

not by any means be weakened in the least, much less could it be dissolved. Nothing then remained, but to get rid of them with as little injury as possible to their persons and their property.

In vindication of this transaction, many champions have appeared, and among them no one seems to have paid more attention to the subject than D. Fonseca, in his work called *Justa Expulsion de los Moriscos*. Some of his charges are, however, unworthy of his good sense and gravity, serving only to evince the sovereign contempt in which the Catholic faith was held by the Mahometans. I shall refer to them in order, as they stand, and this chiefly with a view of pointing out the means made use of for the conversion of those infidels. Speaking of the Moriscoes, our author says,

When, being conducted to church by the alguazil, they were compelled to take the holy water; they treated it with every expression of contempt; and when the host was lifted up, *le daban bigas por debajo de la capa*; (p. 90.) that is, *they thrust their thumb out between the two middle fingers*; which, in Spain, is the greatest possible indignity

dignity and token of defiance. This, however, they did *under their cloaks*.

They neither left legacies in their wills, nor did they give money to procure masses for the souls of their departed friends, unless when compelled to do so, and then they came to the priest with half a real to purchase half a mass. (p. 92.)

When they were dragged to the confessionals, they would not acknowledge themselves guilty either of mortal, or even of venial sins. (p. 100.)

Out of twenty children born to them, they carried one only to the baptismal font, and him they baptized twenty times, under twenty different names, and even lent this child from one village to another. (p. 106.)

They *ill treated* the images of the saints, which they were obliged to receive into their houses. (p. 128.) That is, such was their abhorrence of every thing bearing the least appearance of idolatry, that, to express their indignation, they forgot good manners; and these images were found in the most indecent places, with their heads downwards, and other marks of sovereign contempt

contempt upon them. (v. Geddes Exp. of the Morisc.)

Should the measure itself be vindicated under the plea of necessity, yet the mode in which the expulsion was conducted can never be approved; for the Moors had only sixty days allowed them to dispose of their effects: yet, in quitting the kingdom, they were not to carry out gold, silver, precious stones, unless under the heavy duty of fifty per cent. nor even letters of exchange; but only merchandize purchased of native Spaniards. By their expulsion, houses went to ruin and decay, lands were left uncultivated, commerce was neglected, and manufactures felt the severest shock, a shock such as some scarcely survived, whilst others were wholly lost. The sudden departure of this multitude left a vacancy which it was not easy to fill up, more especially by a nation, which, having for the space of seven centuries been trained to war, and inflamed only by military ardour, had learnt in that long interval to look down with contempt upon all, who were engaged in the mechanic arts, and more especially to despise

despise those occupations in which their antagonists excelled.

Numerous privileges and immunities enjoyed by the *hidalgos* or knights, sometimes called *hijos dalgo*, have contributed very much to confirm hereditary prejudices to the detriment of trade. Their depositions are taken in their own houses. They are seated in the courts of justice, and are placed near the judge. Till the year 1784, their persons, arms, and horses, were free from arrest. They are not sent to the common jails, but are either confined in castles, or in their own houses on their parole of honour. They are not hanged, but strangled, and this operation is called *garrotar*, from *garrote*, the little stick used by carriers to twist the cord, and bind hard their loading. They cannot be examined on the rack. They are, moreover, exempted from the various taxes called *pechos*, *pedidos*, *monedas*, *martiniegas*, and *contribuciones reales* and *civiles*; that is, from subsidies, benevolence, and poll tax, or *taille*, paid by the common people, at the rate of two per cent. in this province, but in others at the rate of four. They are free from personal service, except
where

where the sovereign is, and even then they cannot be compelled to follow him. None but the royal family can be quartered on them. To conclude, the noble female conveys all these privileges to her husband and her children, just in the same manner as the eldest daughter of the titular nobility transmits the titles of her progenitors.

The proportion of hidalgos in the kingdom of Granada is not considerable; for out of six hundred and fifty two-thousand nine hundred and ninety inhabitants, only one thousand nine hundred and seventy-nine are noble; whereas, in the province of Leon, upon little more than one-third that population, the knights are twenty-two thousand. In the province of Burgos, on four hundred and sixty thousand three hundred and ninety-five inhabitants, one hundred and thirty-four thousand and fifty-six are entitled to all the privileges of nobility; and in the Asturias, of three hundred and forty-five thousand eight hundred and thirty-three, nearly one-third enjoy the same distinction.

The two high courts of chancery in
Spain

Spain are at Valladolid and Granada. The president of the latter honoured me with a statement of the various offices and officers belonging to his court, and subject to his authority. They are as follow :

- 16 Oidores, or civil judges.
- 8 Alcaldes del Crimen, or criminal judges.
- 2 Fiscales, or attorney and solicitor-general.
- 1 Alguazil Mayor, or high constable.
- 1 Secretario.
- 104 Abogados, or counsel.
- 12 Relatores de la Civil, or reading clerks.
- 1 Teneinte Chanciller Mayor ; vice-chancellor.
- 2 Teforeros de Penas de Camara y gastos de Justicia, or treasurers.
- 1 Contador ; accomptant,
- 16 Escrivanos de Camara ; scriveners or notaries.
- 6 Relatores del Crimen ; criminal reading clerks.
- 5 Escrivanos del Crimen.
- 2 Escrivanos mayores de hijos dalgo.

- 8 Porteros.
- 3 Agentes de los Fiscales.
- 40 Receptores, to recover fines.
- 32 Procuradores ; solicitors.
- 32 Alcaldes de barrio ; constables.
- Alcaldes de Corte.
- 11 Alguaziles de Corte.
- 6 Escrivanos de Provincia.
- 1 Repostero.
- 1 Alcayde de la Carcel de Corte ;
jailor.
- 18 Porteros.

The municipal government is in a *corregidor*, twenty-four *regidores*, and twelve *jurados*, or in a lord mayor, aldermen, and common-council-men ; with two *alcaldes mayores*, one *alguazil mayor*, thirty *alguaziles ordinarios*, three *escrivanos de Cabilda*, twenty-four *escrivanos del numero*, thirty-two *escrivanos reales*, one *alcaide de la carcel-real*, or jailor of the royal prison.

These likewise are subject to the president of the court of chancery.

During my stay in this delightful city I paid several visits to Don Fr. Antonio de Gardoqui, one of the inquisitors, in whom

I found

I found a man of superior talents, well informed, and of remarkable humanity. After I had been one evening with him in his coach, attended by his associate, to take the air in the *paseo* or public walk; the archbishop did me the honour to examine me respecting my feelings, and, in a pleasant manner, asked me, how an English clergyman, a teacher of heresy, could venture his person in a coach between two inquisitors? I told him, that when I had the honour to dine with those gentlemen at his grace's table, I had watched them narrowly, and observed, that they ate *beef* and *mutton* like other men, and concluded thence, that I had nothing to apprehend from them. The idea struck him; he laughed heartily, and assured me, that the inquisitors of the present day were become more gentle than their fathers, and seldom regaled themselves with human flesh; but, said he, look sharp, for they have not yet forgot the taste of blood.

This was true; for although the *Quemadero*, when I went to view it, appeared to be neglected, and was suffered to decay; yet, not more than eight years before, two

Jews and a Turk were burnt upon it; and in the year 1726, the inquisition seized three hundred and sixty families accused of being secretly attached to the Mahometan religion. The accusation, in all probability, was true; because the court of the inquisition, amidst many imperfections, is remarkable for investigating facts; and even to the present day, both Mahometans and Jews are thought to be numerous in Spain, the former among the mountains, the latter in all great cities. Their principal disguise is, more than common zeal in external conformity to all the precepts of the church; and the most apparently bigoted, not only of the clergy, but of the inquisitors themselves, are by some persons suspected to be Jews.

Whilst I was at Granada, I had an opportunity of seeing a wretch hanged for robbery and murder. He had been twelve months under sentence of death, before he was ordered for execution. From that time he remained for some days under the direction of a priest, who gave him instructions, received his confessions, granted him absolution, administered to him the last sacraments,

craments, with the blessing of the church, and left him in the full assurance that, thus prepared, he should go immediately to paradise.

This triumph of christian charity over wholesome policy is universal, and to be found in every part of Spain ; where, before the ministers of justice are permitted to execute the sentence of the law, the ministers of grace approach the criminal to administer all the consolations of religion, and to deliver him from the fear of death.

Just as I was entering the *Plaza nueva*, the poor wretch was standing on one ladder, with a halter fastened round his neck, and the hangman from another was preparing to spring upon him. After a few hours, his body was decently interred.

The environs of Granada are delightful ; the public walks are pleasant ; and the country, all round the city, appears to be well cultivated. Going out one evening by the way which leads to Malaga, and turning to the right, by the *Paseo de jaraqui*, I wandered among the market gardens. These appear a perfect wilderness of fruit-trees, and yet are covered with the most

luxuriant crops of all kinds of vegetables. Every cottage has a little court, or bower, formed by a lattice-frame, and wholly shaded by the vine; under which, in the evening, the peasant, with his family, assembles to take refreshment; whilst the nightingale from every tree is uttering his plaintive note. These gardens are all plentifully watered.

