

houses of commerce, or to provide themselves with goods for foreign markets; the sailors and adventurers of the Indian fleets rendezvoused here, and with wanton prodigality lavished the wealth, which they had acquired in America. Then indeed was the time, when the Spaniard cried out in the fullness of his heart, *Quien no a visto Sevilla, no a visto maravilla*¹⁸. Its court was then the most splendid in Europe; its streets were thronged with an immense concourse of people; its river was crowded with ships, and its keys covered with bales of precious merchandize. Great were the buildings begun, and still vaster the projects for future ones. Its prosperity seemed proof against the fickleness of fortune; but in the course of a very few years, it fell from the highest pitch of grandeur to solitude and poverty, by the danger and embarrassments in the navigation of the Guadalquivir. The superior excellence of the port of Cadiz, induced government to order the Galeons to be stationed there for the time to come.

The shape of Seville is circular, without any great rising in the whole space. The walls seem of Moorish construction, or of the ages which immediately followed the dissolution of the Saracen empire; as I guess by their form and materials. The ditch is filled up in

¹⁸ He that has not seen Seville, has not seen the wonder of the world.

many places. The circumference of the walls is not more than five miles and an half. The suburb of Triana, on the west side of the river, is as large as many towns, but remarkable for nothing but its gloomy Gothic castle, where, in 1482, the inquisition formed its first establishment in Spain.

The streets of Seville are crooked, dirty, and so narrow, that in most of them two coaches find it difficult to pass a-breast. The widest and handsomest place is the Alameda, or great walk of old elms, in the heart of the city; it is six hundred yards by one hundred and fifty, decorated with three fountains, and the statues of Hercules, the reputed founder, and Julius Cæsar, the restorer of Seville.

Most of the churches are built and ornamented in so barbarous a style, that I had not the patience to examine them; the cathedral, the capuchins, and the charidad, are the only sacred edifices really interesting; the first by its antiquity, size, and reputation; the two latter by the chef-d'œuvres of Murillo.

The cathedral is more cried up than I think it deserves; it is by no means equal to York minster, for lightness, elegance, and Gothic delicacy. The clustered pillars are too thick, the ailes too narrow, and the choir, by being placed in the center, spoils the whole coup d'œil, and renders the rest of the church little better than
a heap

a heap of long passages. The ornamental parts, commonly said to be after the Gothic manner, seem rather to be clumsy imitations of the models left by the Moors. Not one of the great entrances or porches is finished; and to disfigure the whole pile, a long range of buildings, in the modern style, has been added on to the old part.

Don Sancho the Brave began this church, near the close of the thirteenth century; and John the Second finished it about an hundred years after. Its length within is four hundred and twenty feet; its breadth two hundred and seventy-three; and its greatest height one hundred and twenty-six. The circumference of each cluster of pillars is forty-two feet. It has nine doors, eighty windows, and eighty altars, at which five hundred masses are said every day. The pavement is brick, but they are now new-laying it with marble. The great gate of the cloysters, (the only remains of the mosque) is a piece of handsome Moorish architecture. The large orange-trees that shade the fountains in the middle of the cloysters, make them a most agreeable walk. At one angle stands the Giralda, or belfry, a tower three hundred and fifty feet high, and fifty square: the Moors erected it about the year 1000: the Christians have added two stories, and a prodigious weathercock, which, altogether, agree much better with the ancient

building than patchwork is wont to do : the sculpture of the Saracenic part, which is two hundred feet high, is in a much simpler taste than their artists were accustomed to display in public works. The effect of this tower rising far above every edifice in Seville, is extremely noble. Tradition relates, that to form a solid foundation for it, the Moors made a deep hole, into which they cast all the marble and stone monuments of the Romans that could be found : when repairs have been necessary, and the ground has been opened near the bottom, many broken ornaments and inscriptions have been discovered. The whole work is brick and mortar ; a winding stair-case is contrived within, so easy and wide, as to admit of two horsemen riding a-breast, above half way up. For some purpose, unknown to us, the architect has made the solid masonry in the upper half, just as thick again as that in the lower, though on the outside the belfry is all the way of the same dimensions.

Murillo has adorned the charidad and capuchins with several most valuable pictures, which may be ranked among his very best performances ; his manner puts me much in mind of Guercino : the design of his hands and arms is generally faulty, as he gives them rather too great a length ; there is such expression, such truth of colouring, and intelligence, in the composition of his
groupes,

groupes, that a trifling defect of that kind is easily overlooked.

In the first of those churches, Saint Elizabeth, queen of Hungary, curing some lepers, and other diseased persons, by anointing them with holy oil, is an admirable picture; there is an old woman, and a boy under the hand of the saint, full of truth, character, and expression. In the representation of Moses striking the rock, are several excellent figures, and a very beautiful white horse.

