde, which commands these sterile hills, is the last French place, and at the distance of a few hundred paces, upon a good road, is a stony path which leads to La Jonquiere, a little ill-built village of only a single street. At this boundary the traveller must change his taste and manner of thinking. In the space of half a league he meets with another language, and manners and customs totally different. Nothing can more powerfully excite in the mind of a traveller both melancholy and interesting reflections than the passage from one kingdom to another. The influence of government, which extends from the center to the extremities, frequently causes a greater difference

between one man and another, than soil and climate can produce in plants, trees, and stones.

At La Jonquiere the stranger is visited by the officers of the revenue. It is necessary to know that snuff, muslin, and every kind of cotton are absolutely prohibited, and the smuggling of these commodities rigorously punished. A prudent traveller should not depend upon the indulgence of custom-house officers, who are not delicate as to the means of satisfying their avarice.

After leaving La Jonquiere the road becomes better; but the only prospect from it consists of uncultivated lands, which, from their nature, seem destined to remain so. The neighbouring hills, until we arrive within a league of Figuera, a small town of which the environs are tolerably well cultivated, are covered with fortifications, which appear to be useless and neglected. The officers of the revenue here present themselves a second time.

Further within the province of Catalonia, the country becomes more pleasant and fertile; although from Figuera to Girona nothing is seen from the road but a few old barns and miserable villages, except that of Sarria, which is not considerable. Girona is a city built at the confluence of the Onhar and the Duter, which, join-

ing their waters, form a wide and magnificent channel. The fortifications appeared to me to be in a bad state, and I did not see a single soldier at the gates. The great street which crosses it from one end to the other is full of shops, and workmen of every kind. This city was formerly called *Gerunda*; the cathedral church, dedicated to the Virgin, is extremely rich, and contains a statue of solid silver of its patroness. Girona is the principal place of a considerable jurisdiction, in which are comprehended the towns of Ampurias and Roses. It is the residence also of a bishop, whose diocese contains three hundred and thirty-nine parishes.

A few leagues from Girona the road crosses the wood of Tiona, which, for the space of two hours, presents at different distances the most agreeable points of view; but the road is extremely bad, especially after rain, because the surface is a fine and very tenacious clay which adheres to the wheels of carriages and feet of the mules, rendering their progress very slow and difficult. The only comfort after passing this road is a solitary inn, called the Grenota: the traveller has afterwards to cross marshes and several streams; but a road embellished with tufts of poplars, and fields well cultivated, recompence him for past fatigues. Malgrat, the next village, is rather considerable; and after about

an hour's journey further, we arrive at Acaleilla; and, as we advance into the country, habitations become more frequent. The villages of Tampoul, Canet, and Haram, surrounded with trees and gardens, are a few hundred yards from the sea; fishermens' barks, and even some pretty large tartans* are built there. The women in all these villages have a fresh complexion, and are very handsome; and as they only labour at the easy and quiet employment of lace-making, their beauty is preserved: the men are for the most part fishermen. I have seen but few prospects more agreeable than those upon this coast. From Canet to Mataro it is edged with little hills, which are continually to be ascended and descended, so that the road becomes fatiguing; but a view of the sea and a fine country enlivens and amuses the traveller.

Mataro is a small town, industrious and well peopled, and the environs abound in vineyards, which produce wine much famed for its flavour. It likewise contains several manufactories, and is considered as one of the richest and most active towns in Catalonia. The view of the sea continues from Mataro to Barcelona; the sides of the road are ornamented with country houses which might

* A kind of bark used in the Mediterranean for fishing and carriage. It has only a main-mast and a mizen; and when a square sail is put up, it is called a *sail of fortune*.

have been built with more taste, but they enrich and animate the landscape ; the steeples, towers, and ramparts of Barcelona are seen at a distance, and the road to it is, in general, tolerably good. But before I speak of that city, I think it is necessary to give some account of the province of which it is the capital.

CATALONIA.

