

back. Whether these circumstances arise from soil, climate, or a difference in the internal regulations of this province, I know not. Perhaps there is much owing to the commerce carried on in Ayamonte, Moguer, Sevilla, Xerez, San Lucar, Cadiz, and other smaller ports, or places of trade, all in Andalusia, and the good effects of which are afterwards extended over the whole province. Be that as it may, the Andalusians are much more cheerful and thoughtless than Spaniards in general, and instead of spending their leisure hours in sleep and indolence, the lower classes delight to meet together, to drink, and sing their provincial airs, which are generally in a merry strain.

Thus then the two sides of the triangle which we have described presents, or borders on, many interesting objects, exclusive of the rivers, mountains, forests and deep valleys. Beginning with Lisbon, we have there seen the largest commercial town on the continent of Europe, and which no political revolution can ever

altogether deprive of its importance. In Elvas and Badajoz we have seen the fortified frontier towns of Portugal and Spain. Merida has recalled to our remembrance the power and extensive dominion of ancient Rome; Toledo that of the Goths; Andujar and Cordova, the Moors; and Cadiz, the Phenicians and Carthaginians, by whom it was founded and protected.

With regard to the manners of the country through which we have passed, the Spaniards are generally grave, with something of a stately walk and air, yet they do not preserve their character throughout, being excessively fond of risible objects and sayings; nor is there any language in Europe, which so much abounds in daily expressions, calculated to excite a smile, as the Spanish. They appear to me greatly mistaken who suppose the Spaniards to be merely a grave and serious people. They preserve a forced gravity, especially with strangers;

because the dignity and ancient glory of his country, are ever present to the mind of a true Spaniard; but they give themselves up to every amusement and pleasure, within their reach, with a kind of fury, which shews their seriousness to be more habitual than constitutional. I conceive greatness of soul to be the character which they affect above all others; yet in this they content themselves with empty sounds, and a vain name, instead of aiming at the reality. Hence a Spaniard may sit tamely down, and see his king insulted, his country sold and tributary to France, and his own personal privileges and liberties abridged; and although he may not make a single struggle, or even vent an unavailing sigh for the fallen greatness of Spain, he may yet preserve his greatness of soul. In what then does it consist? In boasting that the sun never sets on the Spanish dominions; in informing you that Spain was the seat of learning, civilization, and philosophy, when

England, France, and Germany were covered with forests, and partially inhabited by barbarians; in assuring you that the Spaniards are the most honourable and most noble minded of all nations: in building stone bridges over rivulets; joining triumphal arches to mud-walls; in planning the most magnificent schemes for uniting the Duero; the Ebro, and the Tagus; the Niger and the Nile; the South-sea and the Caribbean; but never executing them.

This appears to me the great, the leading trait in the Spanish character. In other respects the Spaniard, like his fellow men, has his failings and his good qualities. He is indolent, haughty, and revengeful; a slave to his passions, and not easily touched with pity: but he is temperate, sedate, and patient under hardships; truly attached to the honour of his country; and warm, if not constant, in his loves and friendships. He is more capable of undergoing privations than of en-

countering difficulties. What his reason dictates he follows coldly, and is easily induced to abandon for the first object suggested by his passions. Yet notwithstanding all this, there are some points of resemblance in the Spanish and English character, particularly that gravity common to both, and which conceals in both so much humour, and so much real impetuosity.

With regard to the smaller traits of character and peculiarity of customs, they vary in the different provinces, in which respect, for variety and interest, Spain far exceeds any country in Europe. To conceive this we need only throw our eyes back upon their history. Its first inhabitants appear to have been Celts, of which our Scottish Highlanders probably form a branch. After severe struggles the Carthaginians settled along the coast, and in all the country west of the Ebro. They were expelled by the Romans, and as the Latin language forms the basis

of the Spanish, it is natural to suppose that strong traces of the Latin manners must still remain. The Romans were succeeded by the Goths, a more barbarous people, who however adopted by degrees the milder manners and customs of the Latin colonies. After a long interval the Saracens or Moors made an irruption into Spain, landing in or near the bay of Gibraltar, and gradually possessing themselves of most of the finest provinces; and, although afterwards partially expelled, many of their descendants, and much of their manners, still remain. From all this assemblage of nations, the language, customs, and manners of Spain have been formed; for, excepting the Carthaginians and Romans, no party sought to destroy, but only to conquer, those preceding them. Of these, to judge by the strong testimony of language, the Roman conquests have produced effects by far the most penetrating and durable. We are therefore to look even among the lower classes for traces of

