

left we look into the garden of the ancient palace, called Buen Retiro, with the botanical garden and the extensive alleys of the Prado, well planted and adorned with numerous fountains. On the right, through the trees, we catch a glimpse of another gate, whilst the wide street of Alcala, stretching gracefully before us, and bending in the line of beauty, contracts, as it advances up a gentle hill, thus discovering at one view some of the most considerable of the public buildings, and the habitations either of the first nobility or of the foreign ministers.

In this street is the *Cruz de Malta*, a large hotel, to which we drove, and where for the night, after my companions were dispersed, I took up my abode in solitude, with the reflection, painful for the moment, that I was come to my journey's end. It had been wearisome, and not altogether free from accidents and disagreeable adventures; but then, with an object constantly in view, every thing may be endured. Besides, in these fourteen days, I had got acquainted with my fellow-travellers, and for one of them had contracted friendship and esteem.

Even for the others, whilst thus united by one common interest, I felt regard; but now that our journey was at an end, the idea of dispersing to meet no more left a gloom which solitude was ill suited to relieve. At the end of a pursuit, a vacuum succeeds, which must be painful, till some new, some interesting object is in view, and gives fresh occupation to the mind.

On this occasion, I amused myself with reflections on the feelings of the ten thousand Greeks; when, having surmounted all their difficulties, and arriving safe in Greece, they immediately dispersed to go in search of new adventures. What misery must be theirs, whose views in life are closed. This appears to be the chief source of wretchedness in cloisters, where little scope is left for either hope or fear.

Before we parted we had to settle our accounts.

The coach, with two coachmen and seven mules, cost us by agreement thirty-five pistoles, or twenty guineas; and as a gratuity, we gave the men six pistoles, equal to three pounds twelve shillings. The expence upon the road for diet was eleven hundred

hundred and forty reals. The sum total, therefore, of our expenditure was six and thirty pounds; which, for a journey of a hundred Spanish leagues, accomplished in fourteen days, must be considered moderate.

M A D R I D.

AS the court was absent from Madrid on my arrival, all my letters were for the present useless, excepting one from M. Sage, of Paris, to Don Casimir Ortega, who as principal botanical professor, is well known to all the lovers of that science. I had indeed a letter to a grandee of Spain, then at Madrid, with the strongest recommendation, and from him I had expected much; but I was disappointed in my hopes. I found him polite, but cold; sensible and well informed, but silent and reserved; universally esteemed for the goodness of his heart, but so perfectly absorbed in the formal duties of religion, that I could derive no advantage from his friendship. In a word, he appears to be one of those, to whom the Italian proverb may with some degree of justice be applied,

Tanto

Tanto buon che val niente: so good that he is good for nothing.

In Don Casimir Ortega I found the activity of friendship, and every possible attention. By his permission I had access at all hours to the botanic garden. This well chosen spot being upon a declivity, inclined towards the pardo, and separated from it by iron rails; whether you are walking or riding in that shady grove, refreshed by its numerous fountains, and unmolested even by the mid-day sun, you may at one view command the whole of it. In this spacious and well furnished garden I frequently amused myself in renewing my acquaintance with a science which I had formerly studied with delight; and whenever the professor gave lectures to his pupils, I constantly attended. My first elements I had learned under doctor Hope, who, as a botanist had acquired fame; but I must confess, that the method of Ortega appeared to me superior; and I am persuaded that his pupils, with moderate abilities, cannot fail to be proficient in this science.

He not only expects them to come prepared, and able to investigate each plant, so

as to trace it from class to order, genus, species, and variety, but he teaches them to draw up generic descriptions for themselves.

The merit of the master will soon appear in the productions of his pupils, who, with M. *Dombéi*, have travelled over Spanish America, and are preparing to favour the world with their discoveries.

Such a pursuit, in the absence of the court, proved an agreeable resource, and, with the library of the Carmelites, helped to occupy my attention in both a pleasing and profitable manner.

At intervals, I walked about the town to obtain a general idea of it, before I descended to particulars. In my own mind I divided the whole into three portions, corresponding to three periods, easy to be distinguished. The most ancient is nearest to the river Manzanares, with narrow and contracted streets, crooked lanes, and blind alleys, like those still visible in London, but more especially in Paris, where no extensive conflagration hath consumed the rude monuments of art, erected by the remote progenitors, who inhabited the infant city.

To

To the north and to the east of this, as you remove further from the river, the streets are wider, and the buildings affect some degree of symmetry. This portion, including the *Plaza Mayor*, or square, which in its day must have been a striking object, terminates at the *Puerta del Sol*. But when Philip II. removed his court, and Madrid became the capital of his vast empire; the great nobility erected palaces beyond the former limits, and the *Puerta del Sol* is now the centre of the whole.

It is curious to trace the origin of cities. The shepherd pitches his tent, or builds his mud-wall cottage by the river side, because he cannot afford to sink a well; but man, being a gregarious animal, others, for the comfort of society, or for mutual protection, resort to the same spot, and build as near to him as possible. Cottages increase, tillage succeeds, manufactures follow, and the inhabitants, advancing both in number and in wealth, wish to enlarge their habitations; but the ground being occupied, they have no other choice, but to raise their houses higher. Whilst inhabiting the humble cottage, they never complained

plained for want of light or air; but now that they exclude each other's light, they wonder that their ancestors should thus have cramped themselves for want of room.

Madrid has fifteen parishes, seven thousand three hundred and ninety-eight houses, thirty-two thousand seven hundred and forty-five families, and one hundred and forty-seven thousand five hundred and forty-three individuals, sixty-six convents, sixteen colleges, eighteen hospitals, five prisons, and fifteen gates built of granite, most of which are elegant. The principal arch of the Puerta de Alcala is seventy feet high, and the two lateral ones are thirty-four, all well proportioned. It is by Sabatini, and does credit to his taste.

In looking for good pictures I began with *los Carmelitas descalzos*, taking for my guide the excellent works of Antonio Ponz, and of Raphael Mengs. In the sacristy are found some works of the best masters; of Titian, Vandyke, Rembrandt, *Coëlle*, *Ribera*, Jordan, *Murillo*, *Zurbaran*, and of André Vacaro. The clauftre is by *Velasquez*.

The

The church and convent of *S. Francisco de Sales* were built in the reign of Ferdinand VI. A. D. 1750, and here we see his monument, by Sabatini, with that of his queen, Barbara of Portugal. The dome and the arches were painted by the three brothers *Velasquez*. The great altar has six Corinthian pillars of green marble, like the verde antique, from Sierra Nevada, near Granada, of single blocks, each seventeen feet high; the bases and the capitals are brass gilt. There are some tolerable pictures by Francis de Muro, and Cignaroli. The treasures of this convent are considerable.

The church of *S. Pasqual* has the Visitation, by Jordano; St. Stephen, by Vandyke; Christ scourged, by Alexander Veronese; a pope, by Titian; a holy family, by Leonardo da Vinci; Pope Gregory, St. Ignatius Loyola, and F. Xavier, by Guercino; the Adoration, by Paul Veronese; John beheaded, by Mich. Angelo Caravaggio; and five others by *Ribera*.

The church of *S. Isidro*, which belonged formerly to the jesuits, strongly marks the character of that society, not only by its size, but by the taste which appears both

in the building and its ornaments. In my opinion it is the most elegant of any I have seen, since I left Zaragoza.

The pictures, although not of the first masters, are yet not to be despised.

The great church of *S. Francisco* is admired by the best judges; but to me the vast dome and the Grecian arches, wholly destitute of ornaments, appear unfinished, naked, cold, and void of taste.

The day after my arrival, near the Puerta del Sol, looking for the *Calle de la Montera*, without Spanish enough to enquire the way, a gentleman, who saw my difficulty, spoke to me in English, and desired to know, what street I wanted. Upon being informed, he conducted me to the house, where I was going, and, when he took his leave, invited me to dine with him. This gentleman was Don Francisco Escarano, one of the postmasters general, who, in return for civilities received in this country, when he was secretary to the embassy, thinks he can never do too much for any Englishman, who needs his assistance. Not satisfied with thus marking his attention, he conducted me to the king's
palaces

palaces at Madrid; and, as long as I remained in Spain, he never lost an opportunity of rendering me substantial services.

The palace of the *Buen Retiro* is a vast pile of buildings, very ancient, long deserted, and, when I saw it, verging to decay. It contains some spacious apartments, in which there still remain some few good pictures; but the three things, which gave me most satisfaction were, the theatre, the great saloon, and the equestrian statue of Philip IV. This statue, cast by Pedro Tacca, of Florence, from a painting of Diego Velasquez, and said to weigh nine tons, is supported by the hind legs alone. I never saw nor can conceive any thing more perfect, or which appears so animated, as this prodigy of art.

The theatre is vast, and opens into the gardens, so as to make them, upon occasion, a continuation of the scene. Here Ferdinand VI. frequently amused the public with operas, of which his queen was extravagantly fond.

The great saloon, called *el Casón*, with its antichamber, painted in fresco by Luca Jordano, remains a monument of his taste, invention, judgment, and imitative powers.

In

In the principal compartment of the roof is represented Hercules giving the golden fleece to Philip the Good, duke of Burgundy. In a subordinate compartment, Pallas and the Gods are seen subduing the Titans; answering to which, the majesty of Spain appears ruling the terrestrial globe. The rest is filled up with allegorical figures, finely expressed. The antichamber contains the Conquest of Granada. From the great saloon we go to the garden, by a little oval cabinet, covered entirely with looking-glasses, in the ceiling of which is represented the Birth of the Sun, with people of all nations worshipping the rising deity, whilst the priests are engaged in offering sacrifices. This likewise is by Jordano.

I saw one apartment, which is seldom shewn to foreigners, containing models of strong places; among these the two most striking are Cadiz and Gibraltar.

The gardens of this palace are extensive, and have a pleasing variety of wood and water. Had I been to fix upon a situation for the royal residence, I should have chosen this in preference to that, in which the new palace stands; but there may be,

perhaps, objections, which do not present themselves to the transient observer.