Of the public walks, the two most frequented are, one on the banks of the *Genil*, with cooling shades and refreshing fountains; the other, more wild and romantic, by the side of the *Daro*, a river known among the Romans by the name of *Auro*, and so called from the quantity of gold collected with its sand.

In one of my rambles near the *Cartusa*, I stumbled on a beautiful specimen of schist, carrying iron and white mica, with numerous dodecaedral garnets, brought down from a higher level by the torrent. Ascending about a mile by the side of the ravin, I continually discovered more, and, had not a scorching sun compelled me to retreat, I should have laboured to find out the source from whence they came.

This

This scorching sun is highly beneficial to the production of nitre, at the salt-works near Granada; where, with about one hundred men, employed during the summer, and twenty-six in winter, government obtains three thousand quintals annually. But then the lixiviating water is not carried by men, as in Madrid, but conducted by pipes to every filter.

To procure the proper kind of earth, they observe the spots which, early in the morning, appear black, and towards noon become white round the edges; this they collect, and find that land, on which has been laid much dung, is the most productive. Once collected, it will endure for ages; and, having been exposed to the influence of the sun and of the air, yields the same quantity as at first on every subsequent filtration. In the places where they find this earth, there is neither limestone, chalk, nor gypsum; and, ashes being extremely scarce, none are used at the bottom of the filters.

I have already considered this wonderful production as a merchant; and happy should I be, were I qualified to discuss it with any satisfaction as a chemist.

Here a thousand questions crowd in upon the mind. From whence does this earth collect the vegetable alkali, whence the nitrous acid? Supposing the former to be originally the result of putrefaction, yet, after the earth has been lixiviated, and all the vegetable alkali has been carried off by water, how is it impregnated afresh, merely by exposure to the sun and air; and where does it obtain this inexhaustible supply both of the alkali and its combining acid? But, if we reflect, that, with the nitrous salt, there is constantly found muria, or sea-salt, in considerable quantities; whence does it derive the fossil alkali, and whence the muriatic acid, not once, but upon every subsequent exposure?

It is well known that old mortar produces six kinds of salt: for, beside the two just mentioned, both the nitrous and the muriatic acid are found combined with magnesia and with calcareous earth. But, if we recollect, at Añover and Aranjuez we saw Epsom and Glauber's salt, with the muria and the nitre, and both those salts contain vitriolic acid.

Here, then, new questions will arise. What is the relation between these various substances,

substances, of chalk, magnesia, the fossil and the vegetable alkalis? What connection can we trace between the muriatic, nitrous, and vitriolic acids? and, Is there one common principle of acidity?

This question will be both more natural and more interesting, when we consider, as far as relates to England, France, and Spain, the only countries which have come under my observation, that, in proportion to the quantity of sun, the chalk is found impregnated with vitriolic acid, and forms selenite or gypsum. At least it may be observed, that in our island we have much chalk, and little gypsum; that in France both these substances abound; whilst in Spain, there is very little chalk, and a profusion of gypsum, more especially in Arragon, and in the southern provinces. Indeed a learned naturalist, who resided many years in Spain, and traversed it in all directions, with a view to minerals, assures us, that he had never discovered there the least vestige of chalk. (v. Bowles, p. 13.) But I have already noticed it in one place; and in the neighbourhood of Granada it is likewise found, although I was not able to identify the spot,

His

His observation is however ingenious, and worthy of attention. He never met with it; I saw it only at Cervera, here, and at Picacente.

The connection between chalk and gypsum became evident to me from the moment that I discovered flinty gravel in the latter, precisely such as we always meet with in the former. Hence it seems to be plain, either that chalk was gypsum, and has lost its vitriolic acid, or that gypsum was once chalk, and has made this acquisition. I am inclined to adopt the latter hypothesis: and, if this be the true one, we must inquire whence has it derived the acid? Was the chalk impregnated with the vitriolic acid, whilst it remained covered by the waters of the ocean? or is the acquisition subsequent to that grand revolution to which I have frequently referred? Should we suppose the latter, and should we be inclined to seek the principle of acidity in the solar ray, we may perhaps be confirmed in this idea by the consideration, that, by means of green vegetables and water exposed to its meridian influence, all modern chemists have produced *vital*, that is *dephlogisticated* air, in
great

great abundance, always in proportion to the quantity of light, or, in other words, to the greater or lesser influence of the solar rays: and that saltpetre, by distillation, produces the same kind of air, in the proportion of twelve thousand inches to a pound, leaving behind the vegetable alkali uncombined with acid.

Should we be inclined to grant, agreeable to the experiments of Dr. Ingenhoufz, that vegetables by day emit vital and by night mephitic air; considering that Mr. Cavendish produced nitrous acid by the combination of *vital air* with atmospheric *mephitis*, in the proportion of seven to three, we should not be at a loss for a never-failing source, from whence this acid may arise.

These speculations might be pursued, and, observing that one pound of nitrous acid, distilled on mercury, yields one thousand eight hundred and eight cubic inches of *nitrous* and one thousand nine hundred and four of *vital air*, we should be confirmed in our opinion that we have discovered the origin of the sought-for acid.

Nitrous air is obtained from animal substances simply by putrefaction, or it may be
had

had by the combination of *inflammable* and vital air: for, as Dr. Priestley has remarked, in the Philosophical Transactions of the 27th of November 1788, "When either inflammable or dephlogisticated air is extracted from any substance in contact with the other kind of air, so that the one is made to unite with the other in what may be called its nascent state; the result will be *fixed air*; but, if both of them be completely formed before their union, the result will be *nitrous air*."

Thus, in the various facts and observations above related, we may see the intimate relation and connection between inflammable, fixed or mephitic, and nitrous air; that the two latter result from the combination of the former with vital air in given quantities; whilst, with a greater proportion of vital air, we obtain *nitrous acid*; and that, of these its constituent principles, in warm climates, animal substances are, by their putrefaction, constantly producing one, whilst vegetables, by day, are as constantly pouring forth the other.

In the neighbourhood of Granada are some considerable plantations of the sugarcane,

cane, which, as I am informed, yielded profit during the war; but are now attended with a loss. Political writers have lamented the loss sustained by Spain in the neglect of this once-flourishing branch of agriculture; as if some fertilizing stream had been cut off, or diverted from its accustomed channel. They would have their country produce every thing it wants, and become thereby both richer and more independent. But in this they forget the benefits of commerce, and the advantages derived by it from the exchange of surplus commodities, when every nation cultivates and produces that, for which the local situation, the soil, the climate, and the genius of the people, are most adapted. Thus, in the neighbourhood of Granada, the land allotted to the sugar-cane would produce good corn; and the fair question is, Since they cannot have them both, which will be most profitable?

I took notice, in my excursions round the city, that all the corn-mills have horizontal water-wheels. These are suited to the country, and on the whole are best for them.

The

The nature of society I found nearly the same as in other inland situations, where the manners of the inhabitants derive no tincture from intercourse with strangers. The morning is employed, either in business, by those who have any thing to do, or, after mass, in visits to the ladies. They dine early, and eat after the Spanish fashion, with the *sopa*, the *olla*, and various kinds of meat stewed in their little pitchers, excepting at the president's and archbishop's, where the French cookery prevails. After dinner they go to the *fiesta*: in the evening to the *paseo*. When the day closes, they assemble at the *tertulia*, or evening assembly, to which they have access, and here they commonly amuse themselves with some round game at cards.

As for morals, they are much like the rest of Spain: the monks are exceedingly corrupt, and the women have no want of lovers to admire their charms. Yet in justice to them I must observe, that, according to the information of Father Porro, a famous confessor, there are numbers who are uncorrupted by the manners of the age, and who excel, not merely in the form but
in

in the power of their religion. These, said he, are not accessible to strangers. Silent and retired, they are scarcely either seen or heard; and therefore, added he, a stranger passing through the country is in danger of being deceived in the judgment which he forms, if he too hastily draws general conclusions.

Before I left the city, I inquired, as usual, into the value of provisions.

Beef sells for nineteen quartos, that is something under five pence a pound of sixteen ounces.

Mutton twenty-three quartos, or nearly six pence halfpenny, in the city: but in the adjacent villages at twelve quartos, or three pence three-eighths.

Bread four quartos and a half, or five farthings and a fraction.

Oil fifteen quartos.

Wine eight quartos the quartillo.

Labourers have four reals, or nine pence halfpenny nearly, per day. Artisans twice as much.

When I was about to leave Granada, my good friend Don Antonio de Gardoqui, the inquisitor, sent me a ham, some chocolate,

and six bottles of old wine, as my stock of provisions for the journey.

The distance from Granada to Carthage is computed to be fifty leagues; and for a good mule to carry me I agreed to give two hundred reals, or forty shillings nearly, being at the rate of five shillings a day; not allowing for the return, because the mule belonged to the *corsarios*, or public carriers.