the manners of a refined people. Hence a Spanish peasant, if he be eating when you pass him, never fails courteously to invite you to partake with him. Hence if you praise any thing belonging to him, he immediately assures you that it is at your grace's disposal; and hence the direct and blunt term of *thou* or *you* is never used. All conversation is carried on in the third person. A peasant, asking another how he does, hopes his grace is well, and that the wife and family of his grace are also in good health. All this to an observer of however little attention denotes remnants of manners highly refined. In English there is much more delicacy in saying: "how is Mrs." —, than in bluntly asking: "how is your wife"? Thank heaven the genius of our language will not admit of much farther refinement in this respect, except with such violations of all its principles, as to denote that our true spirit is gone beyond recal, whenever it takes place.

As to the manners of the Spanish women, little can be said in their praise. They are alluring and seductive to the stranger, perhaps beyond any other women in Europe; but they are seldom deserving of the honourable, nay almost sacred titles, of faithful wives, of good mothers, or unshaken friends. Not that as parents they are devoid of affection: on the contrary this is often carried to a blind excess; but that incessant and unwearied care which is requisite to the character of a good mother is little suited to their tempers. Nothing can exceed the warmth of their attachment while it lasts; but the greater part of those, who trust to the duration of this attachment, will find themselves mistaken, and complain with Horace:

Heu quoties fidem

Mutatoque deos flebit, et aspera

Nigris equora ventis

Emirabitur insolens

Qui nunc te fruitur credulus.

HOR. CARM.

It now only remains that I should say something of the present state of the government, and the political relations of Spain.

With regard to the first, it may be safely declared to be in that state of degradation and decay which precedes and announces great revolutions. The King is a man of good intentions, but of confined understanding, and a mere slave to the pleasures of the chase, which forms not only his sole diversion, but his principal occupation. His thoughts are constantly engaged by partridges, hares, and wild boars; and his greatest exploit is to have fired so many guns in the course of a day. These are constantly presented to him ready loaded by his huntsmen, as fast as he can discharge them, and hence the slaughter which he sometimes makes is almost incredible. It must be owned that he is an excellent marksman; but what is more to his credit, he seems to be aware of the fatal effects of this blind

passion in the monarch of a great kingdom, and has given strict orders that his sons should not be allowed to acquire similar propensities. In his person he is very tall and stout, and is generally healthy, owing no doubt to the constant exercise which he takes, and his temperance in drinking, water being his sole beverage. Such is the present King of Spain. His consort forms the reverse to his insensible character, being intriguing, revengeful, and a slave to far other passions than those of the chase. "It is through her," say the Spaniards secretly, "that royalty is degraded, and the Spanish name dishonoured. To gratify her unworthy passions, a wretch has been raised from the ranks, to domineer over our nobility, and sell our country to France." Such however is the case. The man of the greatest power at present in Spain is the Prince of Peace, as he has been entitled, formerly a life-guardsman, and raised with rapidity to the highest honours, merely for being

the queen's paramour. As she has however long lost the charms of youth, this man treats her with great neglect, and maintains himself in despotic power merely by the influence of France, or, in other words, by strictly obeying the smallest mandate of that country. The queen in her turn now detests him; and has lately taken into favour a young man not yet twenty years of age, from among the guards. But it is too late: the power of the slave of France is not to be shaken by a bad woman's wiles, and it is a foreign government alone that can deprive him of it. He is universally hated; but that is in private: before him even the Grandees of Spain must wear a smile, and Madrid is full of his spies. He is however sagely aware of the uncertainty of revolutions, and is said to have deposited large sums of money in foreign banks, besides having great quantities of specie secretly hoarded in his own possession. Meanwhile he maintains the state of a king: his palaces are magnifi-

cent; and his own regiment of dragoons always near him, mount guard at his gate, and send detachments to attend him wherever he goes. I have witnessed the secret curses that attended his progress; but the sabres of his dragoons are sharp, and woe betide the Spaniard who is heard to murmur. In his person he is tall and well formed, of a ruddy countenance, not unlike an Englishman; but he has not their air of freedom, and is upon the whole a man of very moderate talents.

