

date, plunged into a profound melancholy, seemed to struggle with himself whether he should seek within his soul fresh resources against unwilling enemies, or turn his rage against his perfidious allies. The French, on the contrary, were now beginning to mingle threats and indecent oaths with those occasional fits of melancholy, which repeated and repeated proofs of defeat still continued to press upon them, as it were, in spite of their endeavours to the contrary. Not one of them but would tell you, that if every ship had fought like his, the English would have been utterly defeated. Contiguous to my small apartment at the posada was a hall, where a party of five and twenty or thirty French soldiers were assembled every day at an early hour to dinner. The commencement of their meeting was generally silent; but as the repast went on, and the wine passed round, they grew loud in discourse and boastings. One had slain five Englishmen

with his own hand; another seven, and some could not even tell how many they had rid the world of. One more modest than the rest, had only killed three; but how did this happen? An English vessel was preparing to board the ship in which he was. "A l'abordage" was the universal cry of the French. Meanwhile an unfortunate Englishman appeared ready to leap on board, when the ships were almost locked together; this hero brought him down like a crow. A second took his place, and shared the same fate. Strange as it may appear to wondering posterity, a third succeeded, and was immediately sent to follow his companions into the profound abyss. "After this," cried he, with a loud oath, "no more of them shewed themselves there." "Non, non," exclaimed his comrades: "*apres cela ils ne s'y, sont plus montrés;*" and immediately ten of them began to talk at once.

After paying a silent and involuntary tribute of respect to this valorous French-

man, who had only killed three Englishmen, because only three were opposed to him, I almost began to doubt whether my eyes had not deceived me, in the terrible symptoms of defeat which I imagined to have observed on the part of the allies. But the conversation of the naval officers at the public table, where I dined, served to counterbalance these murderous narrations, and to raise my opinion of the French character, degraded by such idle and misplaced rhodomontades. They canvassed with coolness the manœuvres of the two fleets, and the cause of their defeat. One ship had not done her duty, another was overpowered by numbers, and some had deserted them altogether. These and many other causes were alledged; "but after all," said they, "their fire was terrible." *Mais, apres tout, leur feu etoit terrible.* In two things, and only two, did the French and Spaniards agree, in mutually blaming each other, and in reckoning events from or before the battle. Such a

thing happened so many days before the combat, or so many days after it: this was the universal mode of expression. The battle of Trafalgar seemed to form a new epoch, from which to compute events, although not yet marked in the national calendar, like the coronation of an emperor, or the birth of a prince.

The objects of my journey detained me only a few days at Cadiz, through which indeed I had passed, merely as being the most eligible route towards Algeciras. There were several large boats belonging to the latter place, in the port; but not one of them would venture to sea, unless I would ensure them the value of the boat, in case of capture. I therefore mounted once more on horseback, the road being absolutely impassable for any kind of carriage. I had made an agreement for two horses and a guide to Algeciras, for which they obliged me to pay before starting, eighteen dollars. When

I came to set out, however, I found that my guide was no other than the letter-carrier to San Roque, and that consequently I had paid the price of two horses, when in fact I was only furnished with one, at the expence of my contractors. As, however, the postman carried my portmanteau, and could not be objected to as a guide, they insisted that I had no right to complain, and being already paid, they had the best of the argument. From Cadiz the road proceeds along the sandy flat already mentioned, having the sea on the right hand, and the harbour on the left, until we reach la Isla de Leon, a remarkably neat town at the bottom of the bay of Cadiz, and consisting principally of one long and handsome street. As the sea makes a deep indent into the flat country behind it; I was astonished to see vessels of a large burthen as if anchored among the meadows. The situation of la Isla for commerce is therefore very little inferior

to that of Cadiz ; but being at the bottom of a bay, on a low ridge amidst marshes, it could never be made to equal the grand appearance of this latter city, advancing on the point of a low neck of land into the sea. Soon after leaving la Isla de Leon, we cross the inlet of the sea which runs up behind it upon a good bridge, and then travel for some distance on a causeway through the marshes, among which pyramids are erected at intervals to mark the channels for boats, when the country round is overflowed. After quitting this large flat, which extends in a direction inland, almost exactly corresponding to the present outlines of the bay, and leaves no doubt of the sea having once extended thus far ; we rise by very gradual elevations, and on which the soil is yet every where sandy, though in some spots covered with pines. The ride continues thus for four leagues from la Isla, when we reach a solitary house called a posada, in the middle of a large plain