CATALONIA is about twenty leagues in length from east to west, and from forty to fifty-eight in breadth. This province has nearly eighty leagues upon the Mediterranean. It derives its name from that of the Goths and Alans united in the word *Gothalonia*, easily changed into Catalonia. It is bounded on the north by the Pyrenees, to the east and south by the Mediterranean, and to the west by the kingdom of Valencia and a part of that of Arragon.

The principal cities are Barcelona the capital, Tarragona, Girona, Urgel, Vic, Lerida, Tortosa, Roses, Solsona, Cervera, Cardona, Palamos, Ampurias, and Puicerda. The province is divided into fifteen jurisdictions.

Amongst the rivers by which it is watered, the most considerable is the Ebro, which runs only through a small part of it, and falls into the sea six leagues from Tortosa. The others

are the Francoli, which is lost in the sea below Tarragona; the Lobregat, the source of which is in Mount-Pendis, and reaches the sea with the Besos near Barcelona; the Ter, which rises between Mount-Canigo, and the Col de Nuria, and after running from the north-east to the south-west, turns towards the east and empties its waters into the sea near Toroella, a few leagues from Girona; and the Fluvia, the mouth of which is below Ampurias. Besides these there are others less considerable, which lose their name, and add to those I have mentioned.

The air of Catalonia is healthy, and the climate upon the coast temperate; but the northern part is cold on account of the mountains. These are numerous in this province, but they are not so barren as those in other parts of the kingdom; the mountains of Catalonia are covered with wood and verdure. Among the trees are the pine, the chesnut, the beech, fir, and green oak: the fine and well cultivated plains of Tarragona, Cerdagna, Vic, and Urgel, produce abundance of corn, wine, and vegetables of every kind.

The two wonders of Catalonia are Mont-Serrat, and the mountain near Cardona, called the Salt-Mountain. These equally attract the attention of the devotee and the naturalist. The traveller from Lombardy has given a very circumstantial description of the monastery and

cells in the famous solitude of Mont-Serrat. Nothing can be more picturesque than this mountain; it is so lofty that when you are on the top the neighbouring mountains appear to be sunk to a level with the plain. It is composed of steep rocks, which, at a distance, seem indented, whence, it is said, it received the name *Mont-Serrat*, from the Latin word *Serra*, a saw; as probable and well-founded an etymology as many others which have been well received in the world. It is impossible to describe the beauty, richness, and variety of the landscapes discovered from the most elevated point. They fatigue the eye, and must undoubtedly humble every thinking man; it is sufficient to observe, that the islands of Minorca and Majorca, which are at the distance of sixty leagues, are discovered from this elevation. It is upon this famous mountain that adoration is paid to the statue of the Virgin, discovered by some shepherds in the year 880.

The monastery in which sixty Monks live, according to the rule of Saint Benedict, is at the foot of a steep rock. It was there Saint Ignatius devoted himself to penitence, became the knight of the Virgin, and formed the idea of founding the too celebrated society of Jesus. Upon one of the walls we read, *B. Ignatius à Loyola hic multâ prece fletuque Deo se Virginiq̄e devovit; hîc tanquam armis spiritualibus sacco se muniens*

pernoctavit ; hinc ad societatem Jesu fundandam prodiit anno, 1522. And it was undoubtedly in the same place that he was inspired with the thought of copying the exercises of Mont-Serrat, to make them become those of his society ; an anecdote but little known, and which here deserves a place.

The venerable Father Cisneros, cousin to the famous Cardinal Ximenes, restored when abbot of Mont-Serrat, the Cenobites confided to his care to their primitive simplicity, and to guide them by a constant rule in the paths of reformation, composed a book, intituled *Exercises of the Spiritual Life*, which was printed in somewhat barbarous Latin, as well as in Castilian, at Mont-Serrat in the year 1500. These exercises were received with veneration, and read with great edification in all the monasteries in Spain governed by the rule of Saint Benedict. Cisneros died in 1510, and was succeeded by the famous Peter de Burgos, who was superior of Mont-Serrat when Saint Ignatius, directed by the grace of God, came into that solitude. The venerable abbot recommended to him the reading of the exercises ; and it was the happy use he made of these which operated his conversion. He was so convinced of their excellence and utility, that having conceived the idea of founding a religious society, he transcribed them word for word, mak-