Thursday 26th April, we left Granada. Near the city the hills are cultivated and covered with vines; but, as we advance, the country becomes more wild and broken, with high and rugged rocks laid bare and destitute of soil. The intermediate plains are abandoned to the Esparto rush, *stipa tenacissima* of Linnæus, the quercus *coccifera*, the juniper, and a few miserable ilex.

The rock is chiefly schistous, often covered with limestone; and the surface is scattered with white quartz, which seems to have been formed in the schist, where it appears in considerable veins.

On these high mountains we saw many monumental crosses: but not one is recent, because,

because, the police being here well established, and the laws now put in force, robberies are seldom to be heard of, and no murder has been committed the last twenty years.

After having travelled about six leagues we came to a village among the mountains, comprising about one hundred and seventy families. It is called *Diezma*.

As I travelled the whole day fasting, I hastened to the butcher's to see what was to be had. There I learnt the price of provisions, and found that mutton sold usually for twelve, beef for eight quartos (two pence farthing) the pound of sixteen ounces; bread for six and a half. For wine I paid three quartos the quartillo. But, unfortunately, neither beef nor mutton were to be had; and, to fill up the measure of my consolation, at the *posada* I could obtain no bed, nor yet a room.

What could be done? The day was closing, and it began to rain. The alcalde was to be sought for; but he was no where to be found. At the end of a long search, I met him returning from the field, and, after a short salutation, presented him my

pass; yet to little purpose, for he could neither write nor read. We went next in pursuit of the *escrivano*, but he was not at home. At last, however, we found a peasant, who had learnt to read and write. The pass was produced, and submitted to an accurate examination. It required, that I should be provided with *every thing needful*, at a reasonable price.

The alcalde having listened to it with attention, inquired what I wished to have. I replied, a bed. A bed! no such thing is mentioned in the pass. But, if *your mercy* will have the goodness to observe the expression, *every thing needful*: no, no, a bed is not *needful* to a traveller; he may do very well without one. I told him, with great humility, that it was for *his mercy* to judge of what the pass implied, and began quietly to retire; when, seeming to recollect himself, he ordered a billet to be made out.

With this I went to my destined cottage, where a bed was spread upon the floor, and I went supperless to rest, having had little for the whole day but some hard eggs, and, for want of a cork-screw, such

wine

wine only as the vineyards, in the neighbourhood produced.

The next morning the good people of the house prepared my chocolate; and, when I was to take my leave, no persuasions could prevail on them to accept of money for my bed.

From *Diezma* we began descending, and soon came into a spacious plain, bounded on the south by the mountains of the Sierra Nevada; rich in its soil, but too far removed from habitations to admit of cultivation, and therefore abandoned to the esparto rush. From this plain we continued to descend by the side of a wide and deep ravin, in which appear many horizontal strata of rock, separated from each other, ten, fifteen, and even twenty feet, by beds of clay, sand, and gravel. Having left the ravin, we came to a little village, called *Parillena*, shut in by high cliffs of the same materials, with some beds of unmixed gravel. Here many of the habitations are merely excavations in the earth.

At night we came to *Guadix*, having travelled from *Granada* twelve leagues by

computation, or, as I conceive, about fifty miles.

All the way on the right, towards the Sierra, the country has a most singular appearance, looking like the stormy ocean; and the innumerable pointed hills seem to have attained, what may be called their quiescent state, being no longer fretted, washed away, and ravaged by heavy rains and vernal torrents. Protected by herbage, they are now fed by every shower, and at this season of the year exhibit a delightful verdure.

It is evident, that the formation of these hills is of recent date, and subsequent to the general resolution, which took place when the horizontal strata, for ages covered by the waters of the ocean, were lifted up to view, and became the habitable portion of our globe. At that period, the whole of this country appears to have been one extensive plain; but, being composed of soft materials, and subject to violent and heavy rain, it was soon torn in every possible direction by gullies, which, in process of time, became deep ravins, till, the mouldering angles of high cliffs being washed away,

away, the wide expanse was left covered with hills, whose pointed tops, as we may here observe, are all on the same level.

The elevation of this country is so great, and such is the influence of the adjacent mountains, covered with eternal snow, that the vineyards shew no signs of vegetation; whereas at Malaga, eighteen days before they were covered with leaves and fruit.

Guadix, situated at the foot of the Sierra Nevada, is a considerable city, and a bishop's see. It is divided into five parishes, and contains eight thousand three hundred and fourteen inhabitants, with seven convents, five for monks, the other two for nuns.

At the entrance to the city is the *alameda*, or public walk, well planted, and remarkable for neatness.

The *cathedral* exhibits three orders of architecture, Corinthian, Composite, and Anomalous. The front is whimsical, yet pretty. The inside is Doric and Corinthian. The marble, from the vicinity of this city, is beautiful, and of various colours, red, grey, white, and green.

There are here some manufactures of hemp, flax, and silk; but the situation is

far from being favourable to them. The article for which this city is most celebrated being pocket knives, the first attention of my guide was to purchase one; and when we set forwards on our journey the succeeding day, he produced it.

The blade was sixteen inches long, and, when open, it was prevented from shutting again by a strong spring. Although this was the first of the kind I had ever seen, my imagination immediately suggested the purpose for which it was designed. Having produced his weapon, he began to brandish it; then, supposing himself to have been suddenly attacked by some one, armed with an implement similar to his own, he stooped forwards, bending his knees, and holding his hat before him, by way of shield, in his left hand; whilst his right hand, depressed and grasping hard the handle of his knife, directed its elevated point. Thus prepared, and casting a look of fury on his supposed antagonist, he sprung forwards, and, appearing to have received in his hat the thrust of his opponent, he gave the fatal blow, which was to enter at the lower

belly, and in one instant to rip up the miserable wretch from end to end.

These knives are strictly forbidden; but, unfortunately, inveterate custom is too powerful for human laws, more especially in a country where the passions are easily inflamed; and where, from the nature of the judicial process, the laws must be weak in the extreme. For, as we have remarked already, no information can be taken but by the *escribanos*, nor can any judgment be pronounced but upon their record. Now as these officers are usually poor, and not unfrequently destitute of principle, they may, without much difficulty, be persuaded to change the complexion of an action, and at pleasure to make it either black or white. Hence, from impunity, assassinations are frequently committed; and, as little security can be derived from the laws, it becomes the interest of every man to be armed for his own defence. With this view only he procures the formidable weapon; but, when provoked to anger, his views are changed; that which was designed for his own protection, becomes the instru-

ment of treachery, of malice, and of revenge.

Throughout this elevated country, there is little appearance of cultivation, although many considerable tracts of land, over which we passed, are good, and much of it might be watered. The natural productions are pines, juniper, savine, rosemary, with other aromatic herbs, Spanish broom, and the *passerina hirsuta*, but chiefly the *esparto* rush.

Whilst traversing these mountains, the snowy tops of which are lost in clouds, we observed many flocks of goats, some of them numerous, and one consisting of five hundred; but we saw no sheep. As we advanced we met nine waggons, and a long drove of asses, loaded with flax, going to Granada. The leader in these droves is always distinguished from the rest, and will never suffer another to usurp his place.

The waggoners and drovers were all assembled, and, being seated on the grass before the doors of a *venta*, that is, a solitary inn, were eating for their dinner some snails dressed with rice. As we approached, one of them respectfully rose up, and invited

vited us to partake of their repast. We as respectfully declined the offer, and proceeded to another venta, at the distance of about four leagues from Guadix.

Near this place I had an opportunity of observing the strata, and found them composed promiscuously of quartz, flint, schist, and limestone gravel, all rounded as by the action of water.

The *trillo* was smaller than any I had seen before; and, instead of flints, had forty bars of iron to cut the straw.

Soon after we had left this venta, we began descending by the side of a *baranco* or ravin, and with the highest satisfaction entered the rich vale of *Baza*. Yet even here the vines had not begun to bud.

Baza is said to contain six thousand five hundred families. The cathedral is scarcely worth attention. The organ indeed is large and handsome; but the great altar is antiquated, and void of taste.

Below the city is an extensive well-watered plain. The soil is very white, and, although remarkably strong, is tilled with the plough last described, without either coulter, fin to the share, or mouldboard;
yet

yet the wheat appears tolerably good, but the barley is very bad. They plough with mules.

From hence, ascending for near two leagues, yet still traversing the same plain, which is bounded every way by snowy mountains, in a circumference of about thirty miles; we discovered, that through this whole extent of country the natural rock is gypsum, and from that circumstance arises the whiteness of the soil in the subjacent plain. The strata appear to be horizontal, and are many of them composed entirely of double lenticular crystals of selenite, like those of Montmartre, in the vicinity of Paris.

Nitre is remarkably abundant over the whole extent of this gypseous country.

On Saturday, April 28, in the evening, we came to *Cullar de Baza*, a wretched village, with many habitations excavated in the rock of gypsum. Previous to our departure, the succeeding day, it was indispensable that we should go to mass.