covered with bushes. It was quite dark when we arrived at this miserable place, where all that I could procure was a little bad wine; but before we again set off, the moon began to shed a faint light through the clouds. The next two leagues were to Benalia, over a country diversified by dales and small hills, approaching by degrees towards mountains. Benalia is situated on the top of a very steep hill, at the foot of which is the posada, where travellers generally stop, as being the only decent one between Cadiz and Algeciras. The hills here rise in steep masses which seem to overhang the posada, and near it a brawling torrent swelled by the rains, poured along a channel strewed with huge masses of rock. At this decent posada, I with difficulty procured a dish of bacon stewed with tomatas, washed down by a bottle of miserable wine, of which, and the supper, my guide partook largely, placing himself at my side without any ceremony. Before day-break we

set off, crossing the torrent on a small bridge, and then continuing our road downwards along its banks, with a steep hill on our left. The road which from la Isla de Leon has been little attractive, now becomes more and more interesting at every step. Before us are hills covered with forests, and in the intervening valleys flow a thousand small streams formed by the late rains, and which we are continually occupied in crossing. Beyond the hills, adorned with wood, rise mountains in long ranges, and with summits bare and apparently inaccessible. Before beginning to cross this lofty chain, which lies between us and the sea and bay of Gibraltar, we pass over a fine green plain, surrounded on every side by mountains. The whole of this country is well deserving the close attention of the naturalist; and no Englishman should ever undertake to give a geological account of Gibraltar, without first examining it, they being intimately connected by the great laws of na-



ture, although far disjoined by political arrangements. The mountain belonging to this range, over which we pass, is named la Toche, and is in one part so uneven, with a deep valley close on the left, that the traveller is obliged to alight, unless provided with a horse to which he can thoroughly trust. The sides of this valley, although overgrown with oaks, pines, cork and beech trees, are still so steep, that in climbing upwards along the edge of the mountain, the abruptness of the precipice is scarcely concealed. The path would seem to have been formed merely by the treading of wild animals, with very little assistance from man, so miserably is it constructed, winding through thick woods, and over rocks, fallen trees and small torrents, almost from the base to the summit. When I had reached this point however, and began to descend, I then enjoyed the reward of this toilsome journey, for the most part through heavy rains, and thought no

more of its fatigues. Below me was the town of Algeciras, to the left that of Los Barrios, and the beginning of the mountains which extend into Granada, and in some measure separate that province from Andalusia; and to the eastward of Los Barrios the small town and camp of San Roque. But what immediately and chiefly attracted my notice was the mountain or rock of Gibraltar, forming on the opposite side of the bay a counterpart to that on which I stood; but detached from all others, its summit covered with light clouds, and its base with English shipping, which even from this height and distance were discernible. I stopped for a long time to consider this singular mountain, which from no point is so well seen as from the opposite summit of La Toche. It is thence that we can well observe its insulated situation, surrounded on all sides by deep water, except where joined to the Continent by a low Isthmus of sand; its steep and almost perpendicular sides, nay,

even the tower which stands at the south end of the summit, and the faint outlines of the batteries, which surround the base. Having fully gratified my eyes, the approach of a stormy night, and the repeated hints of my guide induced me to descend. When about half way down the mountain we have a view of a considerable aqueduct across a valley, and which conveys the water to Algeciras. Our path led us in time under one of the arches, and soon afterwards we entered the town, which had at first view, and by this entrance, a miserable appearance. Having carried me to a posada, my guide with difficulty procured me a small apartment, whither he brought my saddle and portmanteau, and then pursued his journey to San Roque. For my part, the fare I had met with on this journey, had been so much more than usually miserable, that a slender repast this evening seemed a luxury, and a hard mattress a bed of down. The posada being near the beach, I heard

at intervals during the night, the roaring of the sea and the howling of the wind and rain, all which only served to reconcile me the more to my situation; so much of our happiness depends on contrast. I should have previously observed that the road from Benalia to the very summit of la Toche was full of parties of French and Spanish sailors taken prisoners by the English at Trafalgar; but liberated and sent over to Algeciras. They were now travelling to Cadiz in a miserable condition, in the midst of rain, many of them without shoes, and lamed by the ruggedness of the paths. They never failed eagerly to enquire how far distant they were from a habitation, and some of them despairing of being able to reach so far that night, threw themselves down, wet as they were, under the trees. Except the dismasted ships at Gibraltar, this was the last of the effects of the battle which came under my observation.