The palace called *Casa del Campo* has few things worthy of attention. Here is an equestrian statue of Philip III. begun by Juan Bologna, and, after his death, finished by Tacca his disciple; it resembles that of Henry IV. at Paris. Here also is the original of the famous *Temptation of St. Anthony*, by Calot.

It is impossible to view the new palace without the most exquisite delight. It presents four fronts, each of four hundred and seventy feet in length, and one hundred feet in height up to the cornice, inclosing a quadrangle of one hundred and forty feet. These fronts are relieved by numerous pillars and pilasters, and over the cornice is a balustrade to hide the leaden roof. The north front has five stories, besides the entresols and underground apartments.

With the balustrade, on pedestals, are placed a series of the kings of Spain, from Ataulfo to Fernando VI. The plan is somewhat singular. On the principal floor is a suite of apartments, large and elegant,
which

which communicate all round the palace, receiving light from the fronts, and inclosing rooms for the domestics, which have light from a spacious gallery within. This gallery runs all round the quadrangle, over an open portico, or piazza, and is covered by a terrace.

The foundation of this edifice was laid in the year 1737, three years after the old palace had been consumed by fire; and to prevent the like accident in future, the whole is upon arches.

The most striking feature in this palace is the audience chamber, *salon de los reynos*, which is a double cube of ninety feet, hung with crimson velvet, and which, with its sumptuous canopy, and painted roof, makes a most magnificent appearance.

The paintings of the ceilings are by Tiepolo, Giacinto, Bayeu, Velasquez, Maella, and Mengs. It is not possible to view the Apotheosis of Hercules, in the hall of conversation, and of Trajan, in the king's dining room, without feeling singular pleasure and delight. In the execution of these pieces, Mengs exerted all his powers, and seems to have found no difficulty

in executing what his imagination had conceived. Ease and elegance every where prevail. In these two delightful subjects we cannot readily determine, which we should most admire, his designs, his lights and shades, his colouring, his invention, or his composition; for here he seems equally to deserve praise for all: he wants however, in my opinion, that expression, in which his favourite Raphael excelled.

It would be unpardonable to pass over this superb collection of pictures without some kind of detail. I shall therefore begin with the king's apartments:

In his antichamber there is, by *Bassan*, an Adam; a Noah; Orpheus; and six others.

Paul Veronese, Adonis sleeping.

Rubens, four of Hercules; one of Philip III.

Tintoret, Judith and Holophernes; St. Ursula martyred.

Titian, Sisyphus; Prometheus; three of Venus; and Adam and Eve.

Velasquez, Philip III. Philip IV. their two wives, and Olivares, all on horseback.

I doubt whether five such horses, so perfect,

perfect, and so full of animation, were ever seen together; the horse of Philip IV. rises from the canvas, and seems so much like real life, that, if properly placed, I am persuaded an acute eye might be easily deceived.

In the king's conversation room, into which he retires with the foreign ministers the moment he has dined, there are, by

Titian, Charles V. on horseback; Philip II; Europa; Adonis.

Vandyke, Don Fernando.

Velasquez, Donna Maria de Austria.

In the king's dressing room, by

Guido, an Assumption.

Luca Jordano, Isaac; Flight into Egypt.

Mengs, a Nativity.

Murillo, The Annunciation; the Virgin and Joseph; a Sacred Family; Jesus and John, as infants.

Ribera, Elspagnoleto, the Virgin and Mary Magdalene; John the Baptist.

Velasquez, Argos; Vulcan at his forge, with the Cyclops and others.

Some by *Teniers* and by *Titian*.

In the king's private cabinet are more than

than twenty of *Teniers*, and one of *Wolverman*.

In the antichamber of his bed-room is a Holy Family, by *Jordano*, and one by *Mengs*.

In his bed chamber are eight by *Mengs*, among which are, the Agony in the Garden; the Taking down from the Cross; and, Christ appearing to Mary.

In the first apartment of the Infanta there are many by *Jordano* and *Lanfranc*; two children, by *Guido*; Virtue and Vice, by *Paul Veronese*; a portrait, by *Vandyke*; and two beautiful Cattle Pieces, by *Velasquez*.

In the second antichamber are, by *Carlo Maratti*, two women with flowers.

Jordano, Jacob and Esau; Bathsheba.

Lanfranc, two pieces.

Titian, St. Margaret.

In her dining room there are nineteen by *Jordano*.

In her great hall there are, by *Jordano*, four, taken from the history of Solomon.

Rubens, A Priest; a Dance; and one more.

Titian,

Titian, Charles V. and Philip II.
Velasquez, four pictures of distinguished merit.

In her bed room, Peter in Prison, by *Guer-
cino*; St. Anthony of Padua adoring
 the Child Jesus, by *Carlo Marat*; and
 the Seizing of our Lord, by *Vandyke*.

In the apartments of the prince and prin-
 cess, are seven pieces by *Jordano*; the
 Child Jesus disputing with the Doctors
 in the Temple, by *Paul Veronese*.

Of *Rubens*, the Rape of Ganymede;
 Marsias and Apollo; the Centaur in a
 robe of the wife of Perithous; Saturn;
 Apollo; Narcissus; the Holy Children.

In their cabinet there are, by

Albert Durer, his own portrait, and the
 Death of the Virgin.

Basan, The Adoration of the Kings; the
 Nativity; and, the Agony in the Gar-
 den.

Corregio, Christ clothed by his Mother;
 and Christ praying in the Garden.

Leonardo de Vinci, the Holy Children play-
 ing with a lamb; and one more.

Paul Veronese, Moses taken up by Pha-
 raoh's daughter.

- Poussin*, a Landscape.
- Raphael*, a Holy Family; and a Virgin with her son.
- Rubens*, two landscapes; four heads; and six small pictures.
- Titian*, Children playing round a statue of Venus; and a Bacchanal with a woman sleeping; both astonishingly fine. Rubens copied these, or rather, if the expression may be allowed, he translated them into Flemish. The thoughts remain, but the ease and the elegance are lost. Surely nothing ever equalled the originals; the eye is never tired of viewing them.

In the prince's dressing room are, by *Andrea Sacchi*, the Nativity of the Virgin. *Andrea Vacaro*, five pictures of St. Cayan.

Jordano, a Conception; and the Death of the Virgin.

Esposito, or Joseph Ribera, sometimes called El Spagnoletto, a Magdalene; St. Benito; St. Geronimo; and St. Bartholomew.

Mengs, a Nativity.

Murillo, a Holy Family.

Rubens,

Rubens, a Virgin and Child.

Titian, Ecce Homo; and a Stabat Mater
Dolorosa.

Vandyke, a Magdalene; and two of St.
Rosalia.

Velasquez, a landscape with two hermits.

In their dining room there are, by
Brugbel, some good pictures.

Espanoleto, a Conjuror.

Coypel, Susanna accused by the Elders.

Paul Veronese, a Susanna.

Rubens, Achilles discovered by Ulysses.

Tintoret, Judith and Holofernes.

Titian, seven pictures.

Vandyke, a Woman.

Velasquez, the Marquis of Pescara.

Woverman, Landscapes.

In the apartment of the Infant don Ga-
briel, there are seven pieces by *Jordano*;
three by *Espanoleto*, and a Charles V.
by *Titian*.

In the apartment of don Antonio there are
three by *Jordano*.

In the apartment of the Infant don Louis
were, by

Guido, Jesus bearing his Cross.

Paul Veronese, Eleazer and Rachael.

Rubens,

Rubens, St. George and the Dragon; the Centaurs; Progne giving to Tereus his son Itis to eat; Diana; Archimedes; Mercury; Hercules and the Hydra; Apollo and Pan; the Rape of Proserpine; the two copies from Titian, before mentioned, of the Bacchanals, and of the Children playing round the statue of Venus. Had the originals been lost, these would have been much admired.

Vandyke, the infant don Fernando; and some others.

What has been said may serve to give a faint idea of this inestimable collection; in viewing which, this observation naturally presents itself, that as far as relates to imitation of nature, the Spanish painters are not behind the first masters of Italy and Flanders; whereas, in point of light and shade, and what has been called aëreal perspective, which is only the modification of these, *Velasquez* leaves all other painters far behind him.

Joining to the palace is a house called Casa de Reveque, in which are shut up the following pictures: by *Guido*, Hippomanes and

and Atalanta; by *Annibal Carrachi*, a Venus with Adonis and Cupid; by *Paul Veronese*, the same subject, a smaller size; and by *Titian*, five pictures, in each of which is a naked Venus.

By *Rubens*, the Rape of the Sabines; Diana bathing; a Bacchanal; a Perseus and Andromeda; Juno, Pallas, and Venus, all full size.

Near to this is the royal armoury, which is well arranged; the armour is ancient, yet very bright, and well preserved; it is an epitome of Spanish history. The most conspicuously placed is the armour of Montezuma.

When I had in some measure satisfied my curiosity in viewing the pictures, I began to turn my attention towards the manufactures; but more especially to that of nitre, or salt-petre, which in this city has employed some thousands of the inhabitants in summer, and many hundreds in the winter.

In my way to this, on Saturday, May 27, passing through the gate of St. Barbara, I visited the tapestry manufactory, which resembles, and equals in beauty, the gobelins,

lins, from whence it originally came. I found a Frenchman at the head of it, who was civil and communicative. This fabric was brought into Spain, and established here under the direction of John de Van Dergoten, from Antwerp, in the year 1720. They now employ fourscore hands, and work only on the king's account, and for his palaces, making and repairing all the tapestry and carpets which are wanted at any of the *Sittos*, or royal residences.

Every one knows the method of working tapestry; that the chain is perpendicular, the harness over their heads, and the picture by which they work, behind them; that they work with bobbins, and press down the thread with a little ivory comb.

In making their carpets, they have three coarse-spun threads lightly twisted together, which they weave into the chain with their fingers, so as to tie, and then cut off the thread about a quarter of an inch in length. This they find to be much better than the ancient method, still retained in England, of weaving on the cutting knife; and their work, they say, is considerably stronger.

