

ONE of the late ministers tried to introduce the *English style* of agriculture into SPAIN, within these few years; and sent for ploughs, harrows, and other implements and tools of husbandry from LONDON. But when he came to teach his *Castilian* peasants, the use and application of these rustic arms, they had no less aversion to them, than the Spanish troops have now to the *Prussian military exercise*. They tried to work with them, but in vain. The DON will as soon quit his skin, as his habits and prejudices. So they laid the tools down very quietly, and told the minister, “*Que no se puede trabajar con instrumentos semejantes á los Yngleses—That it was impossible to work with such tools as the English.*”

WITH regard to *Climate*, the Spaniards certainly breathe the purest air, well suited to such constitutions as are not subject to *cholics*, particularly to what is called the *dry cholick*. It is too thin and subtle to agree with consumptive dispositions; but to such whose constitutions are sound, and unimpaired by hereditary or acquired distempers, there are few better climates in the world. In GALLICIA the air is more impregnated with vapours and moisture; but in general, there is neither mist nor cloud, and you have the most serene azure sky constantly over your head, that can be imagined.

IN winter, the cold is not of so freezing a nature as in ENGLAND, nor does it numb the extremities in the same manner; but it is of a more piercing and subtle kind; wherefore great care must be taken at those seasons to guard well the breast and lungs. Fire is as much wanted at MADRID, in the midst of winter, as in LONDON, and yet they use *braziers* in general, and but few *chimneys*. In June, July, August, and part of September, the heats are very oppressive; during the hours of heat, to be still, with as little light in the room as possible, is the only way to be tolerably cool. Great care ought to be taken in regard to the *water* all over SPAIN, particularly at SEGOVIA, and ARANJUEZ; for in those places, if drank without proper caution, it will have the most fatal effects. The surest preservative is to boil it, or to put an hot iron into it, before you drink it. The water,

water, indeed, of MADRID, is excellent, particularly that of the fountain of the *Recoletos*. The court of SPAIN have given it the strongest recommendation possible, for they have sent water from MADRID even to Don CARLOS and Don PHILIP, as far as ITALY.

You may find some *Trees* in SPAIN not very common in other countries. The olive tree, green oak, and mulberry tree, abound there; you will meet with vast forrests of *fir* and *cork*; of which latter they make stools and benches, and apply it to many other domestic uses. There are fine woods of oak in ESTREMADURA and ASTURIAS; some few *palms* and *cedars* are likewise found. Then as to *Fruits*, there are figs, pomegranates, oranges, lemons, citrons, dates, capers, walnuts, chesnuts, pistacho-nuts, raisins, grapes, peaches, nectarines, apricots, plums of all sorts, pears, apples, mulberries, strawberries, currants, but, I believe, no gooseberries.

GARDENING, except in the neighbourhood of BARCELONA and VALENTIA, and some other places on the MEDITERRANEAN coast, is entirely neglected in this country. They have not even the idea of gentlemens country seats, with gardens about them, after the English manner, except at the King's palaces, or some grandee's old castle. Yet, notwithstanding, their lettuce, fallads, asparagus, cellery, cabbage, spinnage, endive, garden herbs, onions, garlick, carrots, turnips, melons, cucumbers, artichokes, &c. are good.—The honey of SPAIN, where there is so much wild thyme, is equal to that of HYBLA.

VINEYARDS abound every where; for they make neither *beer*, nor *cyder*; *rum* is prohibited, and their *brandy* is a wretched spirit, distilled from *aniseed*. Foreign wines are very difficult to be had there at any price, except in the *sea-ports*; even the fine wines of their own growth are by no means cheap, or easy to be procured. What wine is sold of foreign growth, is chiefly some poor *Claret*, or wretched *Frontiniac*. The wines that are native are remarkably strong; they are pressed out in the ancient manner, so often mentioned in Scripture, by the feet; when thus

troden out, they are immediately put into *bog skins*, sewed up, and pitched on the inside: the *pitch* is apt to give them a deeper tint, and a very rank taste; this the connoisseurs call tasting of the *Borracho*. There are many fine wines in SPAIN, the very names of which I know not: those that have fallen in my way are the following. 1. *Mountain*. 2. *Xeres*, or what we call *Sherry*, a town near CADIZ. 3. *Paxarete*, both dry, and sweet. 4. *Malaga*, in that country, what the Spaniards call DON PEDRO XIMENES, from the name of a famous vintner in that city. 5. *Malvasia*, in CATALONIA, what we call *Malmsey*. 6. *Tinta de Rota*, or what we call *Tent*. 7. *Peralta*. 8. *Montilla*. 9. *Guarnacha*, in CATALONIA. 10. *Fontcarral*. 11. *Moscatel*. 12. *Ribadavian*. 13. *Maravella*. 14. *Seges*. 15. *Mancha*. This last is the wine of DON QUIXOTE'S country: it is of the red grape, and what is chiefly drank, mixed with water, by the court and gentry at MADRID.