## CHAP. V.

*Algeciras. Gibraltar. General Manners  
and Government.*

**A**LGECIRAS, situated on the western side of the Bay of Gibraltar, was, at the commencement of the last century, a place of little importance, and consisted chiefly of fishermen's huts; but the capture and continued possession of Gibraltar by the English renders a counterpoint in the Bay necessary to Spain, and from that moment it has continued to increase. Its chief trade in time of peace is a contraband one with the English; but it flourishes mostly in war, from the great resort of gun-boats and privateers, which find here a commodious situation for observing and capturing enemy's vessels in the narrow entrance of the Mediterranean. It is built partly on a

flat along the beach, and partly on the slope of small heights, which form the first elevation from the sea towards the mountains behind the town. These mountains appear in general to be about two thousand feet in height, extending in a north easterly direction from the borders of the straits near Tariffa, towards the mountains of Granada, of which they probably form an appendage. They are considerably steep towards the Bay, but still more so on the western side, where they present, as I have already observed, bare summits, apparently inaccessible, and vallies of great depth. From them flow several small streams, which fall into the Bay of Gibraltar. The mouth of one of these streams, named El Miel, forms a creek, the banks on one side of which are steep, but flat on the other, and on this flat stands the lower part of Algeciras. In this part is the market-place, ornamented with a fountain, where the water brought by the aqueduct from the hills

is discharged, and serves to supply the whole town and shipping; very little rain being collected in cisterns. The general appearance of the town by no means belies the first impressions made on descending into it from the mountains, being poorly built, except a few houses belonging to the principal inhabitants; and even they are unworthy of notice, the residence of the governor being inferior in appearance to that of an ordinary gentleman's house in England. The streets, however, are not inconveniently narrow, and the houses being generally built of stone, however rough, have a better look than the mud-walled and straw-thatched houses so common in the western provinces. The inhabitants make great use of flat grey stones to roof their houses. This stone is found in quarries in a bay to the southward of the town, and separates naturally into large laminæ or plates, and is therefore well adapted for the purpose, not being apt to break nor to loosen and blow off in

heavy winds like slates. The chief and indeed only ornament of the town is the tower of the new church in the upper square. It is merely a quadrangular tower of stone, from the top of which the signals made along the coast are answered and repeated. It is partly built out of the ruins of a very ancient tower which stood on the same spot; and it is somewhat singular that the old mortar had become as hard as stone, and has been worked in a similar manner, and employed as such in the new building. The church in its interior regulations partakes in a very faint degree of the magnificence of the churches in the principal towns of Spain; and shews from this material distinction the recent rise of Algeciras.

But whatever may be the general wretchedness of its appearance, Algeciras becomes of importance on two considerations, the one of a partial, the other of a general nature. In 1801 an English squadron, under the command of Sir



James Saumarez, attacked a fleet of French and Spanish ships anchored under the batteries, and were repulsed. An English line of battle ship, the Hannibal, 74, grounded, and having lost nearly half her crew, struck to the batteries. After being taken possession of by the Spaniards, the name was altered to the Algeciras. This event alone would seem to render it a place worthy of notice, and the first question which an Englishman eagerly enquires is, "To what battery did the Hannibal strike?" He is surprized to be shewn a kind of redoubt close to the northward of the town, with a low parapet wall, furnished with six or eight heavy brass cannon, and towards the high road, surrounded principally by a thick hedge of aloes. A few more guns are disposed on the heights along shore; but about a half musket shot from the beach is a small rocky island, on which is built a fort of some strength, and this completes the defence of Algeciras towards the sea. Three miles

to the south is a fine bay, on one point of which stands a Martello signal tower, and a battery of five heavy cannon; but at too great a distance to be of any use in defending the town, being indeed merely calculated to protect the mouth of the bay; and even for that I was a witness of its being of little use.

The fortifications and batteries of Algeciras then, in a military point of view, are as contemptible as the town itself; but what renders it chiefly notorious is the shelter it affords to the numerous gun-boats and small privateers which infest the entrance of the Mediterranean, and the consequent great annoyance to the English commerce. These gun-boats are from twenty-five to fifty tons burthen, with two masts, and large lateen sails. They are full of men; and in calm weather can be rowed nearly four miles in an hour. In general they have a single gun in the bows, carrying a ball of thirty-two or thirty-six Spanish pounds; but sometimes