In the church of the capuchins, out of many of his pictures, which hang in every chapel on each side, those that gave me most pleasure, were a Saint Anthony of Padua, holding the infant Jesus on a book; a friar embracing Christ crucified, who stoops from the cross, and brings down an arm to press the saint's shoulder; an adoration of the shepherds; and Saint Thomas of Villanova, archbishop of Valencia, distributing alms at his palace-gate; which last I like the best of the whole collection.

In our way to this church, which stands without the walls, we looked into many others; but found nothing particular in any, except in one, a list of the books lately condemned by the inquisition; among many others we saw the famous *Fray Gerundio* by father Isla; some common French books relative to geography; some

of Voltaire's late publications; and the political history of the European settlements, by Raynal, prohibited not only as favouring of deism and infidelity, but also as containing many passages derogatory to the glory of the Spanish nation.

We returned by the great road round the walls, passing near the gate and tower where Saint Hermenegild was put to death by order of his father Leovigild, king of the Goths, for deserting arianism, and for raising an unsuccessful rebellion against him.

Further on we walked under the Caños de Carmona, or the great aqueduct; which is esteemed by the Sevillian historians, one of the most wonderful monuments of antiquity existing in the universe. We were much disappointed to find none of that beauty or grandeur they talk so much of; on the contrary, it is rather ugly, its arches unequal, the architecture neglected, and its direction very crooked. The conduit is so leaky, that a rivulet is formed of the waste water. Authors are divided in their opinions concerning this aqueduct; whether to look upon it as a Roman, or as a Moorish work. I believe it was originally planned and built by the former; but the innumerable repairs it has undergone have almost obliterated every trace of their manner: however, what it wants in shew, it certainly makes up for in utility; it conveys a very abundant supply of
water

water, several leagues from a place called Alcalá. The rocks are there bored, in various directions, an immense length of way under ground, in order to intercept every little runner, and collect so considerable a stream as to turn several mills, and bring such a volume of water down to Seville, that almost every house in town has the benefit of it; except those of the quarters, which are supplied by the pipes from the fountain of the archbishop.

We re-entered the city at the new gate, which forms an elegant termination to a handsome street of regular houses one story high, behind the Alcazar. The snuff manufactory is situated in this street: for the more convenient carrying on this lucrative branch of commerce, Ferdinand the Sixth erected a most magnificent, roomy palace, in a grand but rather heavy style of architecture. It was finished in 1756. One thousand men are employed constantly, at the rate of six or four reals per diem, for about nine hours work. One hundred and eighty mules work twenty-eight mills or machines for grinding and mixing the tobacco with the red earth of Almazarron; the excessive adulteration with this earth, practised of late years by the directors, has occasioned a prodigious falling off in the exportation of this commodity, and unless they alter their method, the trade will soon be confined to Spain and its dominions; the northern markets have long refused to take any off their
hands.

hands. The leaves of the tobacco are imported from Cuba and the Brasils; the best snuff is called *Grance*. Thirty-two reals a pound is the current price of the snuff, but none is allowed to be sold by retail in the manufactory. We visited every part of the house, at the hazard of being suffocated; in one room we found four hundred and sixty men sitting at work, making *cigarros*¹⁹, and tying them up in bunches worth four reals a-piece, for each of which they are paid for their labour four quartos. The officer that attended us, told us that the neat profits of last year, upon all the snuff and tobacco sold out at the office, amounted to more than six millions of dollars.

Near the cathedral is the *Lonja*, or exchange, formerly a place of great resort, but now, being deserted by merchants, it is appropriated to other uses; I believe, to the holding of some inferior courts of justice. The building is square, its style plain and noble, and it remains a monument of the good taste of the Spaniards at that brilliant period of their history, which takes in the reign of Charles the Fifth, and of his son Philip. The *Lonja* was erected in 1583, upon a design of Juan de Herrera.

¹⁹ These are little rolls of tobacco, which the Spaniards smoke without a pipe.

Olavides,

Olavides, the present Intendant, is said to have great schemes for the embellishment of Seville; but as he is likewise director of all the new colonies in the Sierra Morena, and not upon the most solid footing at court, I doubt he has more projects in hand and in idea, than he can possibly bring to bear, during the time he may probably remain in power ²⁰.

His present operation, is to embank with a strong brick wall, the bed of the river above the town, thereby to turn off the impetuous currents, that have so often burst their way into the very heart of the city. Along the banks he has planted avenues of an ever-green tree, very like a poplar. It was brought from South America, and is called *Sapota*.