Here I observed, that, as the chapel was not sufficiently capacious to receive all the people who attended; many stood on the outside,

outside, where they could neither see the officiating priest nor hear his voice. When however, the sound of a little tinkling bell, had reached them, they smote upon their breasts, and, having crossed themselves, their devotions for that day were ended. Being at liberty to spend the remainder as they pleased, some began to amuse themselves with sports and pastimes, others worked in their gardens, and some went out to plough.

The little valley, which supplies this village, is about a quarter of a mile in breadth, inclosed by barren gypseous mountains; and although it is well watered, and consequently fertile in flax, hemp, and wheat, with vines on the more elevated spots, yet the population bears too great a proportion to the extent of land susceptible of cultivation.

Looking down upon so rich, yet such a contracted spot, we instantly and evidently see that the human race, however at first, and whilst their numbers are limited, they may rejoice in affluence, will go on constantly increasing, till they balance their quantity

quantity of food. From that period two appetites will combine to regulate their numbers. Beyond that period, should they continue to increase, having passed the natural limits of their population, they must suffer want. In these circumstances, beholding many of the poor, naked, and half starved, should they inadvertently ordain, that no one in their community should want, that all should have food, and every man an habitation; is it not obvious, that they would aim at impossibilities, and that, by every effort to relieve distress, they would only extend the bounds of human misery.

This subject is highly interesting, and should be thoroughly discussed; but, as I have treated it professedly in a Dissertation on our Poor Laws, and often occasionally in this work, I shall drop it for the present.

All the way from Cullar de Baza to *Vertientes*, three tedious leagues, we keep winding among the hills, which are covered with rosemary and aromatic herbs, but chiefly with the esparto rush and a few straggling pines. Here we saw no sheep.

The whole country is given up to goats. Of these we admired one flock, containing two thousand, all as white as milk, feeding among the rocks, and scattered on the sides of a high mountain.

As we approached the puerto, or pass, we observed a few sheep among the goats, and some droves of pigs feeding round the scattered ilex.

Vertientes, so called from the parting of the waters, has twenty-five families; and *Contador*, at a little distance, has twenty more.

Beyond this pass the prospect opens, and, in proportion as we descend from the high country, where the waters divide, one portion passing by the Daro to the Xenil, and thence by the Guadalquivir into the ocean; whilst the other, by a shorter passage, is precipitated with the Guadalentin, near Carthagena, into the Mediterranean sea. In proportion as we descend, vegetation begins to feel the influence of a warmer sun; the soil becomes more fertile, and all its productions appear luxuriant. The esparto rush, which in those elevated regions could scarcely be distinguished

guished from grass; at a lower level becomes long and rampant. The vines begin to shoot, the lark is warbling in the air, and throughout a wide-extended valley the crops every where promise an abundant harvest.

At the distance of a league from *Vertientes*, or, according to the expression of my guide, of a league as long as *Lent*, is *Chirivél*, a village containing a hundred and fifty houses, which, with fourteen others, including all the adjacent country, and one third of the tithe, is the property of the Dutchess of Alba. Here they have neither beef nor mutton; goats flesh sells for ten quartos, or $2\frac{1}{4}$ pence a pound of sixteen ounces; and bread for two quartos and a half, or $\frac{2}{3}$ of a penny.

From hence we descend three leagues in the wide channel of a torrent, shut in by high hills and rugged rocks of schist; all the way to *Velez el Rubio*; where the country again opens on the view, and the vale expands.

This town is said to contain three thousand families, with one solitary convent, and a beautiful church; built by the Dutchess

Dutchess of Alba, to whom the town and the adjacent lands belong.

The Posada makes a magnificent appearance, and, for a Spanish inn, may be called commodious; but, considering the expence the Dutchess has been at for the advantage of the public, more attention should have been paid to the comfort of genteeler travellers. The rooms, destined for their reception, are of a good size, and communicate by means of a spacious gallery. But the whole of the ground floor is abandoned to the carriers, and consists of a small kitchen, with a vast repository, designed at once for the lading of their mules, for their entertainment, and for their dormitory. Here their noise and riot, resounding through the house by means of the long gallery, is intolerable; and, as the kitchen is open, they are constantly crowding round the hearth to procure their suppers, leaving the mistress of the posada no *leisure* to pay attention to any guests beside themselves.

The town is commanded by a castle formerly strong, now going to decay.

They have no beef. Mutton is sold for
8 twelve

twelve quartos a pound, ($3\frac{1}{2}$ pence), goats flesh for ten, bread for four.

From Velez you pass over an open and a fertile plain, till you reach the confines, and from the kingdom of Granada enter Murcia. Here the prospect changes; and, instead of a level country productive of grain, and not destitute of fruit trees, you meet with nothing but hills, barren, wild, and desolate, the resort of wolves, and covered chiefly with the esparto rush.

To guard this pass, a castle, called *Xixena*, formerly a place of strength, was erected on the summit of a craggy rock, and its ruins still preserve a respectable appearance. The rock is schist.

As we drew nigh to *Lorca*, we overtook numerous droves of asses, loaded with pine-wood, cleft for the service of the hearth; and observed the Tamarisk, with the Nerium Oleander in great abundance.

Here the soil is white, and the gypsum rock appears.

After having passed three days in these elevated regions, constantly in sight of snow, and exposed to the severity of the winter's cold, the sudden transition to the
heat

heat of summer, as we descended into the plain, was more striking than agreeable. No sooner were we arrived near Lorca, than we observed multitudes of swallows, and when we came into the city, we were pestered with myriads of flies. On the mountains vegetation ceased, whilst at a lower level the peasants were engaged in the toils of harvest.

The hardships to be endured in the journey from Granada to Lorca, can be fully comprehended by those only, who have passed this way. With respect to living, it is bad; with regard to lodging, it is worse. I had indeed taken the precaution, or rather my friend the inquisitor had the goodness to provide a ham, and six bottles of good wine, but to little purpose; for unfortunately the ham had been neither boiled nor watered; and in this whole extent of way, and indeed in the whole tract of country between Granada and Carthagena, no vessel could be found big enough to boil it in, nor any thing deeper than a frying-pan. At Cullar de Baza I had ordered it to be dressed; and a traveller, who had joined me on the road, recommended that

it should be boiled in wine. I gave orders accordingly, and I paid for the wine; but when, in the morning, I attempted to cut some slices, I found it was raw, and upon examination, found that my ham had been for hours over a little bit of fire, and in a vessel fit only for the frying of eggs. My wine occasioned equal perplexity, for I had no screw, and could neither procure a fork to draw out the cork, nor was there room to thrust it in. Patience, and a penknife, however, at last relieved me from this part of my distress.

The first night of my journey I was so happy as to be in a place, where my passport could procure a bed; but in a succeeding night, being at a *venta*, had not the good gypsies, for such they were, spread their own for me on the floor, I could have found no resource. They indeed at first refused; but when they saw that I was ill and fainting, they took compassion, and with cheerfulness resigned the bed, reserving, however, for themselves the chamber in which it had been spread.

But in Lorca, after having regaled myself with a good supper, and slept soundly in a
comfortable

comfortable bed, I forgot all former hardships.

Lorca is a considerable city on the banks of the Guadalentin, and contains, in nine parishes, twenty-one thousand eight hundred and sixty-six inhabitants, with eight convents for men, and two for women. It had lately manufactures of silk, wool, and linen, but these are gone to decay. Should the canal, intended to run up into the country, and to form a communication with Carthage, be carried into execution, trade will revive, and agriculture, by the watering of more than three hundred thousand acres of good land, will receive fresh vigour; for such is the effect of moisture, in this warm climate, that, in a rainy season, the farmers have received a hundred for one upon their wheat.

The salt-petre works are here extensive, and appear to be conducted at a small expence of fuel.

I was delighted with the public walks, resembling the parks at Oxford, but upon a more extensive scale, and more beautiful, because the corn-fields, inclosed by them, are watered. Here, in the evening, the

inhabitants assemble to take their exercise, and to enjoy their social intercourse under the shadow of the lofty trees.

The parade for the militia is spacious, and after sun-set affords a pleasant walk.

Of the convents, those most worthy of attention are S. Jago, S. Domingo, and La Merced.

The great church has nothing remarkable within, excepting a curious grant from the bishop and the dean, of forty days indulgence every time any penitent shall say a pater noster and an ave maria to six saints, named in the grant, provided this be done for the benefit of the souls in purgatory.

The front of this church is elegant, the columns numerous, the architecture is Corinthian and Composite. Here every criminal may find a safe asylum.

An old castle, standing on the edge of a high rock, formerly the object of dependence, or of terror, is now regarded with indifference.

As we traversed the plain, after having turned our back upon this city, we took notice of the tillage. The land is strong,
the

the ploughs are similar to the one last described, and in these are used two asses. With such apparently bad husbandry, how astonishing must be the influence of the sun, to produce upon their watered crops of wheat a hundred-fold in proportion to seed!

Near the city we remarked olives in abundance, with many mulberry-trees; and took notice of numerous flocks of sheep, but saw no pens for them. The shepherds were attended by strong dogs, armed with spiked collars, whence I collected that wolves find shelter on the mountains.