ing a trifling change in the order: so that it is not true that they were communicated to him by inspiration, or any other means, from the Virgin; nor is there any instance of an ignorant man like Saint Ignatius composing so admirable a book. The Jesuits undoubtedly knew the origin of the exercises written by their founder, because they never produced the text, and put nothing but translations or commentaries by Pinamonti, de Seneri, and several others, into the hands of their novices, and that by degrees the copies of the exercises of Cisneros, and of those written by Saint Ignatius, were taken from the libraries. The learned Navarro having had the work of Cisneros reprinted at Salamanca in 1712, the Jesuits found means to obtain an order to seize the whole edition from the printer; and to be revenged of Navarro, they injured him so much at court, that he lost a bishopric which had been promised him, and was certainly due to his uncommon merit. It is therefore improper to sing at the celebration of Saint Ignatius, *mirabilem composuit exercitiorum librum*, he composed an admirable book of exercises.

I shall not speak of the immense riches the piety of devout persons has accumulated in the church of Mont-Serrat, nor of the prodigious number of gold and silver lamps which burn before the holy effigy. The most interesting part

of the mountain is the desert, in which are several hermitages that are excellent asylums for true philosophy and contemplation. Each of these solitary retreats, which at a distance seem destitute of every thing, has a chapel, a cell, a well in the rock, and a little garden. The hermits who inhabit them, are most of them persons of fortune or family, disgusted with the world, who have retired thither to devote themselves to meditation and silence.

The traveller is surprised to meet with delightful valleys in the midst of these threatening rocks, to find shade and verdure surrounded by sterility, and to see natural cascades rush from the steepest points of the mountain, and no further disturb the silence which reigns in that asylum than to render it more interesting.

The mountain of Cardona is an inexhaustible quarry of salt. This mineral is there of almost every colour, so that, when shone upon by the rays of the sun, the mountains resemble those of diamonds, rubies, and emeralds, which we read of in the fanciful descriptions of Fairy-land. Vases, urns, and many valuable productions are made from this salt: imitations of every kind of preserved fruit are so perfectly wrought in it, that the eye aids the hand to deceive; there is no form that cannot be given to the salt, which is easily cut, although it is has sufficient solidity;

but productions which can receive no injury from time, would quickly be dissolved in water. The principal colours of the salt are orange, violet, green, and blue; one of the particularities, and not the least important, of this mountain is, that it is in part covered with shrubs and plants: the top is shaded by a forest of pines, and the environs produce excellent wine.

Several quarries of marble, jasper, alabaster, and mines of silver, lead, iron, tin, alum, salt, and vitriol, are found in the mountains of Catalonia.

BARCELONA.

BARCELONA is the only city in Spain, which, at a distance, announces its grandeur and population. The traveller, when half a league from Madrid, would scarcely suspect he was approaching a great city, much less the capital of the kingdom, were it not for the high and numerous steeples which seem to rise from the midst of a barren soil; whereas, in the environs of Barcelona, an immense number of country-houses, carriages, and passengers, prepare us for a rich and commercial city.

Barcelona, called by the ancients *Barcino*, is said to have been built by the Carthaginian Hamilcar, father of Hannibal, two hundred and fifty years before Christ, at an hundred and twenty paces from the sea. The founder would not now know it again, for it is become one of the largest and handsomest cities in Spain; its population is in proportion to its size, and the

industry of the inhabitants far exceeds that of those in any part of Spain. The citizens are all merchants, tradesmen, or manufacturers. The ambition and the thirst of gain of the Catalan are beyond expression ; Barcelona contains shops of every art and trade, which are exercised there to greater perfection than in any other city of the kingdom. The jewellers form a rich and numerous body, and the only defect in their jewellery is a little want of that taste which in France is carried to a ridiculous extreme, both in furniture and jewels, and too generally preferred to solid value and utility.