From thence I proceeded to the salt-petre

petre works, where at every step I was confounded, and at a loss which to admire most, the wisdom of the Creator, and the secret paths in which Nature is constantly proceeding with her work, or the folly of the minister, who established this manufacture at Madrid.

The person from whom I took my information was a Frenchman, who found employment here because of his skill, acquired in other works of a nature similar to these.

I observed a large inclosure, with a number of mounds of about twenty feet high, at regular distances from each other. These he told me had been collected from the rubbish of the city, and the scrapings of the highways. I examined them with a minute attention, and found nothing remarkable, but small fragments of gypsum in great abundance. They had remained all the winter piled up in the manner in which I found them. At this time men were employed in wheeling them away, and spreading abroad the earth to the thickness of about one foot; whilst others were turning what had been previously exposed to the influence of the sun and of the air.

He

He told me, that the preceding summers these heaps had been washed, and that being thus exposed, they would yield the same quantity of salt again, and that, as far as he could judge, the produce would never fail; but that, after having been washed, no saltpetre could be obtained without a subsequent exposure. He thought Madrid, on all accounts, improper for such a manufacture; and said, that from his own observations, he was inclined to think, they could not make saltpetre for eight reals, that is, nearly twenty pence a pound.

My curiosity was excited to the highest degree by this account, which seemed to offer violence to the most established principles of chemistry. I determined therefore to lose no opportunity of paying attention to this business, and with that view, procured an introduction to the gentlemen, who had the direction and control of it. With them I examined a much more extensive work at the gate *Atocha*, near the general hospital. They informed me, that the number of men employed was commonly about fifteen hundred, but for some short intervals, near four thousand. This latter number agrees well enough with the
abbé

abbé Cavanilles, who states them at four thousand. According to their account, they have had this manufacture only a few years, and have now collected earth sufficient to last for ever. Some of this earth they can lixivate once a year, some they have washed twenty times in the last seven years, and some they have subjected to this operation fifteen times in one year, judging always by their eye, when they may wash it to advantage, and by their taste if it has yielded a lixivium of a proper strength. When it is too weak, they pass it over fresh earth till it is strong enough for boiling. Most of the earth they use is common earth, and they are of opinion that all the earth in the vicinity of Madrid contains some nitre. When the earth has been a proper time exposed, they put it into large earthen pans, ranged in a row, of the same form with those used by sugar-bakers to refine their sugars, being a cone inverted, with the apex truncated; at the bottom of which they put a bit of esparto matting covered with ashes, to prevent the earth from falling through. On this they keep pouring water as fast as it filters, till it will yield no more lixivium. As the liquid filters

filters it falls into a drain, which conducts it to a cistern. From hence it is pumped up into the furnaces, which are absurdly deep, and by a fierce fire is evaporated sufficiently for the salt to crystallize. The salt thus obtained is a mixture of nitre and sea salt. To separate these, they use the common process. It is well known that muria, or sea salt, is soluble in three times its weight of water, either hot or cold; but nitre requires only one-sixth of its weight, if the water is boiling, whereas, if it is cold, the water must be six times the weight of nitre, to dissolve it perfectly. Hence it is evident, that on cooling, the nitre will be the first to crystallize; this however requires repeated operations before the nitre is thoroughly refined, and fit for market. The director and comptroller both assured me, that the saltpetre did not stand the king in more than two hundred reales a quintal, and that he sold it for five hundred, getting a clear profit of three hundred reales by every quintal, which he made. They ought to know; but I suspect that in their calculation there is some mistake.

Not satisfied with this account of gains by a royal manufacture, and in such a situation,

ation, I went once more to examine some inferior officers, both in the upper and the lower works, at the two gates, S. Barbara and Atocha. I found some in each, who were sufficiently communicative; and this was the result of my inquiries. At the upper works, since the war, they have employed one hundred men in winter, and more than three hundred in the summer; they have four furnaces, and have made upon the average, about four thousand arrobas of refined saltpetre in the season. At the lower works, they employ commonly in the winter three hundred men, and in the summer above one thousand, but occasionally they have had twice these numbers. With this strength, and with twenty-five furnaces commonly at work, they have refined thirty thousand arrobas of saltpetre; and they guess the sea salt at ten thousand arrobas. To heat their furnaces they use vine branches, for which they give one real per arroba, or two pence halfpenny for twenty-three pounds and one quarter.

These are the facts: let us stop one moment to examine them; at present, not as philosophers and chemists, but as mer-

chants and politicians. If we allow the *quintal* of four arrobas to be equal to ninety-three pounds English, which is what the merchants reckon it, and the *real* to be worth two pence halfpenny, we must conclude that the king of Spain makes his salt-petre for five pence farthing; and it is clear that he sells it for thirteen pence farthing per pound: but if, at the upper works, we allow one hundred men in winter, and three hundred in the summer, or two hundred on the average, at fifteen pounds per annum each, and say that they refine one thousand quintals of salt-petre, we shall find that the labour alone comes to seven pence three farthings a pound, without allowing any thing for wear and tear of utensils, for salaries, and above all for fuel. When a man considers, that not only in the first, but in every subsequent operation for refining the nitre, six pounds of water must be evaporated for one pound of the salt produced, and that twenty-three pounds and one quarter of such weak fuel as vine branches stands in two pence halfpenny, although, without the assistance of Mr. Watt, he may not be able by calculation precisely to point out the

the

the quantity of fuel, supposing the evaporation to be conducted upon the most approved principles ; yet every man may see, that the expence must be enormous. Taking all these things into consideration, I am inclined to think, that the king of Spain does not make his nitre for twenty pence per pound. As for the sea salt, I have not taken that into the account, because in Spain it has little value, except that which it has acquired by carriage ; and indeed with us in England, as in France, the principal part of its price arises from the duty, which is imposed upon it. The king of Spain sells his nitre at thirteen pence halfpenny per pound ; and if it costs him twenty pence he gets nothing by the bargain. But supposing he might make a profit by the sale ; yet, if he sells it to himself, I know not where he is to look for gain ; and if he compels his subjects to be the purchasers, he is guilty of oppression ; he lays snares to catch the merchants, and he gives encouragement to smugglers.

The East India Company, when it is refined, sell salt-petre in the English market for £.2. 4s. 6d. the cwt. which, deducting

seven shillings and three pence, the drawback on exportation, is a small fraction under four pence a pound, and the company would no doubt be happy to contract with Spain for less. In Bengal, as I am informed by one, who was thirty years in the trade between China and that country, saltpetre, before the East India Company undertook to make it on their own account, sold for four rupees the bag of 160 pounds, which, at 2*s.* 6*d.* the rupee, would be exactly three farthings a pound; but in fact the rupee is intrinsically worth only one shilling and ten pence, and by the company is reckoned two shillings and three pence.

The foundation of this difference in the price of the production between Bengal and Madrid must be obvious to every one, who considers that the evaporation, which is effected in the latter by the force of fire, may be carried on in the former without expence, by the sun and by the air.

Of all places, Madrid is the most improper for such an extensive manufacture; where they have long winters; where provisions, labour, fuel, are all at a high price; where the court resides; and where they
have

have no navigation. If this manufacture were established in the south of Spain, near to a navigable river, none of these objections would have place; the sun and air would assist the evaporation, or completely finish it, as we see daily in their salt works on the borders of the Mediterranean; the little fuel which might be needful would find its way to them; and the nitre would be easily transported for the supply of distant markets: but even there it should not be administered on the sovereign's account; because, with every advantage of situation, the monarch must be a loser, where the private adventurer would contrive to gain.

I have no doubt that motives of benevolence may have contributed to keep this voracious monster at Madrid, and the apprehension, that were it not cherished and supported, a multitude, which is now fed by their attendance upon it, would be reduced to famine. Of all employments for the poor, that which is most uncertain is the least desirable; and little is that to be encouraged, which in summer decoys them from the harvest, and from the works of husbandry,

dry, and, when the winter comes, turns them adrift, to remain inactive till the return of spring. These objections remain in force against the manufacture of salt-petre at Madrid, which feeds four hundred only in the winter, and when they should listen to the calls of agriculture, employs from thirteen hundred to four thousand. If these are not wanted for the labours of the field, and can find no constant work in profitable fabrics, it is plain that they have needlessly been drawn into existence, and that the population should be suffered to sink gradually till it has again found its proper level.

I have dwelt upon this subject, and treated it thus copiously, and pushed the conclusion as far as it will go, because the principle, which is thereby established, is of great importance to mankind, and yet seems to have been little understood.

I tried to obtain admission to the china manufacture, which is likewise administered on the king's account, but his majesty's injunctions are so severe, that I could neither get introduced to see it, nor meet with any one who had ever been able to procure

that favour for himself. I was the less mortified upon this occasion, because from the specimens which I have seen, both in the palace at Madrid and in the provinces, it resembles the manufacture of Séve, which I had formerly visited in a tour through France.

I enquired also for the manufacture of gold and silver stuffs, of which Uztariz makes mention; but I could not find the least vestige of it. He tells us, that this establishment was made in the year 1712, with peculiar privileges, and with the best encouragement. Each loom was allowed one quintal of silk, with wine, oil, and soap, of each ten arrobas ($232\frac{1}{2}$ pounds) per annum, free of all duties; and the stuffs in their first sale were to enjoy the same exemption.

When I began to think of going to the court, I was for a time diverted from my purpose by the kindness of my friend Don Casimir Ortega, who introduced me to Count Campomanes, governor of the council of Castille. We called first at his house, but not finding him at home, we went to a society, founded

A. D. 1738, called *Academia de la Historia*. It meets at the *Panaderia*, or *Casa Real*, in the Plaza Mayor, and he is the president.

The Plaza Mayor, in the year 1612, when it was finished, must have excited admiration; it is four hundred and thirty-four feet by three hundred and fifty-four, and much too high for these dimensions.

In the *Casa Real*, built A. D. 1674, are some good apartments, looking to the sun, now given up to the secretary of this society. They have a good collection of books, manuscripts, and medals. They are employed upon the history of Spain, and have bestowed uncommon labour and attention in ascertaining both its geography and chronology. It is here, that on all solemn occasions the royal family assembles to see the bull feasts.