My guide talked to me of some lead and copper mines in this vicinity, but I had no opportunity to visit them; yet I saw clearly, by the nature of the mountains, that minerals must abound in them.

As we increased our distance from Lorca, we lost sight of cultivation, and ascended among hills covered with esparto rushes, yet not altogether destitute of other vegetable productions, such as are more pleasing to the sight. Among these, the principal were the *spartium*, or Spanish broom, the perium oleander in a few favoured spots,

the *passerina hirsuta*, and the lovely cistus in abundance.

The soil is white with gypsum; yet the rocks on the mountains to the right and left appear to be of schist. Nitre, both on the hills and in the vallies, might be collected in the greatest plenty, and at a small expence.

Here the peasants wear short trowsers, and buskins, called by them alpargates, which are made with the esparto rush. Of these a man is able to manufacture two pair a day, and requires for his own use one pair every fortnight, being at the rate of about twelve shillings a year for this article of dress: whereas in Granada, where the shoes are made with hemp, and cost three reals, a pair will last three months, being at the rate only of two shillings and four pence per annum.

After having travelled seven leagues, we came to a village, called *la Penilla*, containing fifty scattered cottages. It is situated on the elevated tract of land, which is interposed between the two vales of *Lorca* and of *Camponubla*. The soil is calcareous, and produces, of wheat, eight for one; but

of barley twenty-four for one. A few mulberries, figs, olives, and prickly pears, by their luxuriant growth, serve to shew what the country, if duly cultivated, is able to produce. The barley is already housed, and the wheat is nearly ready for the sickle.

The land lies healthy, without the least sign of stagnant water; the springs are more than a hundred feet below the surface, and the inhabitants are remarkable for being free from tertians and from putrid fevers, whilst the vallies suffer exceedingly from both.

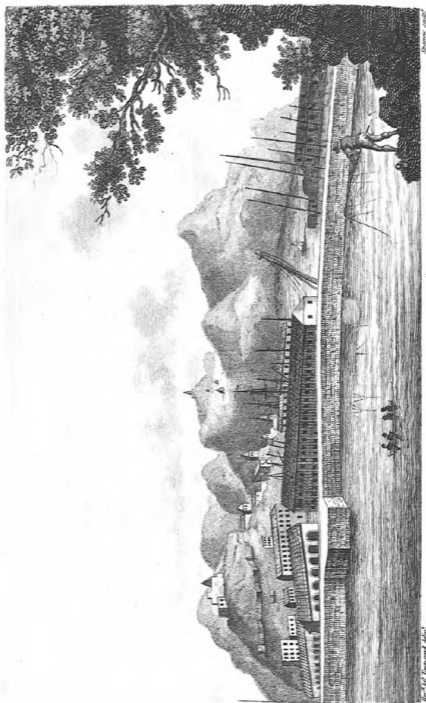
They have here no great proprietor, nor *vinculo*, as they express it. That is, the estates are freehold, and not entailed. Nothing, therefore, is wanted but a market to promote their industry. Bread sells at four, and mutton for ten quartos the pound.

We left la Penilla at six in the morning, and traversing a level country, shut in with high mountains and craggy rocks of schist, we came to the pass, and from thence descending to enter the vale of Carthagena, beyond the summit of the hill, we lost the

limestone for near a league, and found the schist; but, leaving that behind us, we again met with calcarious earth and limestone, whilst all the higher rocks are evidently schist.

Near the summit is a noria, with water at the depth of ten feet from the surface.

Wednesday, May 2. I arrived at Carthage, about the middle of the day, and found a most hospitable reception in the family of Mr. Macdonell, an English merchant established there.



A View of the City, Harbour, & Dock Yard of Cartagena.

CARTHAGENA.

CARTHAGENA occupies the declivity of a hill, with the little intermediate plain between it and the harbour. This city is protected from the south and from the west by high mountains and barren rocks; but to the north and to the east it is open, and communicates with an extensive valley.

This valley, as we have seen, is separated from the plain of Penilla by a ridge of hills, which is a continuation of the mountains above mentioned; whilst, to the north, another chain of mountains divides between it and the vale of Murcia.

On the summit of the hill, commanding the city, is a castle now going to decay; but, on the adjacent heights, are raised considerable works to defend the harbour, with the arsenals and dock-yard.

They

They reckon here sixty thousand souls, distributed in fifteen thousand families.

The streets are wide, and the houses are commodious. They have generally flat roofs, which, in a climate like this, administers to the comfort of the inhabitants, affording them a cool retreat, where, after sun-set, they may assemble to enjoy the refreshing breeze; and, as the rainy season is of short duration, these are sufficient to protect the interior of their mansions from humidity. The new parade, extending east and west at the head of the harbour, and looking through its entrance into the Mediterranean, is built on a regular plan: and, as a high schistous rock has been cut away to make room for this long range of habitations, excellent vaults are excavated behind each house, for the service of the merchants. At the end of this stands the royal hospital, a vast establishment, destined to receive the sick from the dock-yard and the army, with the *presidiarios*, or criminals condemned to the galleys, and in Spain reduced to the lowest state of servitude.

The cathedral, a miserable pile, is now degraded, and the bishop's see being removed

moved to Murcia, it is become a parish church.

Of the convents not one appeared worthy to be noticed; but the proportion allotted to the men is certainly remarkable; because, of nine, eight are occupied by them. Yet I could not learn the reason for this neglect and want of provision for the sex, whose helplessness, whether in the state of orphans or of widowhood, pleads powerfully for such a refuge; and who by nature are most suited to the devout and peaceful engagements of the cloister.

I wished to have visited the dock-yard: but, when I left Madrid, knowing that I should meet Mr. Macdonell, I neglected to solicit letters of recommendation, and, for want of an order from the court, I was not able to procure admission. My loss, however, was the less to be regretted, because I had visited the arsenals at Cadiz, and because every part of this dock-yard may be distinctly seen, either from the adjoining hills, or from the houses, which look down upon it.

In the midst of the yard is a spacious basin, and in it the ships of war are moored,

ed, each in front of the magazine destined to receive her rigging and her stores.

The docks are kept dry by fire-engines, and of these, three are almost constantly at work. Considering the enormity of this expence; it appeared to me, that by means of water they might raise a ship to the needful height, and then suffer the fire-engine to rest till water was required to let her down again.

They have here two thousand criminals, chiefly smugglers, who, being condemned to work in chains, are called *presidarios*. These are employed in the most servile labour, some for five, others for seven years; and at the expiration of these terms, they are turned loose upon the public, not corrected nor trained to habits of industry, but vitiated by the society of thieves, and unfitted to pursue the occupations, to which they had been originally trained. Before the introduction of steam-engines, these wretched creatures were obliged to work at the chain pumps; but such was their malignity, arising from despair, that many, watching their opportunity, would throw stones,

stones, nails, and bits of iron, into the pumps, to spoil them.

These two thousand slaves require five hundred soldiers constantly to guard them; and, independently of this expence, they cost each to government five reals a day for their maintenance; whilst their work cannot be estimated at one-tenth of what they eat.

This absurd practice of employing convicts in the public service, is no longer confined to Spain. We have adopted it in our more enlightened island, as may be seen at Portsmouth, where the master general of the ordnance finds employment for two or three hundred criminals, who are better fed than the most sober, honest, and laborious of our peasants. Their daily allowance amounts to more than eighteen ounces of bread, with nearly a pound of butchers meat, an ounce of cheese, a quart of soup, nearly a quart of beer, and plenty of potatoes. Thus fed, with good clothes, a comfortable lodging, and light work, is not their condition to be envied by the industrious poor? Yet such, to the nation, is the expence, that the charge

charge for each individual is more than sufficient to maintain a family.

If, at Carthagena, we calculate the allowance for their convicts, omitting the soldiers' pay, we shall find thirty-six thousand five hundred pounds expended, beside what is spent for the same purpose in the other sea-ports and garrisons of Spain. Yet, notwithstanding the enormity of this expence, and the cruelty thus exercised on the persons of those, who, under a wiser government, might have been profitable citizens, such is the effect produced by a vicious system of finance, that neither are these reclaimed nor are others intimidated from treading in their steps; whilst, with regard to the revenue, not merely is little gained in proportion to what is taken from the public, but, by the subtraction of such multitudes from profitable employment, their labour is lost to the community.

In this dock-yard the masts and timber are floated in water, without the least apprehension of their suffering by the worm; because, as they never open their sluices till the water is become putrid, the evaporation,

tion, proceeding with rapidity, leaves a strong brine, in which it is impossible the worm should live; whereas, in the north of Spain, where the evaporation is not sufficient for this purpose, they bury their masts in sand, and by pins prevent their floating, when they are covered by the tide.

The fishery at this sea-port is considerable. It is divided into two branches, perfectly distinct and independent of each other; that within the port being the property of a fishing company, consisting of eighteen associates, established here by charter, whilst, in the open sea, all mariners who are enrolled, are at liberty to fish.