Such are the component parts of the present nominal government of Spain. I say nominal, because the real government is that of France, and whatever French General may be the ambassador at Madrid, is in effect king of Spain. When a government is thus composed, it may be known what to think of that government. When a nation is in such a state as secretly to curse, and yet openly to cherish that government, it may be known what to think politically of that nation.

Englishmen have sought their liberties through seas of blood, and have obtained them. France was at least cheated with a semblance of liberty during the fleeting period of her true enthusiasm. But all the country between the Pyrenees and the surrounding oceans, with its double race of monarchs, queens, princes, and nobles has never even followed the phantom of liberty; but awaits the decrees of the French government. The inhabitants of all this immense tract are generally bold with the knife in the hour of darkness; but they tremble at the bayonet in the face of day. Yet, strange as it may appear, the hatred of France and Frenchmen is universal throughout the whole of this district. In talking of Frenchmen there is a mixture of hatred, contempt, and yet of dread, not to be conceived by those who have not witnessed it. If every Spaniard or Portuguese had a single Frenchman within reach of his long knife, the contest would be short. But other nations

must meet their discipline, their bayonets, and their artillery.

With regard to the uncontroled dominion of the French in Spain I could bring many proofs; but why collect single instances, when a great, a general, an undeniable one is hanging over the country. Should this not take place, (unless prevented by other powers) it will prove the fallacy of all my remarks; but when it happens, (and the day is fast approaching) it will supersede the necessity of all such petty documents. And yet there is one so gross, so glaring, that I cannot refrain from quoting it. A vessel was brought into a port in Spain by a French privateer, and was acquitted, ship and cargo, by a Spanish court of admiralty. The French captor, not content with this decision, appealed to a higher court; the cause was again heard, and the case being clear was again decided as before. But there still remained, to a Frenchman in Spain, a higher court than the Spanish high court

of admiralty. A court was formed entirely of Frenchmen at the house of the French consul, the cause was heard for the third time, the vessel and cargo adjudged good prize, sold as such, and the proceeds distributed to the captors.

In the present political state of Europe, and indeed at all times, the propriety of England cultivating a close and friendly intercourse with Spain is so apparent, that we cannot but feel surprized it should have been so long neglected. On enquiry we find the causes of this to be various. Ancient wars; alliances between the two former monarchies of France and Spain; and the interests of the latter country and of England badly understood by both. Yet I affirm that such are the dispositions of the Spaniards towards the English, that with a little care on the part of the government, the two countries might become indissolubly united. It is here that we ought to look for a great balance to the power of France in

the west. It is in this country perhaps, unfavourable as appearances may now be, that the freedom of Europe is destined to commence. The Highlanders of Britain may still rouse to arms in a kindred language their Celtic brethren in the mountains of Leon, Biscay, and Galicia; and even extend their enthusiasm over the plains to the center of the country and the mountains of Arragon and Guadarrama. But the great events likely soon to take place in this country mock the vain spirit of prophecy. I bid adieu to Spain, and should quit with regret its lofty mountains, its almost boundless plains, its delightful climate, and the many monuments of its departed glories: but I have been always used to breathe the air of freedom, and around me I see nothing but slavery, stifled indignation, and misery. Its happy natural situation is overbalanced by political errors, and the blindness of despotic power: and whilst we regret that so fine a coun-

try should be almost abandoned to nature, we cannot but feel some small portion of contempt for the inhabitants who permit it.

END OF VOL. I.

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BY ROBERT SEMPLE,  
AUTHOR OF WALKS AND SKETCHES AT THE CAPE OF  
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CHAP. I.

*Algeciras to Leghorn.*

ON or about the 18th of December, I embarked at Algeciras, on board of an American vessel, the Calpe, bound for Leghorn. The wind blowing freshly from the westward, we sailed fast out of the bay, being careful not to come within the range of the guns of Gibraltar, the English generally endeavouring to detain all vessels from Algeciras; and the Spaniards in like manner those from Gibraltar. As it was nearly evening before we got under weigh, darkness quickly veiled this singular mountain from our view; and, favoured by the current from the Atlantic, through

the straits, we were soon completely within the Mediterranean. For four and twenty hours the wind continued favourable; at the end of which time it became adverse, when we were already off Cape de Gatt, a high promontory, which, with its dependent mountains, were covered toward their summits with snow. This change obliged us to keep beating between Cape de Gatt and Alboran, a small low island towards the African coast, apparently barren and uninhabited. In this manner, with the usual varieties of winds and weather, on the sixth day we passed the islands Majorca and Minorca, and on the eighth were between Corsica and the continent.