they are armed with two long twenty-four pounders, either both forward, or one in the bow and the other astern. In a fresh breeze these boats can do little injury, not only because being strongly and heavily built the weight of their guns buries them under every wave, but even were they not to dip, the sudden rise and fall in such small vessels prevents the taking any just aim. But in calm or light airs they are capable of doing much mischief, every thing being then in their favour. With the assistance of their oars they can go ahead and manœuvre round even a ship of war; and should it be quite calm take whatever station they chuse, without it being in the power of their enemy to prevent them. Their guns being of a great length and calibre, they can place themselves out of the reach of most vessels' stern or bow chasers, whilst they fire along the level surface of the water with as much deliberation, and as unmolested, as if firing at a mark. Add to this, a vessel is a large

object, and hardly to be missed by their gunners, however unskilful; whilst they, on the contrary, present only the bow of a boat low in the water, and exceedingly difficult to hit. Such are their advantages in calms or light airs; and it is therefore not to be wondered at that they capture many vessels in a place subject to such capricious currents, and sudden shifts of wind as the straits of Gibraltar. The long wars with England have taught the Spaniards the advantages and disadvantages of these floating one-gun batteries. When there is a breeze of wind they lie quiet under the heights of Algeciras, while the English frigates cruize backwards and forwards constantly in view. But in the calm mornings which commonly succeed the heavy easterly gales, they may be seen rowing out along the shores of the bay in fleets. They are then full of courage, and vow nothing less than the total destruction of their enemies. When arrived in the gut perhaps they behold an English

vessel, which will not obey the helm, carried hither and thither by the violent eddies from both shores. The lust of plunder stimulates them to venture out, in which case the ship, if a merchantman, has little chance of escape. Should they succeed in the capture, all the boats immediately ply their oars, and if the calm continues, soon tow their prize under the batteries of Algeciras. Thus, if fortunate, they gain a vessel worth perhaps twenty thousand pounds or more; if taken, they lose a boat and one gun, and the prisoners are sent over again from Gibraltar in a few days. Such is the case in calms; but with an ordinary breeze, and in deep water, a single English frigate is sufficient to put to flight all the gun-boats from Cadiz to the bay of Gibraltar.

When at Algeciras, I saw this sufficiently demonstrated. Signals were made for an English convoy having entered the gut. The weather was nearly calm; and all the boats got under weigh, full of men,

and with infinite bustle and noise. Nothing else was expected than the capture of the whole convoy; but unfortunately for them, a small breeze sprang up soon afterwards, and a frigate and a brig of war were seen standing out of Gibraltar, right across the bay. I was already out of the town, and near the Martello tower, at the mouth of the small bay already mentioned, when the gun-boats had begun to collect together on the approach of the frigate. The Spaniards were the first to fire, both from their boats and their batteries on the opposite side of the bay, while the frigate stood on without returning a single shot, until so near that grape could reach them. Then she opened her ports, luffing up in the wind and bearing away alternately, so as to bring both her broadsides into action, and poured such a shower of round and grape shot that not only the boats, but the sea, all round them, seemed to be covered. The Spaniards did not long withstand this terrible hail. They altered

their course, and pulled with all their might for Algeciras, whilst the shot of the frigate continued to whistle over their heads, and strike the rocks on shore with a great noise, shattering portions of them into large splinters. The brig never fired a shot, but stood as close as possible to the shore, in order to cut off the retreat of any boat that might drop behind. With the loss of some men killed and wounded, however, and one boat sunk, the rest got back, and the English convoy passed in perfect safety.

This issue of an engagement between a single frigate and all the gun-boats of Algeciras, along their own shores, sufficiently shewed what would have been their fate in the middle of the bay or the open sea. Some would have been run down, others sunk, and others taken, with the loss of half their crews, from the fire of the lofty decks of the frigate. It is more than probable that not one would have escaped to tell the story, unless

indeed their repeated and fervent prayers to Saint Antonio had induced his interposition, in the shape of a sudden calm, in their behalf. I had thus ocular demonstration of the total inutility of all such paltry craft, however strongly constructed, and however numerous, when put in competition with large ships of war, properly manœuvred. I confess that I needed such proof to overcome the prejudices which I had conceived in my own mind in favour of gun-boats.