Within the port they take chiefly the atun, or tunny, and the *melvas*; but the former is the most profitable. It is from five to seven feet long, in shape somewhat like a mackarel, but the head is large and the tail is very small; the flesh is brown and flaky and admits of being salted. By this they clear about ten reals, that is two shillings, per arroba, or one penny, nearly, a pound. The *melvas* are purchased by the regidores

regidores for sixty reals, that is twelve shillings, the hundred.

Half the quantity of fish taken in the harbour must be sold for the benefit of the poor, at a price appointed by the regidores; and the king takes one-half of all their profits, amounting to about a thousand pounds a year, as a compensation for his claim of one quarter of their fish. They are not allowed to follow their occupation in the night, lest they should take that opportunity for smuggling. In addition to these impediments, the regidores take the best fish themselves, at their own price; and, whilst they purchase at sixty reals, they sell again at a hundred, dividing the plunder among themselves. Till the year 1750, the corregidores, alcaldes, and regidores, claimed the privilege of taking the best fish without paying for it, under the title of *postura*, that is, a bribe or recompense for fixing the price; but, by a royal edict, that practice was prohibited; and now, if they resolve to plunder, it must be circuitously.

In the open-sea the fishermen enjoy more freedom from oppression, and have peculiar privileges.

privileges. Their fresh fish is disposed of in the market, free from the alcavala, millones, arbitrio, and every other tax, only subject to the regulations above related, by which their profits are reduced; but as a compensation, for their salt, supplied from the royal magazines, they pay one real per fanega less than others to the king, and have six months credit. They export their salt fish duty free; and for home consumption, whilst foreign fish pays ten they pay only two per cent. in lieu of alcavala and millones to the crown. Yet they complain of being plundered by the intendant of marines, from whom they are to obtain their licence, and allege that he likewise robs them of their fish.

The magistrates, if called upon by the fish-carriers, must fix a reasonable price on baskets, casks, and package, and must determine what shall be paid for the weighing of their fish.

Here they make great quantities of the *esparto* ropes and cables, some of them spun like hemp, and others platted. Both operations are performed with singular rapidity. These cables are excellent, because

they float on the surface of the water, and are not therefore liable to be cut by the rocks on a foul coast. The esparto rush makes good mats for houses, *alpargates* for peasants, and latterly it has been spun into fine thread for the purpose of making cloth. If properly encouraged, there is no doubt that the manufacture may be brought to such perfection, as to make this once useless rush a source of abundant wealth to the southern provinces of Spain.

We have remarked, this rush, as the peculiar and natural production of all the high and uncultivated mountains in the south; and here we cannot help admiring the bounty of providence in thus administering to the wants of man, and giving abundantly in these dry and elevated regions, where neither hemp nor flax will grow, materials proper for his clothing, and for the employment of his industry.

The Spanish government, in order to derive a revenue from this valuable article of commerce, began, A. D. 1773, with laying a duty of two and a half per cent. on the exportation of the manufactured rush, and nine maravedis per arroba on the raw material.

material. But some few years after, willing to confine the manufacture altogether to their own subjects, they proceeded further, and forbad the exportation of the raw material; yet, unmindful of their favourite maxims, they have given to John Baptista Condom, of Madrid, a licence, nay an exclusive privilege, of sending it to a foreign market.

The most important production of this country, and the most valuable article of commerce is barilla, a species of pot-ash, procured by burning a great variety of plants almost peculiar to this coast, such as *soza*, *algazul*, *suzon*, *sayones*, *salicornia*, with *barilla*. It is used for making soap, for bleaching, and for glass.

All the nations of Europe, by the combustion of various vegetable substances, make some kind of pot-ash; but the superior excellence of the barilla has hitherto secured the preference. The country producing it is about sixty leagues in length, and eight in breadth, on the borders of the Mediterranean.

The quantity exported annually from Spain is about a hundred and fifty thousand

quintals, paying a duty of seventeen reals per quintal, consequently producing a revenue of twenty-five thousand five hundred pounds a year: yet, as we are informed by Don Bernardo de Ulloa, A. D. 1740, this article was farmed at six million two hundred and sixty thousand four hundred and twelve maravedis, that is £.1,822. 4s. 3d. Were it not for this oppressive tax, the quantity exported might be much increased, because the French, who formerly frequented the Spanish markets for barilla, are now supplied from Sicily, where, next to Spain, the best may be procured.

Carthagena is indebted principally to M. Macdonell for this article of commerce; at least to him must be attributed the flourishing condition to which it has been brought, because, previous to his establishment in this city, little of it was produced in the vicinity, and none was transported from a distance.

All the herbs already mentioned, as yielding the pot-ash, are indigenous, and may be collected in a swamp called *Almojar*, to the eastward of the city. Of the soza I found two species, the one called *blanca*,
the

the other *fina*. These are both good; yet not equal in quality to the *sayones* and *barilla*.

The chief imports are bale goods and bacalao; the latter directly from Newfoundland, under the duty of thirty reals the quintal, or about six shillings the hundred weight. Of bale goods, muslins and cottons are prohibited; yet as many are now brought in as when the ports were open to them, government suffering thereby in the revenue, and the people paying double the former price for these commodities.

In my excursions round the city, I took notice, that the extensive valley to the north, and to the east, is beautifully varied in its form, every where either rising into little tumuli or sinking into bottoms; and although not enriched by any rivers, yet, from a few scattered norias, it is evident, that even the highest land might be plentifully watered. The soil is loomy, composed of calcareous matter, sand, and clay, from the dissolution of the adjacent mountains, which are of schistous rock covered with limestone.

They use oxen for draught; but in til-

lage they employ mules and asses, with the plough last described.

Their course of husbandry is wheat, barley, and fallow. For wheat they break up their land in September, and, after three ploughings, the seed is put into the ground about the middle of November or the beginning of December. In July they reap from ten to a hundred for one, in proportion to the wetness of the season. For barley they move the earth once or twice, as opportunity permits, sowing their land generally in September, but always after the first rain subsequent to the wheat harvest, and receive from thirty to forty fanegas of grain on a fanega of land, or, in other words, from fifteen to twenty for one upon their seed, because a fanega is that quantity of good land, on which they sow one fanega of wheat or two of barley.

A fanega of corn is here three thousand three hundred and twelve solid inches, and weighs a quintal, that is, one hundred pounds Spanish, or one hundred and two pounds and three quarters avoirdupois; and among the merchants five fanegas and a quarter are reckoned equal to eight Winchester bushels of

two thousand one hundred and seventy-eight solid inches; but upon a rough calculation, two fanegas of grain may be reckoned equal to three bushels, and one fanega of land may be considered as three quarters of an acre.

For their fallow crop they often sow barrilla, and get from ten to twelve quintals on a fanega; but if, for want of rain, they are disappointed in the proper season for wheat, they sow that land likewise with barrilla; and supposing the market price to be forty reals the quintal, it is found more profitable than a good crop of wheat. The average price is considerably higher; but as the commodity rises and falls between wide extremes, it is sometimes sold for twenty, and at other times for a hundred and twenty reals the quintal.

They grind all their corn by wind-mills. I counted thirty near the city; and water is so scarce, that M. Macdonel pays thirteen pounds a year only for the carriage of it for the service of his family.

The trees most common in the valley are, elms, poplars, olives, figs, pomegranates, mulberries, apricots, palms, palmitos, and the ginjolero. This last bears a little fruit resembling, both in size and

form, the olive, but with a smaller kernel, and remarkable for sweetness. The leaf is something like the ash, but of a darker green, with a shining surface.

The palmitos (*Chamærops humilis*) grow about two feet high, with leaves on a long stem spreading like a fan. They bear good dates in clusters, and the root is excellent, resembling the artichoke. Between each coat is a fine texture of fibres, like network, commonly used instead of hemp for charging and for cleaning guns.

I have remarked already, that the rock is schist covered with limestone; but in some places we find the silicious grit or sand stone, with shingle or smooth gravel and sea-shells; and at no great distance from the city is a mountain, from whence they obtain the gypsum used for plaster. The whole country abounds with saltpetre.

Of diseases, the most endemical are intermittent and putrid fevers. These arise from the proximity of the extensive swamp already mentioned, containing many hundred acres, which might easily be drained, so as to produce the most luxuriant crops. In the year 1785, during the three autumnal months, they lost two thousand five hundred persons,

persons, and the succeeding year two thousand three hundred more; yet the *Almojar* remains undrained. Government, indeed, exerted its authority, but not in the most effectual manner, for the relief of the inhabitants.

When the report of this calamity had reached the court, an order was dispatched to the physicians, that no other medicine should be administered to the sick, than the famous one prescribed by Don Joseph Masdeval, and called by him his Opiate, of which the following is the formular :

℞ Sal absinth,

— Ammoniac optime depurati āā ʒ i.

Tartari Stibiati, termino clariori Tartari Emetici gr. xvij. triturentur per horæ quadrantem, deinde adde & optime misceantur Pulv. Cort. Peruv. ʒ i.