The whole of these islands, as well as the corresponding lands on the main, have a similar character, being high and mountainous, with many sharp peaks, and profound vallies, and present at a distance a barren and rugged appearance. Finding ourselves thus almost in the Gulph of Genoa, we began to indulge the hope of a

speedy termination to our voyage; but now the wind again failed us, and after a deceitful calm of twelve hours, began to blow from the south east with great fury.

Had the captain been well acquainted with these seas, we might have ventured to run directly for Leghorn; but that not being the case, we were obliged to keep, as nearly as we could guess, midway between Corsica and the Main. For two days and nights the weather continued stormy, at the same time with so thick a haze that we could not discern any object at the distance of a cable's length a-head. On the morning of the third day it cleared up and fell calm, when we once more had a view of Corsica on the one hand, and on the other the high mountains at the bottom of the Gulph of Genoa, covered with snow. The ensuing night we were so near to Leghorn that we could discern the light-house; but calms or baffling airs still prevailing, we did not anchor in the

roads until the fifteenth day after sailing from Algeciras.

These roads are formed by a long rocky bank, called the Milora, which affords them some shelter to the westward, and breaks the violence of the sea when it blows hard from that quarter. A small white tower stands on the southern, and serves, with the light-house, to direct the mariner. In many parts of this bank the sharp rocks appear above water, when the weather is fine. But in storms the sea breaks over them with tremendous violence; covering the whole length of the bank with white waves, and making an incessant roaring. Ships liable to quarantine are obliged to anchor in the roads for several days, and are then only admitted within the mole, provided no sickness has appeared on board. This regulation of the port may perhaps be justified by a regard to the health of the city; but in winter is exceedingly inconvenient and dan-

gerous to those vessels subjected to it. The anchorage is sheltered by the land to the eastward, and in some degree to the northward; but only partially by the banks to the west; and is wholly open to the south. When the wind therefore blows violently from the south, or south south east, a heavy sea rolls in, and scarcely a winter passes in which some vessels are not driven ashore.

There is no port in the Mediterranean where the laws of quarantine are more strictly observed than at Leghorn. The extensive commerce which is here carried on with those countries where the plague is supposed to originate, is no doubt the cause of this strictness. Yet in our case it appeared to me carried to an extent wholly useless and burdensome. We were from a port and a country free from infectious disorders, and where none had been prevalent for some time; we were all perfectly healthy in the ship, and it was now the middle of winter; yet with all

this, we were ordered to perform a full quarantine; and two guards were put on board to see that we held no communication with the other vessels, or with the shore. By a petition to the Board of Health, the time was afterwards abated to thirty days; but these were rigorously observed.

Notwithstanding the plausible reasons urged for this severity in the middle of winter, when, it is well known, the plague is not communicable, the real and principal one, as it appeared to me, was always concealed. This is no other than the interest of the merchants of Leghorn, to whom supercargoes of loaded vessels arriving in the port are either obliged to consign themselves, or wait the expiration of their time of quarantine. Until that period, a supercargo or foreign merchant can have but a very imperfect communication with the shore, and by no means such as is requisite to dispose of a cargo; but it being always a great object

to make sale as speedily as possible, he is induced to accept of any plausible offer ; and, in short, generally to put himself entirely into the hands of some merchant of the place. That this is the principal cause is evident from the avidity with which they seize any pretence for including new countries in their list of those liable to quarantine. Autumnal fevers have appeared at intervals, and made great ravages in some of the towns on the coast of Spain. No more was wanting to subject to quarantine all vessels coming from those towns at whatever season. Similar fevers also, at intervals, have appeared in the principal towns on the coasts of North America. For that reason, although a long and stormy voyage may have been performed from these towns, and not the smallest symptom of sickness may be on board, the vessels must undergo a strict quarantine. Gibraltar had always been accounted one of the healthiest stations in the Mediterranean ; but one year a mortality prevailed

there, and since that year, vessels from Gibraltar must undergo the fate of their neighbours. Besides the advantages arising from this system to the merchants, it affords subsistence to a great number of families in subordinate occupations, such as boatmen and others.