Barcelona carries on an extensive trade in its own fruits and manufactures, and foreign merchandize. The harbour is spacious, commodious, and always full of vessels, but it is sometimes dangerous; it daily fills up, and requires continued care, and an immense expence, to keep the entrance open ; the sea visibly retires, and if the clearing of the harbour were neglected for a few years, Barcelona would soon be at a distance from the shore.

This city is well fortified, and has for its defence a magnificent rampart, a citadel, and the castle of Mont-Joui ; but Barcelona is too extensive to be easily guarded and defended ; on which account it has always been taken when attacked, and the rebellious disposition of the

inhabitants severely checked. However, the spirit of mutiny still exists, and government, for what reason I know not, endeavours to encourage it. It is no uncommon thing to hear the Catalans say, the king of Spain is not their sovereign, and that in Catalonia, his only title is that of count of Barcelona. Yet the minister favours all their enterprizes, and they daily obtain prohibitions and privileges contrary to the interests of the rest of Spain. At Madrid they have active solicitors, whose secret intrigues tend to procure an exclusive contraband commerce. I wish not to be the advocate of arbitrary restrictions and slavery, but I would have governments act with some little consistency.

Barcelona contains several fine edifices; that called the Tersana, or the arsenal, is of a vast extent, and in every respect worthy of attention. A prodigious gallery, containing twenty-eight forges, has lately been erected in it; the numerous workmen continually employed, the noise of the hammers, the red hot iron piled up, and the flame, which on every side seems to envelop the building, form a wonderful and an interesting scene.

The foundry of cannon in all its parts is an object still more deserving notice; Spain owes to M. Maritz, a Swiss, a very simple and conveni-

ent machine for boring of cannon and mortars: his probity and talents have acquired him some envious rivals, and many enemies. It was very contrary to the wishes of these that he constructed an enormous balance in which wrought and unwrought ore might be weighed; a balance so exactly poised, that a single grain suffices to give it an inclination. I saw in this foundry several fine pieces of cannon newly cast and bored, and others which were under the latter operation; they were turned, moved, and placed with as much facility as a dextrous turner would give the form he pleased to a piece of ivory. The cannon when boring is horizontally suspended; a great steel piercer of the bore intended to be given to the cannon is applied to its mouth; a single workman, by means of a wheel, gives action to the spring which presses upon the borer, and the cannon, put into a motion of rotation, bores itself; the matter separated from it naturally falls out by the motion communicated, and the inside of the cannon remains as smooth and polished as a piece of glass. The same method, except a very trifling difference, is followed with the mortars. The enormous pans in which the metal is melted are three in number, and contain a quantity sufficient to cast four great pieces at a time. The magazines are stored with

wood, grenades, bullets, and other instruments of death, proper for the attack or defence of a place.

The same M. Maritz has put the foundry of Seville into the best possible state ; he constructed an elegant vaulted edifice, with ten furnaces, and furnished with all the machines of his invention, to lift up and remove heavy masses, and for the boring and engraving of cannon. But an object still more important to Spain is the copper refinery that he established in the same arsenal, by which he has found means to separate the copper from all heterogeneous matter, and bring it to the highest degree of perfection ; six thousand quintals are annually refined in the place he has constructed for that purpose.

Notwithstanding the great improvements of M. Maritz, the old method of casting cannon had still partisans in Spain, who, being interested in the continuation of it, formed a dangerous association against him. A decisive experiment became necessary ; four pieces of cannon, twenty-four pounders, two cast according to the method of M. Maritz, and two after the old method were sent to Ocana, a small town near Aranjuez : the two first were fired twelve hundred times without becoming unfit for service ; the latter, after the firings of both amounted to nine hundred, became entirely useless, and were

thrown aside. This answer of M. Maritz to his enemies was conclusive; his method prevailed, and fourteen hundred pieces of ordnance have already been cast in the arsenals he founded. Three hundred cannon or mortars may be annually furnished from the arsenal of Seville, and two hundred from that of Barcelona. M. Maritz has also erected in Catalonia and Biscay several melting houses, in which eight million quintals of balls are cast every year. He left Spain in 1774, with the rank of field-marshal and a well earned pension; he now resides in the neighbourhood of Lyons, and has been so obliging as to furnish me with some particular information relative to the arsenals he founded and directed.