When we arrived, the society was meeting. Among those, to whom I was introduced, was a man advanced in years, appearing, at first view, of a forbidding aspect and ungracious in his manner. He said nothing to me, but turned himself round, and took up a book. Soon after this, I saw him take the chair, and found that this was

was Count Campomanes. How I ever got resolution to visit him I cannot conceive; but contrary to my expectation I found him easy of access, condescending, gracious, kind, friendly, and obliging to the last degree. It is possible that his goodness to me may have made me partial in my judgment of him; but, in my opinion, few kingdoms can boast his equal for understanding, knowledge, and benevolence. He appears to me one of the most superior characters that have adorned his country, and one of the best patriots that ever gave instruction to a rising nation.

It must be confessed, that my first introduction to him was awkwardly conducted, and for want of information, my subsequent visits, I can readily suppose, might appear ill timed to him. He had the goodness to make me promise, that I would come to him the next day, but did not name the hour. In the afternoon I went, but the porter told me he was not at home. I said that I came by appointment. He then told me, that his excellence was asleep, this being his time for taken the *siesta*, but that I might go up and wait. I went up into a large hall, where I found many ill dressed people waiting,

waiting, but no domestic. Here I continued for a time; but, upon observing some genteel visitors going through this hall, I followed them into the next apartment, where I found a page writing at a table. Here I stopped, and took a chair. After a time I enquired if his excellence was awake. The page left me, and in about ten minutes came back and conducted me into the council chamber, where I found him in his bed-gown and white night-cap walking with those gentlemen, who had passed through to him without asking any question of the page. The count received me with the greatest goodness, and led me into his closet, where I had the happiness of enjoying his conversation more than two hours. He invited me to come to him, whenever it should be agreeable to me, and desired that, without reserve, I would apply to him, whenever I wanted either information or protection. Fearing I might break in upon his time, which I knew must be exceedingly valuable, because no minister in any kingdom has so much business passing through his hands, I returned no more till I was about

to make an excursion to the north. I then called about two hours later than before, and, without asking any question, I walked up, and went directly to the council chamber. Here I found two gentlemen waiting, who had been announced. After a few minutes his door opened, and he came in, when, for the first time, I discovered that he was near sighted in the extreme. When he had spoken to them, he enquired if any body beside was in the room. Upon this I presented myself, and was perfectly satisfied with my reception. As I had seen his chariot waiting at the door, I soon made my bow, and left him. After I became better acquainted with the manners in Spain, I had, on my return from my northern expedition, much more comfortable enjoyment of his society, and, instead of breaking in upon his time, either when he had business to dispatch, or when he was at his fiesta, or when he wished to take the air, I used to assemble with his friends, after the business of the day was over, when I never failed to meet with the most cordial reception. If I happened to go to him too early, he had the goodness to forgive

forgive me, and would often dictate to his page, and at the same time keep up the conversation with me.

Before I left him, he made me tell him what I had seen, and finding that I had not visited his favourite establishment, he recommended me to see it. This was the academy of the ennobled arts. The next morning I presented myself in his name to Don A. Ponz, the president, a man of taste and judgment in the arts, who conducted me through all the numerous and magnificent apartments, which have been given up to this useful institution. In the evening, I returned to see the pupils at their work, when I had the pleasure to find 280 boys engaged in drawing, twenty employed in architecture, with thirty-six modelling in clay, some from casts, and others from a living subject. Every month prizes are distributed to stimulate their diligence. This academy, like that which I have described at Barcelona, is open to the whole world, and every thing is provided for the pupils at the king's expence.

The cabinet of natural history is accessible to all; there is no need to wait for tickets,

tickets, but at the appointed hours any person, who is decent in his appearance, is admitted to walk round the rooms, and to examine what he pleases, as long as the doors are open. If he is peculiarly devoted to one branch of natural history, he is not hurried away from that with the gaping multitude, and compelled to spend the allotted portion of his time in apartments, which contain nothing to his purpose. This circumstance, gave me peculiar pleasure, because my chief attention has ever been to minerals.

The collection of the king of Spain is truly magnificent, but far from being well-chosen, or well arranged. For intrinsic value in silver, gold, and precious stones, perhaps no cabinet ever equalled this; but for science, I had rather be master of the more humble collections of Mr. Charles Greville, or of M. Besson.

Among the large masses of native gold, I could not discern one crystal; and as for those of silver, they appear to have been valued chiefly for their weight.

The large crystals of sulphur from Conil mine, near Cadiz, are well preserved, but
like

Like most other substances of the mineral kingdom in this cabinet, they are in too great abundance. Every shelf is loaded with duplicates upon duplicates without end.

The specimen, which most attracted by attention, was a large rock, containing forty emeralds, in the form of hexagonal prisms, some near an inch diameter, and one inch and an half in length, and many of the finest water, without the appearance of a flaw. I wished for the privilege of taking away those only, which had been absurdly cemented on this rock; my cabinet would have been much enriched by the accession of these beautiful crystals, and the rock itself would have recovered its more graceful, because more natural simplicity.

The collection of tins was exceedingly defective, and among these I observed two palpable misnomers. These were two dodecaedral garnets placed among the tin crystals, each with the tin mark upon it, one in the hand writing of M. Davila, the other of the merchant from whom he purchased it.

The extraneous fossils are exceedingly confused; requiring to be purged, and well arranged.

The animals are beautiful, and in high preservation.

The foundation of this collection was laid by M. Davila; but I apprehend that after he had published his much admired catalogue, the best of the specimens were picked and culled, and that the refuse only were carried to the king of Spain, who made the purchase, and appointed him first director of his cabinet.

The science of natural history is almost new in Europe. Sir Hans Sloane led the way in England, Buffon followed, and Davila brought up the rear. It is but of late years that the sovereigns of Europe have taken this science under their protection. England began, and Spain has followed the example.

Should Izquierdo, the present director of the Spanish cabinet, bend his mind to natural history, I may venture to say, that all the other cabinets in Europe will soon be left far behind; but I fear, that his great talents will place him in some more exalted station. His strong understanding, quickness, and penetration, his universal knowledge, and his unwearied application,
mark

mark him out for the finance; and there, I apprehend, his ambition leads him. I met with him in Paris, where the most flattering offers had been made to him; but he chose rather to return to Spain, his native country.

In M. Clavijo, the vice director of the cabinet, I found a sensible man, and a most agreeable companion, well informed on every subject to which he had turned his thoughts, hospitable, generous, polite, and always ready to oblige. Bred in the civil departments of the state, his services on the death of Davila, and the promotion of Izquierdo, were rewarded by this appointment to the cabinet. Upon hearing me praise the emeralds I had seen, he advised me to procure admission to a private cabinet, belonging to the marquis of Sonora, minister of the Indies. I followed his advice, and got my friend don Casimir Ortega to conduct me to his house. Here I was perfectly astonished at the beauty of his emeralds, superior to any I had seen for lustre and for size. He had likewise good specimens of gold and silver, with artificial birds in filigree, from the East Indies, which

which must give pleasure to all who can admire the works of art. This collection is valuable, but the marquis most evidently had no taste for science, and was solicitous, not to acquire knowledge, but to increase his treasure.

In the evening, I directed my course towards the Prado, which, at this season of the year, is much frequented: my objects of pursuit had been so many and so various, that I could spare but little time for this refreshing grove; but now, having finished all my work, I walked as long as I could see.

The coaches were numerous, and the walks were crowded; all was in motion; when suddenly, about eight in the evening, on the tolling of a bell, I was much surprised to see all motion cease; every coach stood still, every hat was off and every lip seemed to utter prayer. This I afterwards found to be the custom all over Spain. If the affections of the heart correspond with the external signs of piety in Spain, and if the moral conduct answers to the affections of the heart; this people must be the most heavenly-minded, and the most virtuous

people upon earth. But all is not gold that glitters; and I had soon an opportunity of forming a conjecture, that all who thus moved the lip were not to be reckoned among the friends of piety and virtue. When the prayer was over, the coaches began to move slowly on once more; but soon after this they went briskly off, and the multitude dispersing, left a number of young women, attended by young men, who from that time seemed to be more at ease, yet, notwithstanding, kept within the bounds of decency.

I have observed all over Spain, that the leading principle is, never to give offence. People may be as vicious as they please; it may be notorious that they are so; but their manners must be correct. This regard to decency certainly deserves the highest commendation.

At Madrid, the hotels are good. They have no table d'hôte; but every one dines in his own apartment, where he is served with two courses, each of four or five dishes with a desert, and one such course for supper, with plenty of good wine, for which he pays seven livres and an half a day,

day, including lodging; but if he eats no supper, then his dinner and his two rooms will cost him only five livres, or four and two-pence English.

Having, for the present, satisfied my curiosity at Madrid, *June 2*, I went with M. Izquierdo post to Aranjuez, seven leagues, which we performed in about three hours. In the way from Barcelona, seven leagues with seven mules had been a long day's journey. In comparison with that slow motion, we seemed to fly.

All the way we saw only gypsum rock wherever the rock was to be seen.

The road is perfectly well made, wide, straight, and planted on each side with elms. The country almost a dead flat. In this short space we left the Manzanares, with its canal; crossed the Jarama, with which that canal communicates; touched the Tajuña, and came to the Tajo, which we call the Tagus.

After dinner I presented myself to our minister, Mr. Lison, and the day following I went with him to deliver my letters to count Florida Blanca, the prime minister.

His excellency received me graciously,

and told me, that whilst I remained in that kingdom, I had only to inform him, what I wished, and it should be done for me. He is a little man, and, if I may judge by his eyes, exceedingly hypochondriacal; but he has a look of benevolence, and, if his countenance does not deceive me, he has more than a common share of understanding. His manners are polished, and his address is pleasing.

Sunday, *June 4*, I went to court to see the king and all the royal family at dinner; then dined at Mr. Lifton's, where I met Sir Alexander Monro and general O' Neil; and at five in the evening I went to Añover, three leagues from Aranjuez, to pass a few days with my friend Don Casimir Ortega.