At a little distance from the shore, and fronting the town, is a range of large stones, of a porous texture, loosely heaped together, at one end of which is a small house, whither all sorts of vessels under quarantine in the roads repair, for about the first week of their arrival, being not allowed to go nearer to the town. After that period they are permitted to land at a building close upon the water, and divided by partitions, so that persons from several vessels may be there at the same time, without mingling together, and hold conversation with their friends across the barrier; and this is the utmost extent of liberty allowed, until the expiration of quarantine. As in other countries, all let-

ALGECIRAS TO LEGHORN.

ters or papers from the quarantined vessels are received in cleft sticks or long pincers, and thoroughly fumigated before being delivered. I shall not here enquire into the necessity of such strict regulations during the winter season. To me it appears indisputable, that the fevers which have made such ravages in many of the towns of Spain, Italy, and America, arise from local causes, and are not contagious, except within narrow bounds. I leave this, however, to be discussed by medical men.

9th January, 1806.—Hitherto we have been regularly supplied with every necessary from the shore, but this day the weather became so boisterous that no boat could venture out into the roads. The night closed in dark and tempestuous, with a heavy sea fast rising, and all the ships in the roads beginning to ride a great strain upon their cables. In the night, our boat, which was astern, and could not be got in, pitched with such violence that

the rope by which it was fastened tore out the stern, and it was driven away. At midnight one of our cables parted, and the wind, suddenly veering round just at that moment, blew directly upon the Melora bank, where the roaring noise of the breakers was terrible. Our danger was imminent; for had the other cable also parted, and the wind continued in its new direction, we should have been driven directly on the banks, and must have all perished. Providentially the cable held out through many a heavy plunge, till morning, when the wind resumed its former quarter. At length a cry went through the ship that this also had separated; and in a moment we were hurried toward the land. A large vessel, and two smaller ones, were already ashore, one of them upset and breaking all to pieces. We, however, were more fortunate, having time to hoist the jib and fore-top mast stay sail, which enabled us to steer toward a part of the beach where our guards

assured us the ground was good. By this means the vessel grounded upon such a soft mud that the first shock of touching was almost imperceptible.

We had not been two hours ashore, when the wind and sea began to abate considerably. In the evening it was almost calm; and we were surrounded by boats, eager to assist in getting us off. The next day an anchor was carried out into deep water; and on the 13th, with the assistance of several large boats, we were once more afloat, and the ship was towed with great acclamations into the Mole.

Here we performed the remaining part of our quarantine; and although the vessels lie all together, yet guards being aboard of all that have not fulfilled the time, it is supposed that no intercourse takes place. Within the Mole all is full of activity. In some boats are musicians, who row under the sterns of vessels, especially those newly arrived, and play national airs,

according to the flag which they see. Being under American colours, they were exceedingly noisy with "Jefferson's March," and "Yankee Doodle," until we dismissed them with a small piece of money. Other boats contained ballad-singers, who made the air resound with Italian ditties, in a style that would have been thought equal to that of Billington, by a London mob. Hucksters, dealers in pictures, venders of shoes and hats, hosiers, cloathsmen, were all afloat. Even beggars went about in boats, and when alongside of American vessels, vociferated for un poco de beef, and un poco de biscuit. Upon the whole, whether it proceeded from the novelty of the scene, or the joy of having escaped all dangers, and being once more in a place of safety, the whole had to us a pleasing and animated appearance. And thus passed away the remainder of our time of quarantine; until at length the happy day of deliverance arrived. The harbour-master and physicians visited us

once more, and having found all on board in good health, our vessel was declared free of the harbour; and I hastened for the first time to set my feet on Italian ground.

Leghorn is neatly and regularly built; the principal street intersects it from gate to gate; and the houses standing on the canal, which is cut from the Arno, and communicates with Pisa, have generally a handsome appearance. It is regularly fortified with lofty bastions of brick; and surrounded by a broad ditch, which is filled from the sea. The churches and public buildings contain little that is striking, either in the interior or exterior: but to mercantile men the bustle of its port, and its extended commerce, might supply this defect. The oppression of France, however, cramps this commerce, which would otherwise soon render Leghorn one of the most flourishing towns in Italy. An English vessel dares not appear in the port without the risk of being de-

tained by the vilest French agent that may chance to be on the spot; and the decree of a French Consul, however iniquitous and unjust, would be sufficient for the condemnation of any vessel. Add to this, in a former visit to the town, the French generals stripped all the ramparts and batteries of the beautiful brass cannons, with which they were mounted, and sold them at public auctions, with the express stipulation that they should be sawed into two or three pieces. To complete the destruction of the independence of Leghorn, the fortification on one side was partly dismantled, and the ground sold to the Jews for a fixed sum, at which rate they were compelled to become the purchasers. As extensive suburbs are also constructing in that direction, Leghorn may be considered as no longer defensible on the land side.