The Aqueduct conveys the water into the centre of the town, from the mountains, distant about five miles. This Aqueduct is carried on a row of arches, over a valley, through which runs the small stream falling into the creek close to the town. Although I made many enquiries, I could not learn the date of its erection; but although these kind of conduits in Spain were generally in latter times constructed by the Moors, I cannot imagine it to be of so old a date. The



arches, about twenty-five in number, are semicircular, those in the centre of the valley standing on piers of considerable height, but gradually diminishing towards the sides, until the arches are of sufficient elevation without piers; and are at length no longer necessary, the conduit being carried along the side of a hill. This Aqueduct forms one of the principal and most picturesque objects near the town, and is farther visible in another row of arches across a small marshy flat among the mountains, four miles to the southwest of Algeciras. It is not unpleasing to bury one's self among the hills, and behold a work constructed by man, to convey water to a considerable town, whilst all around there is nothing but silence, lofty peaks, and long deep vallies. The only other remarkable object of modern date which presents itself on this side of the town is the Martello tower already mentioned, the battery of five cannon, and a redoubt, surrounded by a wall,

which all stand upon a small height, forming the northern entrance of a bay, which may be called an indent in the western side of the Bay of Gibraltar. Under this tower, within the indent, is the small quarry, of a kind of slaty stone, separating easily into large flat portions, of which the inhabitants of Algeciras make use to roof their houses, and even to carry as an article of trade to other towns upon the coast. The workmen simply pick small holes with the pick-axe, and then introduce a lever, which forces up horizontal portions of the stone, breaking off unevenly, at greater or lesser distances from the lever, according to the different adhesion of the particles. These portions are then formed into oblongs in the quarry, and after a little chiselling, are ready for use.

Such is a slight sketch of modern Algeciras; but some ruins still remain of the old town, which was founded by the Saracens or Moors, at the period of their

first irruption into Europe, and stood a little to the southward of the present, on the opposite side of the creek. These ruins consist principally of the solid bases of square towers, at regular intervals, the slight remains of walls, and in places the form of the ditch. One old tower is entire, close upon the water, and is still used by the Spaniards. It marks the farthest extent of the Moorish fortifications to the south, which here terminated along the edge of a small declivity, at the bottom of which is a slight brook, totally dry in summer. Thus the works formed an oblong upon a height defended on one side by this brook, and on the other by the creek or river of Algeciras. One end of the oblong was towards the sea, where the land forms a cliff of about thirty feet in height; and even at the end towards the mountains the ground is irregular, and was more strongly fortified than the other part. This fortress, in my opinion, gave rise to the name of Algeciras. Alcazar,

in Moorish, signifies a castle ; and this being among the first, if not the very first, built by the Saracens in Spain, might easily be corrupted by the natives to Algecir, and by degrees to the more Latin termination of Algeciras. Whether I be right or mistaken in my conjecture is a matter of little importance.

In a town formed and rising into consequence upon such principles, it is evident that the manners of the inhabitants must differ in some respects from those of their fellow subjects ; and it would be unjust to form an estimate of the general manners of Spain from those of Algeciras. Like all the towns along the coast of Spain bordering on the Mediterranean, till we cross the Guadalaviar, and eventill we approach the Ebro, Algeciras retains in the manners of its inhabitants strong traces of the Moors. Travellers who have been on the opposite or Barbary shore, find many points of resemblance in the interior distribution of the houses on both sides, in

the shape and use of the domestic utensils, in many articles of food, and even in various superstitions, which the Christians on one side, and the Mahometans on the other, have mingled with their several religions. In Algeciras the principal part of the inhabitants are certainly drawn from the provinces of Andalusia and Granada, and that in general from the lowest and most wretched classes; but exclusive of this mass of the population, there are great numbers of adventurers and desperadoes from every climate and country, who have come hither in search of fortune, and to man the gun-boats and privateers. Those who at present compose the richest inhabitants of the place, were a few years ago men of no credit or respectability, even among the banditti of Algeciras. As their riches have all been acquired from the capture of British property, or of neutral property condemned as British, they are naturally eager for the continuance of the war. Add to the

the swarm of privateers and gun vessels which harbour here; and it will not be wondered at that Algeciras exceeds every town in Spain in animosity towards the English. Even here, however, this spirit is daily softening. The riches acquired by a few individuals no longer compensate to an increasing population the advantages of a peaceful commerce, the want of regular pay to the military and naval force, nominally employed by the government, and the ruin of many families which, through a lust of booty, have embarked their all in privateers, and have been unsuccessful. Yet such is the cordiality, I may say esteem, with which an Englishman is generally received in Spain, that even this petty rancour may be noticed as a trait in the character of the inhabitants of Algeciras. Besides this, the manners are here more depraved and more profligate, although mixed with a kind of ferocity, than I had observed any where else in this country. Assassinations are frequent;

and in most of the streets some of the houses are marked with a cross, as a sign of murder having been committed near the spot. I had been accustomed to observe these melancholy memorials along the road side, on barren heaths, or in the bosom of deep forests; but till I reached Algeciras I had never seen them thickly planted in the streets of a populous town.