The cathedral of Barcelona is very ancient; the roof is extremely lofty, and supported by a great number of columns which have a good effect; the inside is spacious but gloomy: the entrance is by twenty steps, each of the whole length of the front, which is not yet begun; for nothing is seen from the street except an old wall blackened by time and the weather.

The palace of audience is a magnificent edifice; the architecture is equally noble and elegant: the inside is ornamented with marble columns, and in a great hall are found the portraits of all the ancient counts of Barcelona.

The exchange, which is not yet finished, is opposite the governor's palace, and will be one of the finest monuments in the city; some of the halls of chambers are occupied by the Junto of commerce, and others serve for drawing schools like those of Paris, where the art of drawing is taught gratis. They were founded by the company of merchants for the improvement of arts and trades, and already consist of eight hundred students. A collection is making of the best models in plaster of the finest pieces of antiquity, and a choice will shortly be made, among the scholars, of those designed to become artists, who will be taught to draw after Nature: the others will be instructed in the different arts and trades exercised in that industrious city.

The museum of M. Salvador, an apothecary at Barcelona, is equally famed and valuable: his collection of shells is remarkably curious and complete. The minerals are but few in number: but there is a fine choice of the different kinds of Spanish marble, several vases, urns, and antique lamps, valuable medals, and an extremely large herbal, or *hortus siccus*, carefully composed according to the system of Tournefort, and a numerous collection of all the books which treat of natural philosophy, medicine, botany, and natural history; such are the contents of this

cabinet, of which the polite and modest proprietor does perfectly well the honors, whenever the curiosity of a stranger leads him to see it.

The collection was begun in 1708, and brought nearly to the state of perfection in which it now is, by John Salvador, grandfather to the present proprietor, a man of considerable learning, and called by Tournefort, the Phœnix of Spain. He had travelled through many countries, and contracted a friendship with most of the learned men of his time, with whom he corresponded until his death, which happened in 1726. There is a great eulogium on his museum in the *Histoire Naturelle des pierres et des coquilles*, written by the members of the Royal Society of Montpellier.

During my residence at Barcelona, (in April, 1779) I was witness to a fact which proves the degree of power the Monks still have in Spain, and that they are certain of escaping with impunity, whatever may be their crimes. The bare-footed Carmelites having surprised a poor wretch who was robbing their church, took him into custody, and asked him, whether he would prefer suffering the punishment they should inflict upon him to being given up to regular justice. The unhappy man, undoubtedly relying on their humanity, and the vow of charity made by his

judges, gave them the preference, and they instantly condemned him to receive a severe discipline. The wretch was stripped and tied down upon a table; several of the Monks beat him from head to foot with their leathern girdles, armed with an iron buckle, until, overcome with insupportable pain, he cried out in the most frightful manner, and fainted. The reverend fathers then gave him a little relaxation; but after he was restored and refreshed, they continued their cruelty, until a part of the flesh was torn from the bones of the miserable sufferer, and then turned him out of the convent. The hospital being near at hand, he crawled to it as well as he could, and died there in six hours afterwards. This barbarity went unpunished, but it excited general indignation. The begging brother of the order having had the imprudence to say, that it was better the man had been so scourged than for him to have been hanged, would have been torn to pieces, had not an alcalde delivered him from the hands of the people.

ROAD FROM BARCELONA TO MORVIEDRO.

THE road from Barcelona is wide and magnificent, bordered with poplars, elms, and orange trees, and ornamented with handsome houses, fountains, and villages. Two leagues from the city, near an hamlet called *Los Molinos Del Rey*, the King's Mills, you pass the Lobregat over a most beautiful bridge about four hundred paces in length. The causeways and parapets, and the four pavilions by which it is terminated, are of a species of red granite. The same width and goodness of road continue until you arrive at a bridge of a particular construction, a work worthy of the Romans, and which was projected to unite two high mountains. It is composed of three bridges one above another. The first, in the form of a terrace, was intended for foot passengers; the second, for beasts of burthen; the uppermost, for carriages. The

work was almost finished when the principal arches fell in. Nothing of it remains but the first platform, and the enormous pillars which supported the two bridges. The platform rests upon eight arches, six fathoms wide; each pillar is about two and a half thick: however, the construction of the road and the bridge is discontinued, on account of a law-suit between the architect and the undertakers, which has been brought before the council of Castile.