The streets are level, and paved with broad flag stones, which has a neat and clean effect, although no distinction is

made at the sides for foot passengers. Until, however, he becomes accustomed to it, an Englishman, looking merely at the pavement, is apt constantly to imagine himself in some bye court. The houses are lofty; and generally inhabited in flats or floors, as was formerly, and is still, in a great degree, the custom in the two principal towns of Scotland. This is so much the fashion in Leghorn, that twelve, fourteen, and even more rooms upon a floor often constitute the residence of an individual. As the visitor must necessarily pass through many of these apartments, their furniture and appearance is a source of much private magnificence and ostentation.

The theatre which I saw was tolerably splendid; but most of the boxes being private property, and only illuminated according to the caprice of the possessors, it has a dull and somewhat gloomy appearance, unless on particular occasions, when all, or the greater part of them are lighted up. This, however, I understood to be the

case throughout Italy; which, added to the inattention of the genteeler audience, took away much of the interest of the scene. In England an audience appears all of one piece. One smile, one burst of laughter, one sorrow, pervades the whole; and this very nationality or unity of spirit is, perhaps, to a feeling mind, one of the greatest pleasures of the theatre. But in Italy, where the party in one box is engaged in cards, in another in taking coffee, and in a third in loud and vehement conversation, the mind is distracted between the actors on the stage and those around us, and the drama loses half of its reality, and more than half of its charm.

On the first Sunday after my landing, whilst wandering on the outside of the ramparts, I stumbled upon the English burying-ground, surrounded by an iron railing, and shut by a gate. A quarter of a dollar procured me admission; when it appeared to me by far the noblest cemetery

I had ever seen ; the monuments being all of marble, and executed in a taste greatly superior to what is commonly found any where in England. Here lie the remains of Tobias Smollett; and I felt a melancholy pleasure at beholding in Italy the grave of a man by whose writings I had been so often charmed, and to whose memory I had already seen an obelisk erected on the banks of the Leven. Out of the boundaries of the burying-ground I heard nothing but Tuscan or Italian. But here the marble monuments spake to me in plain English, and told me that many of my countrymen, who had once been illustrious in arts or arms, were now laid under the foreign turf on which I trod. Besides the pillar to the memory of Smollett, and many others worthy of attention, I particularly paused on the tomb-stone of a mother, who died in bringing into the world two infants, who are buried with her in the same grave. The figure of the mother recumbent, and of the two babes,

appeared to me beautiful and affecting, although somewhat impaired by time, and exposure to the open air. In a word, my meditations on this occasion were not unsuited to the place, the day, and my own isolated situation. I could not help thinking that it might yet be my own destiny to fall in a foreign land; and I secretly prayed to Heaven that my burying place at least might not be so obscure but that some wandering Englishman should be there to sigh over my grave.

Monday, 3d. Feb.—This day the carnival began; and on the same day at Rome, Naples, and generally throughout Italy. The streets, especially in the afternoon, were filled with masks, which were in general absurd enough, and some of them highly indelicate; but these last seemed to give the most universal satisfaction. Harlequins and columbines, punchinellos, men straddling along in women's cloaths, and women mincing their steps, dressed like hussars, and armed with sabres, people with grotesque faces, carrying umbrellas

when it did not rain, together with a long train of similar absurdities; such are the delights of a carnival. Among the rest of the characters, I observed some who wore no masks. They were beggars, cloathed in rags, and who, with emaciated countenances and plaintive tones, besought the smallest charity for the love of God. Misery needs no disguise; on the contrary, it is a mask often worn; but I could not help thinking that the introduction of real misery spoiled the unity of the scene. Never mind: on this day every body rejoices; and Rome and Naples are still gayer than Leghorn. The French, it is true, are in the heart of Italy; and are making forced marches to take possession of the kingdom of Naples; but why should such a circumstance interrupt the pleasures of the carnival.