Syr. absinth q. f. fiat Opiata.

Of this he gives one-sixth part every two hours, with one spoonful of the following mixture :

℞ Aq. viper ʒ v.

Aq. benedict Rulandi termino clariori Vini Emetici ʒ j.

Cremor Tartari pulv. ʒ j. m.

With

With these medicines he interposes plenty of broth, and continues to use them till the patient is restored to health.

In a conversation I had with him at court, he informed me, that the common operation of these medicines was at first to act as an emetic or cathartic, often bringing away lumbrici; but being continued they relieved the stricture on the external surface of the body, promoted perspiration and acted sometimes as a diuretic. He assured me, that in the most desperate cases, the disease had given way at the end of four days, after he had begun to administer his medicines; and he did me the honour to shew me a variety of attestations from medical men, in almost every part of Spain.

That I might have no doubt of the true nature of the disease, he related the usual symptoms, such as, in the beginning, a remarkable prostration of strength, with intense pain both of the head and of the back; intolerable thirst; the tongue foul, dry, black, chopped, and trembling, when protruded; pulse small, hard, quick, and intermitting; parotid glands swelled; urine
limpid

limpid at first, but turbid in the progress of the disease; respiration difficult; the white of the eyes become red; petechial spots on the arms and breast; hands trembling; watchfulness at first, followed by propensity to sleep perpetually without consciousness of having slept; delirium; noise in the ears, followed by deafness; involuntary tears; coldness of the extremities; quivering of the under lip; and, if the patient were ill treated, death.

From this description, there could be no doubt of the disease; but, as to the operation of the medicines, that certainly will admit of some discussion. On the common principles of chemistry it is evident, that a double decomposition takes place, and that the tartar emetic is reduced to an inert calx. I must acknowledge, that when first I was informed of this curious medicine, I was inclined to think, that the tonic power of the bark enabled the stomach to bear this extraordinary quantity of tartar emetic, but on more mature consideration it seems clear, that, being decomposed, this active medicine has lost its efficacy; and I am confirmed in this idea by
a fact

a fact related to me by Dr. Masdeval, when I had the honour to meet him at the Escorial. He had prescribed this opiate to a monk, who was in the last stage of a *typhus* or putrid fever; but the nurse by mistake gave the whole quantity at once, thus administering eighteen grains of tartar emetic at one dose, yet without any other visible effect than abating the violence of all his symptoms. I am therefore satisfied, that the cleansing of the alimentary canal must be attributed to the emetic wine, and that the operation of the famous opiate would be nearly the same either with or without the stibiated tartar, and must be ascribed wholly to the bark.

The physicians of Carthagena were willing to allow this medicine all the credit, which was due to it, and to prescribe no other whenever they should be convinced that this might be used with safety; but to be precluded in all cases from the use of other remedies, they thought, would be unreasonable. They therefore sent their remonstrances to court; but in answer, there came an express order from the king, that they should be subject to the intendant of the

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the dock-yard, and should prescribe according to his directions.

On the receipt of this mandate from the court, the intendant immediately assembled the physicians, and made known the royal pleasure, informing them, that in case of disobedience, the prisons were prepared, and the guards in waiting to execute his orders. They expostulated, but to little purpose; and being told that nothing short of absolute submission would be accepted, they consented to prescribe the opiate in all cases, and, to evince their sincerity, they signed a certificate, that no other medicine was so efficacious as this recommended by the king.

The people, however, were not so submissive to the royal mandate, and knowing that the physicians were engaged not to vary their prescriptions according to the exigency of the case and the variety of diseases by which they might be attacked; they absolutely refused to send for medical assistance, and resolved to take their chance for life or death. When therefore information was carried back to court, that the physicians were likely to be starved, and the people

to die for want of their advice ; the minister relented, and agreed to compromise the matter, leaving the sons of Æsculapius at liberty to follow their own judgment for the citizens at large, and compelling them to administer no other medicine, beside the opiate, to all the patients in the royal hospital.

This perhaps is the first instance of despotic power controlling the functions of physicians, and prescribing uniformity to that class of citizens in the line of their profession.

The municipal government of Carthage is in a military governor, with his alcalde mayor ; thirty regidores, whose office passes by inheritance, if not previously sold ; and two syndics, chosen by the people as their peculiar guardians.

The governor is the supreme and independent judge for the army, and for strangers settled in the country, whilst his alcalde presides in the tribunal for the citizens.

Nothing can be more vicious than this form of government by hereditary regidores, who may here be called the thirty tyrants : yet to render the yoke still more intolerable, the *escrivanos del numero* succeed likewise by inheritance, and may even sell their

office in shares, to be served by a deputy. Although the *syndics*, like the Roman tribunes, are chosen by the people, it is under the influence of the *regidores*; and as they are appointed only for a year, they dare not exert themselves in the discharge of their duty towards their fellow-citizens.

It is reported, that in consequence of this vicious system, both the *regidores* and *escribanos* are constantly intent on plunder. Certain it is, that many sources of speculation are open to the former, beside the one already mentioned, in setting a value on provisions; but the principal, and those, most generally noticed, are, creating new offices for themselves or their dependants, with more than ample salaries, and distributing among themselves large sums under pretence of destroying locusts, where few or none are to be found; after which they make false reports to government, and procure such vouchers for their watchfulness, activity, and zeal, that they obtain high encomiums when they deserve the most severe reproof. Not long since, they expended three hundred thousand reals, or about three thousand pounds, and then levied

vied the whole by an *arbitrio* or tax on the inhabitants, although no one could imagine, what part of the adjacent country had been infested by the locust. To complain of these abuses would be dangerous; and to such an extent is the venality increased, that every citizen is anxious to secure the favour and protection of a regidor, as the only means of safety for his person and his property. This circumstance is sufficient to evince the viciousness of government, and the mal-administration of the laws; for wherever patrons with their clients are to be found, we may be certain that the laws are weak, and that violence hath usurped the throne of equity.

In consequence of this want of energy in government, murders and assassinations are frequent in Carthagena, and for many years not one offender has been punished for these crimes, because the most atrocious villain, unless miserably poor, may find refuge in the rapacity of the *escrivanos*.

Want of fidelity to matrimonial vows is equally prevalent at Carthagena, as in the other provinces of Spain.

It

It was here that a gentlemen one morning said gravely to his friend, " Before I go to rest this night, the whole city will be thrown into confusion." This he himself occasioned by going home an hour before his usual time, to the no small vexation of his wife and of her *cortejo*, whose precipitate retreat, and unexpected arrival in his own house, occasioned the like confusion there; and thus by successive and similar operations, was literally fulfilled the prediction of the morning.

I have already traced the corruption of morals to one grand source, the celibacy of the clergy; but here it must be observed, that this operates only as a pre-disposing cause; whilst the occasional cause, by the acknowledgment of those, who are most competent to judge, must be sought for in the introduction of Italian manners on the arrival of Charles III. from Naples, with the previous want of reasonable freedom in the commerce of the sexes.

If in addition to these I might venture to assign another cause for this universal depravity of morals, I should seek for it in the want of admonition; because the secular

clergy seldom, if ever, preach. The monks indeed descant upon the virtues of their patron saint; or labour to extol some favourite señora, and to set up altar against altar; but they seldom appear solicitous to improve the morals of the people; and excepting during Lent, they do not often exhort the people to repentance. Their contemptible effusions have been justly ridiculed by a Spanish author, who, in point of wit and humour, has had few superiors; and all who have read his entertaining history of the famous preacher, *Fray Gerundio*, will acknowledge the justness of his censure. Had not this work been most absurdly condemned by the inquisition, the same reformation might have been effected in their pulpit eloquence, as was happily produced in England by a similar performance of our Echard, entitled, "Grounds and Occasions of the Contempt of the Clergy."

Such has been the poverty of Spain in point of pulpit orators, that neither monk nor ecclesiastic, among all with whom I conversed, could recommend one author, as worthy to be noticed; and even in the present

present day, if a preacher of more than common abilities appears, he is admired as a prodigy, and almost worshipped as a saint.

Precisely such was a famous capuchin, Father Diego, of Cadiz, who visited Carthage, whilst I was there, and every evening preached in the great square to more than ten thousand people. Many of his admirers assembled early in the morning to secure good places, but as he did not begin till after six, the magistrates gave orders that no one should be allowed to take a seat till two in the afternoon; yet finding the tumult and confusion, the broken chairs and broken heads, thereby increased, they permitted every one to use his own discretion, and consequently, some more zealous than the rest, again took their stations soon after sun-rise.

The good father is learned, eloquent, and modest; and although the vulgar ascribe to him a variety of miracles, he disclaims all such pretensions.