The object of my journey detaining me upwards of six weeks in Algeciras, I took frequent opportunities of making excursions along the Bay of Gibraltar. This bay, which is about ten miles in length, from about S. S. E. to N. N. W. and eight in breadth, is formed to the westward by the bases of the mountains behind Algeciras, and which terminate in the sea, near Tariffa; and to the eastward by the rock of Gibraltar, with its isthmus of sand. A flat coast, and behind it several small heights, which appear as if placed there to keep up a connexion between the chain of mountains and Gibraltar form the head of

the bay. On one of these heights is placed the small town of San Roque, so called from a solitary hermit who died here, and whose cell and chapel are still shewn. On another height are some ruins, scarcely distinguishable, of the ancient Cartea, once a celebrated city, occupying great part of the ground between Gibraltar and the first river Guadaranca. Numerous coins have been, and still continue to be dug up, generally marked with a tunny-fish, emblematic of the great fishery carried on here. On the top of this hill the Queen of Spain took her station during the great siege of Gibraltar, in order to behold the English colours lowered. She was disappointed; but the hill still retains the name of the Queen of Spain's Chair.

Between these heights and the rock are the Spanish lines, drawn across the isthmus from the head of the bay to the Mediterranean. These may be called the outworks of Spain, against the English in



Gibraltar. A few miles from San Roque, to the westward, we cross the Guadaranca, a stream of considerable depth, in a ferry boat moved by a rope, and capable of transporting horses, and even carriages. A flat of about two miles, intersected by ditches and causeways, brings us to the river Palmones, near its mouth, and which also here is of some importance. This stream runs past the town of Los Barrios, situated inland from the head of the bay, and near to which a neat bridge of three or four arches is thrown over it. At the mouth, however, we cross it in a ferry-boat, similar to that upon the Guadaranca; and if the tide be low, continue our route along the sands till we approach Algeciras. Here we climb the low ridge which presents to the sea, sometimes a cliff of dark rocks, and sometimes of light sand-stone, along the summit of which Algeciras is partly built, and which forms the first ascent towards the mountains. We are now arrived opposite to

Gibraltar, which we clearly behold across the bay, and continuing our route to the southward, arrive at the Martello Tower and the batteries on the small bay already mentioned. To coast the head of this bay we descend from the small heights, and pass along the sands till we arrive on the opposite side, when we again climb the hills, and soon fall into the miserable rocky path which leads to Tariffa, a small town situated on the most southern point of Europe. This honour, if such it be, has been often and falsely attributed to Gibraltar. Tariffa, like Algeciras, is originally of Moorish foundation, being called after the first Saracen General who made conquests in Spain. It is situated in the Straits, several miles to the westward of the bay of Gibraltar, which is bounded on that side by a low rocky point. All along the shores of the bay, from the northern base of Gibraltar to the western point, are either towers still in use, or the ruins of others which formerly stood here.

Of these the most singular is, perhaps, that called the Devil's Tower, close under the northern end of Gibraltar. It is round, and built upon a small rock, the only one which shews itself above the whole of the isthmus of sand, and though of no great diameter or height, must have at all times commanded a view both towards the Mediterranean and the bay. It has no door beneath, and was probably entered by a ladder, which was drawn up to prevent surprize. Or did the sea once cover the whole of this low isthmus, composed entirely of sand and broken shells; and was the Devil's Tower a beacon, on a rock surrounded by the waves? About a mile distant, to the westward, are the remains of another round tower, of greater diameter, and not a musket shot distant from the Spanish lines. After this they seem to have been built indifferently, round or square, as fancy or caprice may have dictated, and to form a part of the long chain of towers

and castles which extend along the heights upon the Spanish shores of the Mediterranean, and even those of the Atlantic.