Whoever goes to Aranjuez should take care to fill his purse, and he may be certain that he will soon find it emptied. For a single mule in a volante I paid fourscore reales, which is sixteen shillings and eight pence, to go these three leagues. For one miserable bed-room you must give eight shillings and four pence a day; and if you do not quit early in the morning, you are charged four shillings and

two

two pence for the half day. Yet with all these heavy charges, the inn-keepers are not unreasonable, because they have but a short harvest, in which they are to make up their rent; besides which, the expence being so exceedingly oppressive, no one ever comes here but by necessity, and therefore they who are obliged to come, must bear the greater burden.

Añover, three leagues from Aranjuez, and four from Toledo, is built on the summit of a gypsum rock, commanding an extensive plain, which is watered by the Tagus. It has four hundred houses, and contains two thousand souls; of which, fourteen hundred go to confession, and receive the eucharist; the remaining six hundred are under ten years of age.

The extensive plain, through which the Tagus flows, resembling the vale of Pewsey in Wiltshire, is of vast extent, running east and west. It is bounded to the north by a ridge of hills, on which this village stands, and beyond the river, to the south, by distant mountains, yet of gypsum, and not like the Wiltshire hills, of chalk. The soil of this vale, being sand and clay to the

depth of eight or ten feet to the level of the river, is rich, and its fertility is abundantly increased by the overflowing of the Tagus, which in winter leaves greater wealth behind than ever was collected from its golden sands. In summer, water is supplied by norias, at little expence beside that of labour. They had once a canal, made by Philip V. seven leagues in length, which brought to them the waters of the Jarama; but, about twenty years ago, the head proved faulty, and it has never been repaired. The loss by this misfortune and neglect is almost inestimable. Some idea may however be formed by considering, that Añover alone has ninety norias, the expence of which would have been saved by the canal.

Behind the village, on the hills, there is a fruitful plain, whose soil is dissolved gypsum, sand, and clay. The plain is cut by innumerable ravins to a considerable depth, which discover the gypsum rock in horizontal strata, with fine blue clay, very hard, and remarkable for smoothness, interposed between the beds of gypsum. This gypsum is mostly crystallized, and is either
solid,

solid, striated, stellated, lamellous, or in stalactites. In the ravins contiguous to the village, the poor have excavated little habitations, with each a chimney, and a narrow entrance by way of door; these are warm in winter, cool in summer, always dry.

The parish of Añover is a league and an half in length, and three quarters in breadth. It has one hundred and fifty proprietors of land, the representatives of those, by whom the country was recovered from the Moors, who are all freeholders, subject to no manerial rights, paying only two-tenths, one to the king, and the other to the church, each taken up in kind. As their estates are not entailed, industry is much encouraged. It is however much to be lamented, that the lands of each proprietor are scattered in small parcels in the common field, which, after harvest, is fed in common by all the parish flocks, so that they can not plough, nor crop, nor feed them to advantage.

Their course of husbandry in the valley is, two years, barley; one year, wheat; and the fourth year, melons. These are natu-

ral to the soil, as appears by the *cucumis elaterium*, a native of this country. The crops are watered, and the produce of wheat is fifty for one; of barley, from sixty to a hundred; which is nearly five times the average produce with us in proportion to the seed. Don Cafimir has for some years past been cultivating fenna to great advantage: it is for the English market, and is much admired.

From the hills, and the extensive plain beyond them, they obtain wine, olives, oil, and corn, chiefly wheat; all exceeding fine.

Their ploughs shew great scarcity both of timber and of iron; the beam is about three feet long, curved, and tapered at one end, to receive an additional beam of about five feet fastened to it by two iron collars; the other end of the three foot beam touches the ground, and has a mortise to receive the share, the handle, and a wedge. From this description it is evident that the beam itself supplies the place of sheets. The share has no fin, and instead of a mould-board, there are two wooden pins fastened near the heel of the share.

As

As in this plough the share, from the point to its insertion in the beam, being two feet six inches long, it is strengthened by a retch. They have no other implements of tillage, being perfect strangers to the use of harrows. It must be evident to every one, who has the least knowledge of this subject, that no plough can be worse adapted to the soil; and were the farmers to procure models from Barcelona, they would soon be convinced of this themselves.

For cheese they never use the rennet, but in its place they substitute the down of the *cynara cardunculus*, a species of the wild artichoke, with which they make a strong infusion over night, and the next morning, when the milk is warm from the cow, they put nearly half a pint of the infusion to thirty-two azumbres, or about fourteen gallons English measure.

Within these ten years they have established a manufactory of *saltpetre*, highly interesting to the chemist. To collect the earth most suited for their purpose, they go out early in the morning, and observe where the ground is wet, and changed to a dark colour, having been previously distinguished
for

for its whiteness; this they bring home and wash, after the same manner as at Madrid. Saltpetre being composed of nitrous acid with vegetable alkali, it has been imagined, that the ashes used in making nitre contributed the latter; but here they employ only the ashes of the tamarisk, which contain vitriolic salts; and, as the vitriolic acid has a stronger affinity to the vegetable alkali than nitrous acid, it must be evident, that both the acid and the alkali of the nitre have some other origin, receiving nothing from the ashes.

After they have extracted all the nitre, they expose the earth to the influence of the sun, and then find the same proportion of the salt, as if it had never been lixiviated before.

Near to this village, towards the bottom of a ravin, are two springs containing epsom salt, which, as the sun evaporates the water, forms in beautifully white, spongy, and mamellous flakes. The same salt is seen efflorescing from the gypseous earth and clay above the springs. With the nitre is found sea salt. Thus, in this elevated part of Spain, the vitriolic, the nitrous, and the

the muriatic acids, with magnesia, the vegetable, and the fossil alkalis, all meet together in a manner never yet explored. When I come to Granada, I shall resume this subject, and collect such facts as appear to be connected with it.

The plants to be found here growing on the bare gypsum rock are, the *Cistus halemifolius*; *Cistus helianthemum*; *Lepidium fulvatum*; *Artimisia herba alba*; *Thymus zygis*, used by the natives to prepare the olives; *Teucrium capitatum*; *Statice retusa*; *Bupthalmum aquaticum*, with which they make brooms; *Marubium vulgare*; *Thapsia villosa*; *Peganum harmela*; *Carduus solstitialis*; *Francia levis*; *Sedum hispanicum*; *Francia pulverulenta*, thriving best on the saltpetre earth.

In the valley I found the following plants: *Anchusa officinalis*; *Althæa officin.*; *Andrealia integrifolia*; *Arundo phrag.*; *Adonis æstivalis*; *Aparine vulgare*; *Carduus acantoides*; *Carduus marianus*; *Chæmamelumcotulâ aureâ*; *Centauria salmantica*, used for making brooms; *Crepis*; *Cucubalus behen*; *Cucumis elaterium*; *Cynara Cardunculus*, used for turning milk;

milk; *Daucus visnaga*; *Eringium commune*; *Echium vulg.*; *Echinops strigosus*, which produces the Amadou, with which they obtain light, as we do with tinder; *Euphorbia ferrata*; *Lepidium latifolium*; *Lycium Europæum*; *Lychnis*; *Malva rotundifol.*; *Ornithopus*; *Poligalum aviculare*; *Peganum harmela*, the ashes of which they use in Arragon for making glass; *Rubia tinctorum*; *Salix alba*; *Salsola tragus*; *Salsola sativa*; *Salsola Cali*; *Salsola fruticosa*; *Tamariscus gallica*, which, when burnt, produces vitriolated tartar and Glauber salt.

The *Salsolas* are worthy to be noticed; because they are commonly found on the sea shores, within the influence of salt water. Their production in this valley will create no difficulty, if we call to mind the nature of the hills, and the quantity of salt which they contain.

Beef and veal sell for ten quarts the pound of sixteen ounces; mutton, twelve; bread, four and an half. Eight quarts and an half make a real vellon, or nearly ten farthings English. Labour in winter is four reales a day, in harvest, five. If hired by
the

the year, they have forty-five reales a month, or about six pounds two shillings per annum, and their board,

Hitherto I had associated only with those, who were perfect masters of the French language; but now the time was come, when I must begin to find my way without the assistance of interpreters. My first attempt, however, was attended with some difficulty. My friend, don Casimir, made my bargain for a borrico, and a guide to convey me to Toledo.

Wednesday, *June 7*, at break of day, I took leave of my hospitable friend, and put myself under the protection of my guide; with whom, not being able to converse, I had the more leisure to make observations by the way.

His attention seemed to be rivetted; but for a length of time I could not imagine what kind of object he was seeking, till at last, seeing a cloud of dust ascending from the vale beneath us, and observing that his eyes became more bright, and that he moved more lightly over the turf, I began to dive into his intentions, and to consider how I was to avoid the cloud, which to
him,

him, as it appeared, had the most powerful attractives. We descended slowly down the hill, and when we were got into the valley, saw before us a drove of carriers, with their asses loaded, carrying gypsum to Toledo. These were the friends and village companions of my guide, for whom he had been looking out, impatient of that silence which my ignorance of his language had imposed on him. Smothered with dust, I began to recollect all the Spanish I had ever heard, but could find no expressions, by which I could make him comprehend, that I was not pleased with our new companions; till at last I halted, let them get a head, beckoned my guide, and said, with an angry tone of voice, pointing to his friends, "*No son mis amigos.*" This, repeated with energy, had a due effect, and from thenceforward I had a most comfortable ride.

Having descended into the valley, we saw no more gypsum, except two insulated hills to the right, intirely composed of this substance, which in Spain seems almost every where to supply the place of chalk. Instead of gypsum we found clay, pure, and

without visible admixture, appearing from the summits of some swelling hills to their foundations; but as we advanced nearer to Toledo, we met with other hills, which even to the water's edge, on the banks of the Tagus, discovered only quartz, with the clay, evidently the produce of decomposed granite, without the smallest vestige of the mica or of the feld spat in mass.