Villa Franca, a little city surrounded by walls, is two leagues from the bridge. It is supposed to be the *Carthago Vetus* of the ancients. The fine roads of Catalonia terminate here, but beyond the city are several villages agreeably situated, and the country about them has a pleasing appearance. The principal villages are Arbouen, situated upon an eminence whence Mont-Serrat is seen from its summit to the base, and Vendrell, to which water runs from every quarter. Three leagues from this village the road passes under a triumphal arch, a Roman monument almost destroyed by time; the frize, by which it is terminated, bears an inscription in large characters, but so much effaced that it was impossible for me to read it. You afterwards pass through the villages of Torrade Embarra and Alto-Fouilla, and soon have no other road than that you trace

out for yourself upon the sand of the sea. The waves break against the feet of the horses, and often wet the traveller. This view of the sea, ever new and striking, is here embellished by a fine country, and a distant view of Tarragona. The walls of this city seem to rise from the bosom of the waters, and the houses are built upon high ground, which commands the whole country.

Tarragona is one of the most ancient cities in Spain, and said to have been built by the Phœnicians, who gave it the name of *Tarcon*, of which the Latins made *Tarraeo*. It gave its name to one of the most considerable parts of Spain, called by the Romans *Tarraconensis*: the city was fortified by Scipio, who made it a place of defence against the Carthaginians.

The inhabitants built a temple in honour of Augustus, and were the first who burned incense before his statue; an homage which that emperor, although one of those the most flattered, thought ridiculous.

Tarragona has but few remains of its ancient grandeur; inscriptions almost destroyed by time, some coins, and a few ruins, give but an imperfect idea of what it formerly was.

It is now depopulated, and of but little importance. The harbour is dangerous, and not

much frequented; there are a few bastions in bad repair, which were formerly built for its defence.

The waters of the Francoli, which fall into the sea a quarter of a league from the city, are famous for the fine lustre they give to linen which is washed in them.

Tarragona is the metropolis of Catalonia, and disputes with Toledo the primacy of Spain. The establishment of the see is said to have been in the first ages of the church; the succession of archbishops was interrupted by the Moors, and remained suspended until the eleventh century.

The cathedral is worthy of attention for its vast dimensions, the elegance of its Gothic architecture, and a magnificent chapel, built with rich marble and jasper, in honour of Saint Thecla, tutelary saint of the church.

After leaving Tarragona, you pass the Francoli over a strong bridge; the roads are tolerably good, the lands well cultivated, and the country is enlivened by several hamlets and villages. The principal of these are Villaseca and Cambrilis, which have a considerable trade in wines made in the neighbourhood, and brandies. The English and Dutch take in cargoes of them in the road called the port of Salo. Several of the towers, which at different distances formerly served to

defend the whole coast, still remain, but are falling very fast into a state of ruin.

My feelings were frequently wounded in these districts, by seeing women employed in the labours of the field. Their hands were not made for the spade and pick-axe. Nature has prepared them more easy occupations at home; the women, thus employed, have not that beauty and fine complexion which we admire in those who weave lace in the northern part of Catalonia.

The scene changes after you have left Cambrilis; the country is a vast solitude covered with bushes, and terminated by the sea. You meet with some remains of fortifications; called the *Hospitalet*. The part of it in the best preservation serves at present for an inn: there is a Latin inscription in Gothic characters upon a piece of white marble over the door of the highest tower. I could not decypher many of the words. On each side of and over the inscription are several escutcheons, one of which is *semée* of *fleurs de lis*. This fort seems to me to have been built after the expulsion of the Moors from Catalonia; it is within an hundred paces of the sea.

I here cannot avoid mentioning a reflection I have frequently made in travelling. I have been surprised at seeing in provinces enriched by arts, commerce and agriculture, the people appear