The great hospital de la Sangre, and the college of Sant Elmo, founded for a marine school, are more remarkable for their size than for any other merit; the other buildings are little worthy of notice. The police of this city is very severe, but perhaps not uniformly and impartially so. My man has been a day and a night in prison, only for carrying my pistols through the streets to the gunsmith's. There has been as much writing as would do for a moderate suit in chancery,

²⁰ In 1776 he was taken up and imprisoned in the dungeons of the inquisition, where he will probably end his days.

but

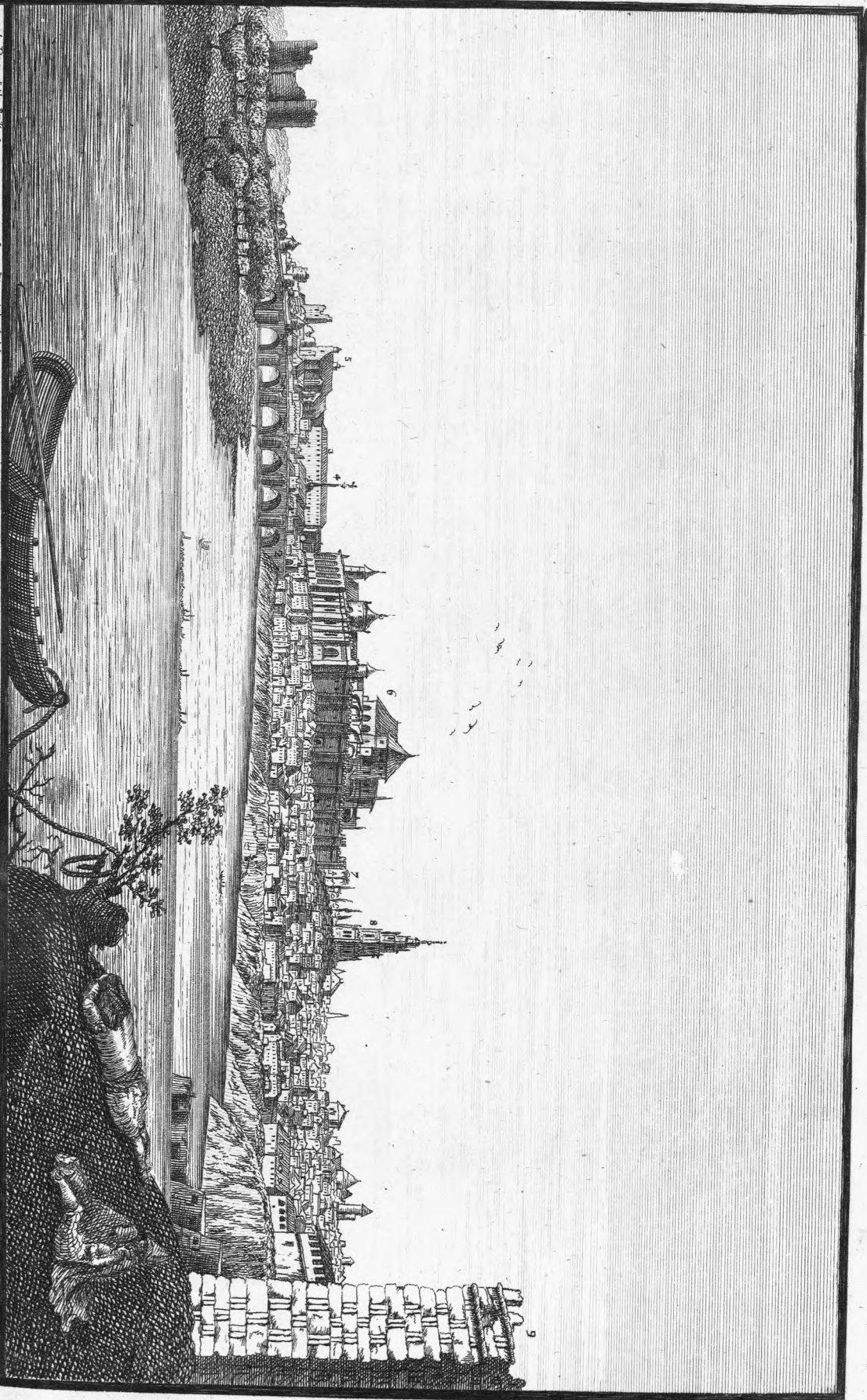
but it seems to be cheap enough, as I believe the value of a guinea will procure his release, and pay the fees as well as the expences of the procedures.

L E T T E R X X X I I I .

Eccija, April 12, 1778.

HAVING seen every thing in Seville that was recommended to our notice, we left it yesterday, and came to lie at Carmona ; the road is through a perfect forest of olive-trees, which are much hacked and pruned, and set at the regular distance of twenty-seven feet afunder.

Carmona is a large town, standing boldly on a high hill. Its castle, in ruins, covers a vast extent of ground, and contains many buildings that served for palace and fortress to Don Pedro the Cruel, and his family. He placed his main hope in the strength of this castle, and in the faithful attachment of Don Martin Lopes de Cordova, grand-master of the order of Calatrava, to whose care he entrusted his sons Sancho and Diego, whom he had had by a lady he had taken to his bed,
after



1. Tower at the bridge.
 5. Aqueduct.
 9. Roman Towers.

2. Moorish Bridge.
 6. The Mosque near the Cathedral.
 10. The Mills.

CORDOVA

3. The Episcopal Palace.
 7. The Clafiers.
 11. The River Guadalquivir, and Banks.