The situation of Toledo is remarkable. The Tagus, passing between two granite mountains, and almost surrounding one of these, forms a peninsula, on which the city stands, appearing at a distance like a cone.

Having passed the gate, we ascended to the apex, and soon fell down upon a posada, built by the archbishop at his own expense, and fitted up in the most commodious manner; in which are no less than forty-seven bed rooms, spacious, neat, and furnished with good beds. The price of every thing is fixed, and is very moderate.

From a dialogue which my young friend and travelling companion, the cadet don Nicolas de Llano Ponte, had composed for me, supposed to be between a traveller and his host, I contrived to let my present host

know

know that I should dine there, and then took a walk to form a general idea of the city.

When I returned, I found all hurry and confusion in the inn: a *gran señor* had arrived soon after my departure, and occupied the whole attention of the *posadero*, leaving me without hope of procuring any thing that day to eat or drink. This *gran señor* was M. Cabarrus, the projector of the Spanish bank, who, with his friend Izquierdo, were come to survey the river, for the purpose of a canal between this city and Madrid.

Nothing could be more opportune for me. I immediately joined company with them, and when they left Toledo, they transferred me to their friends, from whom I obtained all that a traveller can want, information and protection.

After dinner we began with visiting the Alcazar, that residence of ancient kings, now the magnificent abode of poverty and wretchedness.

The north front is by Alonso de Covarrubias and Luis de Vergara, who were employed by Charles V. The south front is the work of Juan de Herrera. The quadrangle

drangle is one hundred and sixty feet by one hundred and thirty, and, with the great stair case, the gallery, and the colonnade, has an air of elegant simplicity.

When the court retired from Toledo, this palace was suffered to decay, till some lovers of the arts, mourning over the ruins of the once stately pile, had made representations to the king, and urged him to repair it. In consequence of these representations the archbishop himself undertook the business, and having, at the expence of £,50,000. restored the Alcazar to its pristine grandeur, converted it into an hospicio or general workhouse for the poor. All the magnificent apartments are now occupied with spinning-wheels, and looms, and instead of princes they are filled with beggars. In these they work, and in the under-ground story, which had been the stables, they have their dormitory.

The good archbishop here feeds seven hundred persons, who are employed in the silk manufactory; but unfortunately, with the best intentions, he has completed the ruin of the city; for, by his weight of capital, he has raised the price both of labour

and of the raw material, whilst, by carrying a greater quantity of goods to the common market, he has sunk the price of the commodity so much, that the manufacturers, who employed from forty to sixty workmen, now employ only two or three, and many who were in affluence are now reduced to penury.

These people are so far from earning their own maintenance, that over and above the produce of their labour they require forty thousand ducats a year for their support. If we reckon the ducat at 2*s.* 3½*d.* we shall find the sum amount to six pounds ten shillings and a fraction for each pauper, which alone, without the assistance of their work, should suffice for two of them. Of these forty thousand ducats, the archbishop gives, in the first instance, twenty thousand, and the church supplies the rest; but having conversed with him upon this subject, I am much inclined to think, that he gives a great deal more. He certainly supplies the deficit; and with his vast revenue he is always poor.

From the universal experience of mankind I may venture to assert, that if the most

most able silk manufacturer in Europe, who in the way of his profession has acquired wealth, were to feed, to clothe, and to employ seven hundred people upon the same terms, either with these in the Alcazar, or with those who belong to similar establishments in England, France, or Spain, he would soon be reduced to poverty. For health, for comfort, for profit, for population, let every family occupy a separate cottage, and learn to live on the produce of its industry. For want of a right understanding on this subject, benevolence in England, France, and Spain must sigh, and say, "When I would do good, evil is present with me." Such establishments increase the evils they mean to remedy, and aggravate the distress they were intended to relieve.

From the Alcazar we went to visit the royal manufactory of arms, with which I was much pleased. The steel is excellent, and so perfectly tempered, that in thrusting at a target the swords will bend like whalebone, and yet cut through a helmet without turning their edge. This once famous manufacture had been neglected, and in a

manner lost, but it is now reviving. Virgil says,

At Chalybes nudi ferrum, &c.

And naked Spaniards temper steel for war.

Georg. i. 58.

Diod. Sic. says, the Celtiberians give such temper to their steel that no helmet can resist their stroke.

The next morning I devoted to the cathedral, where I spent some hours agreeably. The building itself, the carving, the pictures, and the treasures it contains, all attract and rivet the attention. This magnificent church is four hundred and four feet long, and two hundred and three feet wide; it has five ailes, and the highest of these is one hundred and sixty feet. The choir is covered with carvings representing the conquest of Granada, executed in a most superior stile, by the two famous artists, Alonso Berruguete, a disciple of Michael Angelo, and Felipe de Borgoña. The eye is never weary of examining these monuments of their consummate skill. Among the pictures are the works of the best masters; of Rubens, Titian, Dominico Greco, Vandyke, Guido, Carlo Maratti, Eugenio Caxes, Vincente Carducho,

Carducho, and Bassano. In the library they have near seven hundred manuscripts.

The treasures of this cathedral struck me with astonishment. *La Custodia*, an elegant silver model of the cathedral by Enrique de Arfe, weighs twenty-two thousand ounces, and took fifty-five ounces of pure gold for gilding. It contains a multitude of pillars, and more than two hundred little silver images of exquisite workmanship. In the centre of this edifice is placed a shrine of massive gold, weighing fifty pounds; another, which occasionally supplies the place of this, contains a statue of the infant Jesus made of pure gold, and adorned with eight hundred precious stones. In four separate closets are four large silver images standing on globes of silver, each two feet diameter, representing Europe, Asia, Africa, and America, with their several emblems, given by Anne of Newburgh. The grand silver throne, on which is placed the Virgin, wearing a crown, and adorned with a profusion of the most costly jems, weighs fifty arrobas, which, at twenty-five pounds the arroba, is equal to one thousand two hundred and fifty pounds. In the chapel of the Virgin is an altar covered with gold and silver.

It is evident that this profusion of wealth has arisen from the pious donations of the Spanish princes, out of the immense treasures obtained from their gold and silver mines, on the first discovery of America. The value of these donations may be ascertained with ease; but no pen can estimate, no figures calculate, no imagination can conceive, what would have been the value, what the produce of this wealth, if, instead of being thus buried, and, as far as relates to any useful purpose, lost, it had been employed in making easy communications through the kingdom, by canals and roads, or in the improvement of the soil, by draining, by planting, and by watering, or in the establishment, by premiums, and by loans, of useful manufactures, suited to the genius of the people and to the nature of the country. If that overflowing wealth had been diverted into profitable channels, what might Spain have been! *Dicite pontifices, in sancto quid facit aurum?* We may venture to say that, if the gold and silver of America, instead of being buried in the churches, or, which is worse, instead of pampering the pride, the prodigality, and the unprofitable luxury of the great, or, which is worst of all, instead of being idly squandered

squandered in useless and almost endless wars, if all this gold and silver had been devoted to Ceres, Spain would have been her most favourite residence, and the whole peninsula would be one continued garden.

The revenue of this cathedral is, perhaps, not to be equalled by any church in Europe.

The archbishop has nine millions of reales a year, which, at two pence halfpenny per real, would be equal to ninety-three thousand seven hundred fifty pounds sterling; but we may with more accuracy say ninety thousand; a revenue this fit for a sovereign prince. Besides the archbishop, there are forty canons, fifty prebendaries, and fifty chaplains. Of the canons, fourteen are dignitaries. The whole body of ecclesiastics belonging to this cathedral is six hundred, all well provided for. They were formerly regulars of St. Augustin, but they are now secularised.

I had the curiosity to hear mass in one of the chapels, where they use only the Mozarabic Missal, which was composed by St. Isidore for the Gothic church after their conversion from arianism to the catholic faith. This maintained its empire till the expulsion of the Moors, when the court

introduced the Roman Missal, but at the same time, influenced by the lenity and good sense of Ximenes, indulged the nobles and the clergy of Toledo with their own Missal.] By degrees this was neglected, and almost forgotten, insomuch that when I was there no one was present, but myself and the officiating priest.

No religious establishment need be afraid of toleration, unless it be absurd in the extreme. Cease to persecute, and all sects will in due time dwindle and decay. They have the seeds of mortality in themselves, and nothing but persecution can prevent their dissolution. When government has given its sanction to one religion, and made provision for its priests; when with cool deliberation it has made choice of that, which appears to be the best, and has affixed its stamp, it has done its duty, and may safely leave the rest to the good pleasure of its citizens, or, if it interferes at all, it should be to encourage competition, and by no means to establish a monopoly.

In visiting the town house, I was struck with a beautiful inscription on the staircase, and took the pains to copy it. The affinity between the Spanish language and the

the Italian is so visible, that most people, who have any knowledge of the one, may, by the assistance of the French and Latin, understand the other. I shall, therefore, venture to give the inscription without attempting a translation. It is addressed to the magistrates of Toledo, and thus we read it:

Nobles discretos varones,
 Que gobernais à Toledo,
 En aquestos escalones
 Defechad las aficiones,
 Codicias, amor, y Miedo.
 Por los comunes provechos
 Dexad los particulares :
 Pues vos hizo dios Pilares
 De tan riquísimos techos,
 Estad firmes, y derechos

This famous city, once the seat of empire, where the arts and sciences, where trade and manufactures flourished, is now brought to ruin and decay, and kept in existence only by the church. This city, which contained two hundred thousand souls, is now reduced to less than twenty-five thousand. The citizens are fled; the monks remain.
 Here

Here we find twenty-six parish churches, thirty-eight convents, seventeen hospitals, four colleges, twelve chapels, and nineteen hermitages, the monuments of its former opulence. Every street retains some token to remind the inhabitants of what their city was. They see many thousand columns scattered about, each with " Sic tranfit " deeply engraved upon it.

The same desolation has spread to the surrounding villages, which are not only reduced in number, from five hundred and fifty-one to three hundred and forty-nine, being a loss of more than two hundred villages in one district, but the remaining villages are also reduced to less than one quarter of their former population, and the devastation extends so far that some of the most fertile lands are left uncultivated. This I can venture to affirm upon the best authority.