Yet, notwithstanding the interest which antiquity or present situation may give to all the objects already mentioned in the bay, there is certainly nothing in Algeciras, San Roque, the faint remains of Cartea, the mountains, the rivers, the Spanish lines, or the isthmus, to compare with Gibraltar, either for importance or curiosity. This singular rock, which has had volumes written concerning it, bounds the eastern side of the bay, to which it gives name, and extends from S. by E. to N. by W. about two miles in length. Its summit is a long and narrow ridge, fourteen hundred feet above the level of the sea, falling perpendicularly towards the Mediterranean or east, but gradually sloping down to its base towards the bay. The north end has a grand appearance from below, presenting towards the country a perpendicular rock, upwards of a

thousand feet in height, and crowned with batteries at the summit, and along the edges of its slope. The Mediterranean approaches close to the eastern side, and on the west the only access by land is along a narrow causeway, between the rock and the head of the bay, defended by rows of entrenchments and impassable batteries. On the southern end, the rock slopes more gradually from the summit, and terminates in a small plain, the point of which is called Europa, probably from the false idea of its being the southern point of Europe. This plain is still somewhat elevated above the sea, towards which it is bounded on all sides by rocks, and extends a little to the northward, where, however, it soon terminates, and we arrive at the steep eastern side. Several winding passages, defended by batteries, are here constructed along the face of the mountain, and conduct us at length to Mediterranean Stairs, a long flight of steps cut in the rock, and by which we

may ascend to the summit. The whole of the rest of this side is perfectly inaccessible, except one or two spots near the base, where fishermen sometimes land.

The town lies principally at the foot of the western side; but barracks, houses and petty gardens are gradually constructing along the whole face of the rock, where it is by any means accessible. This however cannot now be done without great labour, even the inhabited side of the rock being so steep, that it is strictly forbidden to throw a stone, however small, from the upper part, lest it should loosen others which might roll down and do much mischief. The batteries along the water side and round the rock, the galleries, the old and new moles, the different barracks, hospitals and public buildings; the dock-yard, and the shipping constantly lying here in time of war, are all worthy of description in a history of Gibraltar, but do not fall within the present plan.

Of the inhabitants it may be observed, that they are composed of all nations, and the English form perhaps the smallest part of the population. The rest is made up of Spaniards, Genoese, French, Italians, and Moors from the coast of Barbary. The manners of the English are sufficiently hospitable, though not unmixed with little jealousies toward each other; and one is grieved to find here, as in most garrison towns, invidious distinctions drawn by the military officers between themselves and the mercantile class, which so materially contributes to their support.

As to the political importance of Gibraltar, it is too obvious to need a long discussion. Impregnable as a fortress, and placed just within the entrance of the Mediterranean, it enables Great Britain, with a few frigates, to command the whole of the Straits, and it depends only on her will to intercept every vessel passing either up or down. But truly to appreciate its

value to England, we have only to suppose it in the possession of her enemies. Gibraltar is the only port which she holds on the whole continent of Europe, and there is therefore no other but what has been, or may be shut against her. I cannot here but observe that England appears to me guilty of much negligence, in not having formed a corresponding military and commercial station on the Barbary shore. It might be done with great facility, and would serve at once as a check upon Ceuta, and as a commencement to a farther intercourse with this part of Africa, hitherto but little known, even to the enterprising spirit of England.

Finally, it may be observed with regard to Gibraltar, that the views from its summit are interesting and sublime. From its bare ridge, on which we stand with a kind of dread, we see to the southward on the opposite side of the straits Ape's Hill, the Abyla of the ancients, generally covered at the top with clouds, and the



African shore tapering down from it, and shutting in, with the coast of Spain, the entrance of the Straits, and the view of the distant waters of the Atlantic. To the eastward the Mediterranean stretches out in boundless prospect, and on its northern side rise the mountains of Granada, the lofty summits of which are generally covered with snow, or buried in thick clouds. Lastly, to the westward the bay of Gibraltar lies beneath our feet; on the opposite side stands the town of Algeciras, and behind it rise the mountains which form a petty branch of the Granada chain, and terminate at the straits, where they open out towards the Atlantic. Standing on the summit of this pillar of Hercules, we contemplate with pleasure the ancient boundaries of navigation, one of which we seem to tread beneath our feet. The departed glories of the Mediterranean shores; the present ascendancy of the human mind in Britain, Gaul, Germany and Russia; and the probable future desti-

nies of the western Continent, rush full upon the mind, and strongly impress us with the ever changing state of the moral world, the uncertainty of political calculations, and the frailty and vanity of all human life. If we are upon the southern summit of the rock, these considerations are heightened by the remains of a stone tower built not long ago by General O'Hara, and meant to overlook the high lands which intercept the distant views of the Atlantic towards Cadiz. But this tower has never been employed; at no great period after its erection it was struck by lightning, and the shattered and early ruins give a double interest to the speculations of the moralist and the philosopher.