This man, licensed by the bishop, and protected by the magistrates, was constantly attended by a guard, to prevent his clothes

from being torn from his back for relics. What he spoke was heard with the most profound attention; and after one discourse on the forgiveness of injuries, many were reconciled, and became good friends, who had been before at enmity. One sermon, however, had a pernicious tendency; yet so deeply is a sense of honour, of gratitude, and of filial piety impressed on the human heart, that few appeared to relish his doctrine, or to be convinced by his arguments; but most of his hearers seemed to shudder with abhorrence, when he endeavoured to persuade them, that in cases of heresy, they were in duty bound to accuse, at the tribunal of the inquisition, their nearest and their dearest friends.

Before I left the city I enquired into the price of beef and mutton; the former was sold for twelve, and the latter for thirteen quartos the pound of sixteen ounces.

A quarto is one farthing and an eighth English.

J O U R N E Y

F R O M

CARTHAGENA TO ALICANT.

ON Tuesday, May 15, at seven in the morning, I took leave of my obliging friends, and set out for Murcia in a calasine; and traversing the vale by which I had entered Carthagena; at the distance of four leagues, I came, about noon, to the *Venta de Jimenao*. After dinner, in about three hours, we left the valley, and ascended by a beautiful new road among the mountains, most of which are cultivated to their very summits.

The reason of this high cultivation, and of the extraordinary fertility of the vale, from which we had ascended, appears to be the constant mouldering of the high and tender schistous rocks, by which the soil is renovated

and fed unremittingly with a rich and loamy clay.

By cutting through the hills to make the road, they have discovered vast strata of shingle or smooth gravel, of white quartz, of limestone, and of silicious grit.

As we ascended, we met two waggons loaded with garlic, and my guide assured me, that what I saw was the weekly supply for Carthagenæ.

In descending towards Murcia, I took notice of one monumental cross, and by the inscription, it appeared that a traveller had, three years before, been robbed and murdered there.

The vale of Murcia is equally rich, and rich from the same cause as that of Carthagenæ; but it certainly exceeds in beauty every thing I had seen in Spain. The soil is a rich loam, well watered; and the wide expanse appears like a well cultivated garden. Oranges and lemons, olives and mulberries abound; and the whole valley swarms with such multitudes of men, all active and usefully engaged, that they resemble bees, when employed in collecting honey, or returning loaded to the hive. Be-
ing

ing dressed in white they are the more conspicuous. They have only a linen waistcoat, and short trousers.

As we approached the city, one of the *corsarios*, or common carriers, who accompanied us all the way, had the misfortune to break a basket committed to his care, and thereby the greater misfortune of discovering the contents. After this accident I observed him pensive, and evidently saw, that although tempted, he at first resisted his inclination. At length he took one cake, closed the basket, and turned away his eyes; but by degrees he seemed to get the better of his scruples, and before we reached the city, he had almost cleared the whole. Had he met with the temptation sooner, I am inclined to think that not one cake would have arrived at the place of its destination. I smiled at his simplicity, and pursuing my reflections on the various temptations incident to human frailty, I arrived at this conclusion, that ignorance of evil is the best guardian of our innocence.

The entrance to Murcia is by a straight and spacious avenue, well planted, and well watered; to the right and to the left of

which the land, with water in abundance, produces the most luxuriant crops.

The city is divided into eleven parishes, with a cathedral; and contains, by the last returns to government, fifteen thousand families. It has nine convents for nuns, and ten for friars.

As soon as I arrived, I hastened to the cathedral, whose lofty tower had, from a great distance, attracted my attention. The front is elegant, with sixteen marble columns of the Corinthian order, and thirty-two images as large as life. One of the most striking features about this edifice, is a chapel of the Marquis de los Velos, an hexagon, covered with a dome, in the Gothic taste, which is both light and elegant. Round this chapel is a stone chain curiously wrought.

I was much disappointed, when I entered the cathedral, to find the interior of it so little correspondent to the expectations excited by the beauty of its front. Indeed there is nothing in it remarkable, beside the pictures and the jewels.

Of two silver altars, one is plain; the other, for high festivals, is more ornamented,

mented. One *custodia* of silver, for the elevation of the host, or consecrated wafer, weighs nearly six quintals and an half, that is, something less than six hundred weight; another contains eight pounds and four ounces of the purest gold, with six hundred emeralds, and many valuable diamonds. One vessel somewhat similar, only used for preserving the consecrated wafers, and called *el copon*, has five pounds of gold, beside many brilliants of considerable value. On the right-hand of the altar is a massive urn of silver, four feet long, two and a half wide, and four feet high, containing the ashes of the two bishops, Fulgentius and Florentinus. Over this, a little chest of gold and silver, highly wrought, contains one hair taken from the beard of Christ, and sent from Rome by Cardinal Velluga, who was bishop of this diocese.

It would be endless to enumerate all the jewels belonging to this church, forming a mass of treasure, which, if in circulation, would animate the general industry, and be productive of new treasures to the country, as far as its influence could extend.

The sacristy allotted for the reception
of

of this wealth, is in the centre of a vast tower, constructed like that of Seville, but at present not quite so high. When finished it will be more lofty by ten feet than that famous edifice. As you ascend, not by steps, but by inclined planes, you go round the sanctuary, a spacious apartment destined as a refuge for assassins, where they may be equally secure both from the sword of justice, and from the dagger of revenge.

In this voluntary prison I saw two murderers, who had each his bed. They attended me up the tower, and appeared happy to converse; but I had so little expectation of hearing truth, that I did not urge them to relate the circumstances, which brought them to that melancholy dwelling.

From the top of this high tower you have a delightful prospect, commanding all the valley, with the circumjacent mountains. From hence you look down upon the city, every way surrounding the cathedral, and itself placed nearly in the centre of the vale; the dimensions of which, extending east and west, are nearly six leagues,
and

and two leagues from north to south. It is bounded on the south by the chain of mountains over which we had passed, and by which it is separated from the vale of Carthagena. To the east it communicates by a small opening of about a league, with the vale of Orihuela and the sea. To the north-west are hills, and beyond these, high mountains bounding the distant view.

The cathedral is built with freestone, distinguished by the name of Pisolite, because it appears to be composed of shells in small fragments, with round globulæ, resembling the spawn of fish. It contains likewise many bivalves and anomia intire.

Of convents, the largest is that of the Cordeliers, but the prettiest is the one allotted to the nuns called *las Capuchinas*.

I was exceedingly struck with the bridge over the *Segura*; magnificent in itself; and delightful for the prospect it commands of the river, the city, the vale, and the distant mountains, all in the most pleasing points of view.

This river being often overflowed during the rainy season, the city would have been long since swept away, had it not been for
a strong

a strong dike, twenty feet wide, and as many high, by which it is protected. This dike, projected merely for the safety of the city, being extended many miles up into the country, affords a pleasant walk to the inhabitants; and as they have fixed here the sacred *stations*, it serves likewise the purpose of devotion. I have already explained the nature of these stations, when describing the convent of the Franciscans at Seville.

No one, who has lived always in a temperate climate, can conceive how much a traveller suffers from the flies, when he passes the summer in the southern provinces of Spain. But of all the cities through which I passed, not one appears to be molested with such swarms of those teasing insects as Murcia. It is here, therefore, that a man may fully comprehend why Beelzebub, god of the flies, should become the title of a being who is held in supreme detestation by the human race. To disperse them, in some houses, they have a large fan, suspended over the dining table, and kept constantly in motion; in others, one of the domestics is unremittingly engaged

gaged in waving the bough of a tree all the time the company is eating ; but the great, have a servant at their elbow, whose sole employment is, with a napkin, to keep off the flies.

My stay was short in Murcia. This city, with its environs, is highly interesting ; but unfortunately, not finding the letter of recommendation to the principal person in his native city, with which Count Florida Blanca had favoured me ; I too hastily concluded that the custom-house officers at Cadiz had lost it, when they examined my portmanteau, and took from me all my letters. I had afterwards the mortification to discover, that they had placed it among my letters to Valencia ; but it was then too late to profit by the discovery. Disgusted with the filth and miserable accommodations of the posada, and having no other recommendation to any person resident in Murcia, after having passed one night in it, I resolved to quit the city.

The posadero, who, like most of the innkeepers in this part of Spain, is a gipsy, assured me, that he paid thirty reals, that is, six shillings a day for rent, and seven hundred

hundred and fifty reals a year for alcavala; yet among all the wretched ventas and posadas I had seen, this appeared one of the most wretched.

His composition for the alcavala is very low, because every arroba of oil, paying five reals, and the pound of butcher's meat three quartos, supposing his consumption to bear any proportion to his rent, the amount must be considerably more than seven pounds ten shillings per annum.

Notwithstanding these heavy duties, *beef* sells for eleven quartos, or a trifle more than three-pence the pound of *sixteen* ounces; *mutton* for thirteen quartos; *pork* is worth fifteen; *kid* sixteen; *bread*, if very white, four quartos.

On Wednesday, May 16, at three in the afternoon, I placed myself in my calasine, and proceeding by the river side, took the road for Alicant.

To the left is an old castle on the summit of a high calcareous rock, which is insulated, pointed like a sugar loaf, and charged with extraneous fossils.

All the crops, such as wheat, barley, oats, peas, flax, hemp, with alfalfa (*medi-*