Two hundred and twenty years before the Christian era, Hannibal added Toledo, with Castille, to the empire of Carthage. From them it passed under the dominion of the Romans, and continued in subjection till the reign of Eurico, the seventh
sovereign

sovereign of the Gothic line in Spain, who took possession of this city about A. D. 467. In that line the sceptre had continued more than 240 years, when the Moors entered Spain, encouraged by the weakness of a country, which, through the jealousy of wicked sovereigns, had been disarmed, and made an easy prey to the first who should invade it. In three years they overran the whole kingdom; and Toledo, although better prepared, than most other cities to make a vigorous resistance, submitted to its fate, A. D. 714. Alfonso VI. a warlike prince, with the assistance of Rodrigo Diaz, surnamed the Cid, rescued this city from the Moors A. D. 1085; but in less than fifteen years he lost the famous battle of the Seven Counts, and with it the city. From this time to the final expulsion of the Moors, Toledo was the object for which most blood was shed; and even after that period, it had little time to breathe before it was vexed by new storms.

The loss of two able sovereigns, of Isabella, A. D. 1504, and of Ferdinand, A. D. 1516, with the total incapacity of their daughter Joanna, and the foreign educa-
 tion

tion of their grandson Charles, but more especially the disgrace and death of Ximenes, convulsed the Spanish empire in its whole extent. This distinguished minister, like Richlieu in France, and Henry VII. in England, had curbed the power of the great feudal lords, had divested them of their usurped authority, and, in the place of the anarchy and confusion of distracted empire, was preparing to introduce a system of wise and equitable government, which at once should give stability to the throne, and protection to the weak from the oppression of the strong. By his advice, immediately after the conquest of Granada, Ferdinand, and Isabella had applied themselves seriously to this important business, revoking the grants of cities, castles, lands, pensions, and immunities, which had been extorted from the crown, encouraging appeals from the tribunals of the barons, and attaching to their own persons, by a papal grant, the three great masterships of Calatrava, Alcantara, and St. Iago, with all their cities, castles, and strong places, usually given to the nobles. After the death of Ferdinand, Ximenes, appointed regent of Castille

Castille during the minority of Charles, following up this plan, had courted the free cities, had armed the citizens, and by their means had kept the great nobility in awe; but when he fell, inexperience, weakness, and rapacity, taking the reins, ruined all his plans, and soon drove the people to despair. The citizens of Toledo were the first to take up arms, and the last to lay them down. They chose for their general Don John de Padilla, a young nobleman of undaunted courage, but of no experience. All the cities of Castille followed the example of Toledo, and the rebellion, breaking out with violence, was conducted with a rage and fury peculiar to civil insurrections. They neither shewed nor expected pity; but, to the utmost of their power, by the halberd, by fire, or by the sword, they destroyed the persons and the property of all, who opposed their measures. The ecclesiastics, without hesitation, joined them, but the nobility observed a strict neutrality. The motives by which these several orders in the state were actuated will appear from the requisitions of the *santa junta*, an assembly

sembly composed of deputies from all the cities. The principal were these :

1. The king shall reside in Castille, or appoint a native regent.
2. None but natives shall hold offices in church or state.
5. The representatives of the people in cortes shall be paid by their own constituents, receiving neither place nor pension from the crown, and shall choose their own speaker.
7. The cortes shall be assembled once in three years, to consult on public affairs.
8. The soldiers shall have free quarters only six days, and on a march.
10. The excise duties shall be reduced to what they were at the death of Isabella.
11. All crown grants from that period shall be revoked, and all new offices shall be dissolved.
14. All the privileges of the nobles, prejudicial to the commons, shall be revoked.
15. The government of cities shall not be in the hands of the nobles, nor shall the governors be paid by them.

17. The

17. The lands of the nobles shall be taxed equally with those of the commons.

18. No money shall be sent out of the kingdom, nor shall it be granted by the crown before it has been raised.

20. The mayors shall continue in office only one year, unless the people desire it; and they shall be paid by the treasury, and not either by fines or forfeitures.

22. The goods of the accused shall not escheat till after sentence of condemnation is pronounced.

25. No man shall be compelled to purchase papal indulgences.

By these requisitions it is clear that the commons were ground as between two mill-stones, oppressed both by the crown and by the nobles; but for want of proper leaders they obtained no redress. Sometimes they made application to the throne with the most flattering offers; at other times they solicited the nobles to take part with them against the usurpations of the crown, and held up to them a rod in case of their refusal; but, whether they tried the force of promises to the king, or of threatenings to the nobles, these promises and threat-

threatenings met together in one object, the resumption of the crown lands.

The armies of the commons, every where defeated, were at length dispersed; Padilla was beheaded, and Toledo alone remained obstinate in its resistance, encouraged by the example of Padilla's widow, who not only declared her own resolution not to survive the loss of liberty, but urged them to avoid the eternal reproaches of posterity, by transmitting to their children that freedom which they had received by inheritance from their progenitors.

The conduct and courage of this heroine might yet have retrieved their affairs, had not the court contrived to detach the ecclesiastics from the common cause. Deserted by them, and deceived in their expectations by the nobles, the commons, no longer able to make resistance, and having no alternative, surrendered the city by capitulation to the crown, (A. D. 1522). Thus ended a war which had been carried on with spirit two and twenty months, and thus the nobles in Spain, as in all other countries, rather than give liberty to the people, submitted themselves to receive the yoke.

yoke. The whole nation has suffered by this change in the constitution of their government; but no order in the state has lost so much as the nobility. From being little less than sovereigns, they are slaves, reduced to the lowest state of abasement; mere cyphers, without weight, consideration, influence, or dignity; not like lawful sovereigns, dethroned yet unshook, the objects of most generous pity and compassion; but like some contemptible usurper, when degraded and exposed to the derision of the surrounding multitude.

It was not till A. D. 1529, that the university revived, after the expulsion of the Moors. This seminary may be considered as the offspring of Salamanca, and although many distinguished characters have been educated here, the daughter has never been equal in splendour to the mother. They have twenty-four professors, and receive annually about four hundred students. The antiquated philosophy of Aristotle maintains unrivalled empire here.

Before I turned my back upon this most interesting city, I wished to have ascertained a fact which is reported by no con-

temptible authority, but I wanted opportunity.

It is certain that the water of the Tagus at Aranjuez, passing between mountains of gypsum and sal gem, is there very noxious; but at Toledo it is very good, and lathers well with soap. Mr. Bowles affirms, that below Toledo this water discovers no sign, by any chemical process, of either salt or gypsum. In confirmation of a theory which he labours to establish, he relates another fact similar to this. He says that after rain the river by Cardona (that high mountain of rock salt already mentioned) is so impregnated that the fish die; but that three leagues below the mount, neither by evaporation, nor by any other means, could he ever discover the least particle of salt.

These and similar facts, if ascertained, would point out a law of nature with which at present we are wholly unacquainted.

Provisions are remarkably cheap at Toledo: beef, eight quarts; mutton, eleven; bread, five; labour, from September to May, four reales; the remainder of the year, four and an half.

It must always be remembered, that eight quarts and an half make a real, which may be reckoned two pence half-penny sterling, but in truth it is not more than $2\frac{5}{8}$ pence.

June 9, I left Toledo. The way from this city to Aranjuez is interesting, as being a country evidently covered with decomposed granite. In one part of the way we find the clay unmixed, but as we proceed, we see the quartz blended with the clay, whilst the mica, as the lighter body, has been carried off. The vegetable tribes are nearly the same, with those already mentioned at Anover, with the addition of excellent liquorice growing wild. Near the river side is an extensive wood of tamarisk. This part of the country is chiefly the king's demefne, and is left uncultivated, given up to mules, although the land is rich, and, with proper tillage, would produce the most luxuriant crops. In one spot of low swampy ground is saltpetre in abundance, discernible to the taste, and visible to the eye, although it is far from any dwelling, and free from all distinguishable

admixture of either gypsum or calcareous matter.

As we approach the *Sitio*, that is, the royal residence, we meet with a delightfully shaded road; and, after traversing a scorching plain, feel refreshed by the vapour arising from the water, with which a double row of elms is kept in constant vigour.

Aranjuez, at this season of the year, is a most enchanting residence. The palace is not superb, but it has the look of comfort; and the garden, watered by the Tagus, is beautifully laid out, without the least appearance of affectation, but natural, and suited to the climate, which requires close walks, and, of course, great simplicity. It is extensive, and, by that circumstance, aided by the size of the elms, which are, without exception, the largest I ever saw, it has an air of magnificence, but that kind of magnificence which consults only pleasure. The Cyprian goddess, with her little train, might have chosen this for one of her most favoured spots; but native beauty is here confined to the vegetable kingdom; few of her nymphs are to be found in this part of Spain.

The

The corps diplomatique seem to enjoy themselves more in this retreat than at the other sitios; they are near together; they give good dinners; they have frequent balls; and, from day to day, they have one continued round of pleasant amusements.

In this sequestered spot, we meet with none but men of the most polished manners, well informed of every thing that is passing in the world, and with the most accomplished women, all cheerful, gay, and lively. The refinements of a select society like this were so powerfully attractive, that I laid by the pen, I closed my books, and, from morning to night, had agreeable engagements. I came here with Izquierdo, expecting to have explored the mountains in this vicinity with him; but the moment we left the chaise, we parted; he lived with the ministers, I with the corps diplomatique. A few days after my excursion to Añover, we met; when, like another Mentor, he awakened my attention to the chief object of my journey, saying, "My friend, we must quit this place, and re-
" turn to the more rugged paths of sci-
" ence: this kind of life is not suitable to
" us."

“ us.” Thinking however some relaxation needful, and finding the society at Aranjuez, although cheerful, not unprofitable, I determined to prolong my stay.