Such are the observations suggested by a residence of nearly two months in Algeciras. As I am now about to leave Spain, I will endeavour to give some general idea of the country through which I have passed, and the manners I have

seen, as far as the objects of importance which occupied my mind would permit me to observe them. I have already mentioned, that from the western coast of Spain, including Portugal, the ground continually ascends till we reach Madrid, which may be pretty fairly called the center of that Peninsula of Europe formed by the bay of Biscay, the Atlantic, and the Mediterranean. This ascent is generally in terraces, so that though we sometimes partially descend, it is constantly obvious that there lies before us a higher country than that over which we have passed. The same is also the case from the borders of the two seas all round, as is evident from the courses of the principal rivers which all rise towards the center of Spain, and fall in every direction, except the northern, into the Atlantic and Mediterranean. At first sight it appears singular, that not one of the great rivers of Spain fall into the bay of Biscay. This arises from the direction of the high

mountains of Asturias and Bizcaya, which although inland, run almost parallel to the coast. Hence the rivers which rise on their northern sides, having comparatively a small extent of country to traverse, collect but few tributary streams, and never become of much note. Such are the Navia, the Pravia, the Cares, the Rio de Suances, and numerous others. On the other hand, those which fall to the south of the mountains must necessarily traverse a long extent of country, and therefore swell into great rivers. At equal distances from the summits of the mountains, the streams which flow to the north, and those to the south will perhaps be found nearly of equal importance; but those towards the north soon join the sea, whilst on the other side the Ebro traverses the whole breadth of Spain to the south-east, is joined by many considerable streams, and after being swelled to a mighty river, falls into the Mediterranean.

But confining ourselves to the country over which we have travelled, we notice that in our journey from Lisbon to Madrid, and from Madrid to Cadiz, we have described two sides of an Isosocles triangle, each about four hundred miles in length. The base of this triangle, namely from Lisbon to Cadiz, has not fallen under our observation; yet in our course we have crossed three principal rivers, the Tagus, the Guadiana, and the Guadalquiver, each of which has its peculiar character. The Tagus, with a rapid descent, seems to hold its impetuous course of more than 400 miles, chiefly at the bottom of a long, deep, and narrow valley, which it has perhaps worn for itself in the course of ages. The banks of the Guadiana on the contrary, where we have seen them, are of a more yielding and sandy nature, and seem capable of opposing but little resistance to its fury, when it descends swollen with the winter torrents. But in those parts where the soil

is softest, the bed of the river naturally enlarges, the current spreading over a wide surface becomes less rapid, and thus by the wise laws of nature its fury prepares bounds for itself. Travelling to the southward, after passing the Tagus and the Guadiana, we arrive at the Guadalquivir, the favourite stream of the Moorish poets, when Cordova was the residence of their monarchs. It seems to partake more of the nature of the Guadiana than of the Tagus, the banks being of a moderate height, and capable of being adorned with trees, houses and villages. We observe however with regret that they are generally bare, although this be compensated in many spots by extensive flat and fertile meadows covered with cattle. The towns on this stream attest the former greatness of the Moors. The Tagus, as we have seen, may boast of Toledo and the doubtful honour of Lisbon; the Guadiana of Merida and Badajoz, and the

Guadalquiver of Andujar, Cordova and Sevilla.

In a country of such extent, and watered by such streams, there must naturally be a great diversity of landscape. Sometimes the plains are wide spread, and bounded only by the horizon ; or by hills, which though of great height, shew like petty elevations or distant islands in the sea. Sometimes we climb lofty mountains partly bare and craggy, and partly covered with wood. Now the principal object which we discern for many a weary mile is some old Moorish tower on the brow of a hill ; nor do we lose sight of it until we plunge into the bosom of thick forests of oak and cork trees, and the wild olive ; or descend into deep valleys, the bottoms of which are strewed with huge masses of rock, intersected in summer by large stagnant pools or petty rills, and in winter by rushing torrents. Almost every where the scenery possesses interest from

its sublimity, and even from its solitude. From Badajoz to Madrid not a single town or village, near to which we pass, has the air of neatness or thriving. Vast tracts of the finest soil are left uncultivated, and a general appearance of wretchedness is spread over a country, which, with proper administration, might be rendered the finest in Europe.

Travelling from Madrid to Cadiz, we observe on the contrary, that no sooner have we gained the summit of the Sierra Morena, and descend to the south-west, than the country begins to wear a more pleasing appearance. The villages are neater, the houses better built, and the fields better cultivated. But above all the inhabitants seem more cheerful, and better cloathed and fed than we had before seen. Such is the case more or less throughout the whole of Andalusia, where we also notice that the breed of cattle, and still more of horses, is in general excellent; no small pleasure to a traveller on horse-