It is still less, however, my intention in Italy than it was in Spain, to make minute observations on all around me. This country has been so often described,

and so generally celebrated, that without much attention and leisure, it would appear presumptuous in a modern traveller to attempt to add to the long list of statues, paintings, marbles, and antiquities. At the end of a week I prepared to quit Leghorn; having only waited, even for that time, until I could find an opportunity of going to Rome. The mode recommended to me, and which I adopted, was, to agree with a vettorino or driver of a coach going that road. This mode I found similar to that in Spain; and was astonished to be informed by the friend whom I employed, that he had made an agreement for me and my baggage to be transported to Rome for sixteen dollars, out of which I was to be found with two good meals a day, at the charge of the vettorino. If pleased with his conduct at the end of the journey, I farther agreed to give him a small remuneration. As I had estimated in my own mind the expense of going to Rome by the desire which I had of getting there, and my

idea of its former magnificence, sixteen dollars appeared to me at first a sum almost incredibly small for such a purpose ; and I thanked my friend accordingly, for having made so favourable an agreement. On the 7th February, in the afternoon, my vettorino called on me, with a clumsy coach, drawn conformably to his agreement, by two horses, and a mule in front, when having seen my baggage properly secured, I bade adieu to my American friends. An elderly woman and her daughter, together with a young Swiss, travelling for a commercial house near Berne, were my companions ; and the carriage was so narrow that we entirely filled it. The great similitude between the Spanish and Italian languages enabled me already to understand the general subjects of conversation in the latter, and even to make my own wishes intelligible ; and we had already become somewhat acquainted before reaching the gate of Leghorn, on the great road which leads to Pisa.

## CHAP. II.

*Journey from Leghorn to Rome.*

OUR carriage was stopped at the gate; and here I found myself at once in difficulties. My baggage was trifling, and soon examined; but my companions produced long passports, full of seals and signatures, and I was totally unprovided with one, having never even dreamed that it was necessary. "Mon Dio," exclaimed my companions, "travel without a passport! how could your friends permit you to set out so badly provided!" In this emergency, however, the young lady stood my friend. Without the least hesitation, she addressed the officer, and told him, that my passport was at the bottom of my trunk now once more fastened behind the coach; that I was a stranger, not able

to speak a word of the language ; that,— in short, she desired me to slip a piece of silver into his hand: and we were soon on the road to Pisa.

Here, however, the subject of the passport was renewed ; and, with such earnestness, that I began to fear I should be perpetually embarrassed in my progress. The only excuse I could offer was, that in England we never required passports. “ Mon Dio !” exclaimed they again, “ are you then an Englishman, and going to Rome ? Don't you know that the French are there, and will certainly put you in prison ?” To this I answered, that I had passports with which I had travelled through Spain ; and if they would not serve me through Italy, I must e'en return. They all promised to assist me in case of need ; and having settled this weighty matter, we proceeded in peace.

The road between Leghorn and Pisa, a distance of 14 or 15 miles, is for the most part level and good, and the country

on both sides tolerably cultivated. About ten miles from Leghorn we passed the church and village of San Pietro en grado, leaving on our right a small lake. The whole country round appears to have been a marsh, at no very remote period; and is still swampy in many parts. To my great mortification, our road turned off to the right just before reaching Pisa; and I was thus disappointed of a sight of that ancient city. Soon afterwards night drew on, and intercepted all view of the surrounding country; but we found, from the violent jolting of the carriage, that the road was most rugged. About eight o'clock we arrived at Fornacetti; a town situated on the small river Era, at its junction with the Arno. Here I had the first specimen of an Italian inn, which certainly suffered nothing when compared with those of Spain. On the contrary, after the miserable posadas of that country, I was pleased to see some appearance of neatness, some attempts at cleanliness,

and a little attention on the part of the servants. Our supper, however, was by no means sumptuous. The principal dish was macaroni boiled, plain, and sprinkled with cheese; and this I afterwards found to be a dish as universal throughout Italy as the pucheiro in Spain. Our whole repast was enlivened by several flasks of Tuscan wine, of a good quality. These flasks have long narrow necks; and a little oil is poured on the top, instead of corks. The air is thereby effectually excluded from the wine; but the flask, of course, must always be kept upright, until the time of being used, when the oil is imbibed, by means of a little cotton wool. After the dismal stories which I had heard of Italian inns, I was also agreeably disappointed in my bed, which appeared to me tolerable. My previous probation in Spain was no doubt the cause of my being so easily pleased; and hence they who have travelled in Italy only, may judge of