Here I often met one of my travelling companions, the tall French colonel, looking exceedingly dejected; his gloom was manly, yet increasing daily, it seemed at last to border on despair. Part of his eventful history had escaped from him on the journey, the rest I collected from his friends. A Frenchman serving in the Spanish army is sufficient to bespeak misfortune. His was an affair of honour, not uncommon among the officers in France, in which he had killed his colonel. Without loss of time he fled, and, being of a good family, he was strongly recommended to the Spanish court, where, as a brave officer, he met respect. Wherever he served, his conduct was admired; and had he been either discreet or fortunate, he must have risen high in his profession. His person and address were graceful, his understanding strong, and well informed, but for want of prudence, his ambition was sacrificed to his love of pleasure. As a man of gallantry, with such accomplishments, his
 empire

empire must have been extensive: his vanity was flattered; but if he felt attachment, it was for one, from whom he had nothing to expect, but what the warmest affection could bestow. With her he spent every thing he had, and having exhausted his credit in Barcelona, where his regiment was quartered, he procured an exchange with an officer who was going to Mexico. No sooner was this arrangement unalterably fixed, that his friend and patron, general O' Neile, was appointed governor of Zaragoza, where he would have been soon provided for. This circumstance he felt severely, and this, together with a painful separation, his load of debt, his want of credit, his approaching journey, and long voyage, without money in his purse, or any resources but in his wit, was sufficient to depress the highest and the most independent spirit. Had the duke de la Vauguyon known of his distress for cash, he would have offered his assistance; but this man was born to be unfortunate. To complete the whole, he had not been ten days at sea, before news arrived, that the viceroy of Mexico, to whom he had the strongest commendations, was dead.

A man may choose his situation, but this once chosen, it is the situation which most frequently makes the man.

Te facimus, fortuna, deam, caeloque locamus.

Soon after my return to Aranjuez, I had the honour to dine with the prime minister, Count Florida Blanca. The company consisted of the foreign ministers, who are invited every Saturday, and his under secretaries. This assemblage may appear incongruous, but it is not so; because these gentlemen, having been well educated, and trained up in the various civil departments of the state, and from thence dispatched into foreign countries as secretaries of the embassy, where they learn the language, and acquire knowledge, they have higher claims than those, who have similar employment in the other courts of Europe. When they return to Spain, considered as servants of the public, they are received into the various offices, and have each his several department, one France and England, another the Italian courts, where they assist in expediting business. To them a foreign minister can explain at leisure, with clearness and with freedom,

in

in his own language, all that he wishes to have distinctly stated to the prime minister. From this office they are commonly promoted to some honourable and lucrative employment, as the reward of their long services.

I was struck with the elegance of the dinner, in which there was great variety, yet every thing was excellent; and had I been to form a judgment of the count, merely from the arrangement of his table, I should have pronounced him a man of sense. It is an old, and perhaps a well-founded observation, that no man is fit to govern an empire who cannot give a dinner to his friends.

The manners of the count are easy and polite, such as evidently mark the school in which he has been trained, distinguished not by familiarity but by the most pleasing attentions.

At the beginning of the dinner, I was much surpris'd to hear myself address'd in English by the favourite servant of the count, who brought me a dish, telling me, "you will find this excellent." Out of compliment for his civility, I helped myself,

self, but had no sooner began to eat, than he brought me a second; and in like manner a third and fourth. It seems Canosa, for that was his name, had been a Spanish messenger, and having received civilities in England, he was happy to remember them. As long as I continued in Spain, he never lost an opportunity of paying me attention, and of rendering me every service in his power. His good will is courted by the whole corps diplomatique, because he not only can procure for any one an audience, in preference to all others, but can give the best advice as to the time and season of demanding one. It is natural for the foreign ministers to understand this matter; but the grandees, proud, haughty, and unbending, wait for admittance, or, wearied with attendance, go away without having been able to obtain it. I saw one of the old nobility sitting thus unnoticed in the anti-chamber, and I am credibly informed, that whilst they are attending, men of little consideration are instantly admitted to the count, and going away are succeeded by others, who have no greater pretensions than themselves to this distinguished favour,

But

But under a despotic government, the great lords must submit to be treated with contempt. If they will be respected, they must be free; and if they will be free, they must be contented that the people should be so too; because liberty, if not equally extended to every order in the state, must in time be lost. This truth, founded on observation, and confirmed by the experience of all nations, is a truth of all others the least pleasing to the great; a truth, the force of which is seldom felt till it comes too late to be of service.

As soon as dinner was over at the count's, coffee was called for, and the company dispersed. The Spaniards went to their fiesta, and I wandered about till Mr. Lifton did me the honour to introduce me at the Dutchess of Berwick's, where a pleasant party constantly assembled to drink tea and sup, when there was no ball; for all the time the court was at Aranjuez, the Dutchess de la Vauguyon gave two a week, and the Dutchess of Berwick one.

At a ball, to which I was invited by the former, I had the happiness to see Madame Mello dance a volero. Her motions were
so

so graceful, that whilst she was dancing she appeared to be the most beautiful woman in the room ; but she had no sooner retired to her seat than the delusion vanished.

This dance bears some resemblance to the fandango, at least in sprightliness and elegance ; but then it is more correct, than that favourite, yet most lascivious pantomime. The fandango itself is banished from genteel assemblies, and justly so. As danced by the vulgar, it is most disgusting : as refined in higher life, covered with a most elegant yet transparent veil, it ceases to disgust ; and, from that very circumstance, excites those passions in the youthful breast, which wisdom finds it difficult to curb. This dance must certainly come to them by tradition from the Moors. The music of it has such a powerful effect on young and old, that all are prepared for motion the instant the instruments are heard ; and, from what I have seen, I could almost persuade myself to receive the extravagant idea of a friend, who, in the warmth of his imagination, supposed, that were it suddenly introduced into a church or into a court of judicature, priests and

3

people,

people, judges and criminals, the gravest and the gay, would forget all distinctions, and begin to dance.

One night, after a ball, as I was going to my hotel, on turning a corner, I saw at a little distance a gentleman entering through a window, but not upon the ground floor, whilst his friend, or confidential servant, was on the watch below. Without knowing what I was doing, I ran up towards him; but, upon better recollection, I made off as quick as possible, happy in having escaped the dagger, which my imagination painted as prepared to keep off all intruders.

The motions of the court are nearly uniform from day to day.

Whilst at Aranjuez the king commonly amuses himself with fishing till the middle of the day, when he returns to dine, like every other branch of the royal family, in public. After dinner, follows a short conversation with the foreign ministers, which being finished, they retire to the garden; and he, accompanied by the prince, leaving the palace about three or four in the afternoon, goes twenty or thirty miles to shoot, following his sport as long as he can see.

The

The two infants, don Gabriel and don Antonio, either for the sake of health, or to keep them out of mischief, are obliged to go a shooting to some other district, and this every day. If they return early enough, they mount their horses, and attend the princesses in their evening ride.

The old fashioned courtiers dine at half after one, immediately on returning from the palace, but the more modern, at two o'clock, and the foreign ministers between that and three.

In the evening, after the fiesta, the princesses, attended by their guards, the grandees, and some of the foreign ministers, enter their coaches, and move slowly on, saluting each other as often as they pass.

By the side of this long extended mall, is a pleasant walk, well filled with company, and in which the princesses occasionally walk. If they are on foot; the whole company follows in their train: when passing in their carriages, all stand still to make their bow; and the cloak, which was flung loosely back, or held up, or tucked under the arm, and the flap, which was cast negligently over the left shoulder, is let fall, and hangs like the undertaker's

dertaker's cloak, when walking at a funeral. It is pleasing to see the genteel young Spaniard in his *capa*, which he throws into a thousand graceful forms, each remarkable for its peculiar ease and elegance, such as no foreigner can imitate; but when he meets a person of superior rank, or when he goes into a church, ease and elegance are banished by decorum, and this *capa*, so much to be admired, degenerates into the stiffness and formality of a cloak.

The Spanish ladies discover the same taste in wearing the *mantilla*, a kind of muslin shawl, covering both the head and shoulders, and serving the various purposes of the hood, of the cloak, and of the veil. No foreigner can ever attain their ease, or elegance, in putting on this simple dress.

In the Spanish women the *mantilla* appears to have no weight. Lighter than air, it seems to supply the place of wings.

One evening, when this public walk was thronged with ladies, many of whom were richly dressed; on the tinkling of a little bell at a distance scarcely to be heard, in one moment all were upon their knees.

Upon

Upon asking a lady what was the matter, she told me, that *bis majesty* was passing. Had I enquired of a Frenchman, he would have said, "C'est le bon Dieu qui passe." Her look pointed me to the spot, where two ladies of fashion, well known, and highly valued by all foreigners who have visited Madrid, had quitted their carriage to the host, which the priests were carrying to some dying christian. Had it been the rainy season, they must have done the same; and had the public walk been even wet and dirty, none would have been excused from kneeling.

The heat, towards the middle of June, became exceedingly troublesome; and, notwithstanding the many allurements of this delightful spot, made me pant for some cool retreat. But, before I quitted a place, to which I might never more return, I determined to explore the environs.

The country is divided into vallies by long chains of gypsum mountains, running nearly east and west, or north-east and south-west. One of these vallies is occupied by the *Calle de la Reyna*, a beautiful plantation of lofty elms more than two miles

miles in length. At the end of this I turned to the right, and climbed the mountains, where the royal deer range unrestrained by either bounds or fear, except when they see the king approaching.

I returned from my walk through the town to see the amphitheatre for the bull feasts, and the new convent which the king's confessor has made him build for the monks of his own order.

Another morning I walked with Mr. Liston to see a *cortijo*, or farm, of some hundred acres, belonging to the king. His majesty has two such near Aranjuez; but this, they say, much exceeds the other. The vines are here all of the choicest kinds. Some idea may be formed of its expected produce, by the dimensions of the cellars, of more than fifteen thousand feet in length, besides other considerable ranges intended to receive the juice of the grapes, flowing in copious streams from two strong presses. The olives, produced here in great abundance, are pressed by conical iron rollers, elevated above the stage or floor, round which they move on two little margins, to