THE Spanish horse were always famous; those of ANDALUSIA are the most beautiful, those of ASTURIAS the strongest: the best mules are the *Castilian*, particularly those of LA MANCHA. but both horses and mules are very dear in this country; fifty or sixty pounds for a mule is no extraordinary price. All travelling, carriage, &c. is generally performed by mules, not horses. In many places, where the mules go with safety, an horse would scarce stand.

THERE are great plenty of oxen and cows, though the Spaniards make no *butter*, oil supplying its place. They make likewise very little use of *cows milk*, *goats milk* being only to be had, even at MADRID. They have black cattle in great abundance, and large flocks of sheep. All these are usually poor and lean, for want of pasture, though the flesh is not without its relish, and the meat is certainly more substantial, more nutritious, than what is killed in ENGLAND.

THEY have immense droves of swine, particularly about TALAVERA DE LA REGNA. As these are fed with chesnuts, the pork is of a most exquisite flavour. Poultry in general, except the

the turkies, are in this country lean and dry. There are great quantities of game of all sorts, hares, partridges, &c. but neither fat nor well flavoured. The venison is good, but inferior to our own. Rabbits breed and multiply astonishingly in SPAIN, and are very good food; they were so great a nuisance, in the time of AUGUSTUS, that the Roman soldiers were obliged to destroy them, as STRABO tells us. This made CATULLUS call SPAIN *Cuniculosa Celtiberia*. And BOCHART says, that the name of SPAIN came from the Phœnician SPANIJIAM, which signifies *the land of rabbits*.

FISH is scarce ever seen in the interior parts of the country; and what does come there is usually brought in *snow*. They have great multitudes of craw-fish at MADRID.—But their chief supply of fish is sent them by the English from NEWFOUNDLAND, the *salt fish*, or what they call the BACALAO. The Spaniards themselves indeed, near CALES, salt no inconsiderable quantity of the *Tbunnus*, or *Ton-fish*; and very excellent it is; though this is no new practice, but as old as the Roman times; for the ELDER PLINY tells us, “*Optima autem omnium in Europa sunt Gaditana Salsamenta.*”

L E T

## L E T T E R XVI.

To the Reverend Dr. KENNICOTT, &c. &c.

**T**O those, Sir, who, like you, are great proficient in the *Hebrew* and eastern languages, there are perhaps few countries in the world that would afford them more pleasure than this of SPAIN, could they but have free access to all the oriental *manuscripts* it is known to contain.

You need not be informed, that when the empire of the MOORS flourished here, they had universities of note; at a time when all the Christian world, and the rest of SPAIN in particular, was buried in the most disgraceful ignorance. The Christians themselves made no difficulty of going to study in those seminaries, to learn astronomy and philosophy.

THIS country was the residence of those learned Arabs, AVICENA, AVERROES, ALMANZOR, and MESSAHALLAH. It was here those able Jews wrote their comments, the Rabbins ABEN EZRA, MOSES BEN-MAYMON, A. ZACUTH, BENJAMIN, MOSES KIMCHI, and his sons DAVID and JOSEPH; with others, whose names and works are so humorously described in that beautiful poem, your *Oxford Auctio Davisiana*.

BUT though there certainly are great collections of *Hebrew*, and other *Oriental MSS.* remaining in SPAIN, yet let me intreat you, Sir, not to raise your expectations too high, or sanguinely

to imagine; that you can derive any great accessions to your *new Edition of the Bible*, from this part of the world. Not that I am without hope of obtaining some valuable *collations* for your use hereafter: but that must be the work of much time and application: patience and perseverance are most essentially necessary in all your transactions with a Spaniard.

You no doubt are well aware, that those who glean after such men as XIMENES, MONTANUS, and PERE HOUBIGEANT, in this country, cannot expect to find much left, which they have not *collated*. But still I am persuaded, from knowing the genius of these people, that a skilful and diligent enquirer would discover some *Hebrew MSS.* which these great men never saw: some have doubtless been brought hither since their time, and some probably escaped their search.

BUT, in order that you may see the state of this matter more compleatly, I send you inclosed *two Letters*, translated from the original, written by a very learned and intelligent *Spaniard*. The *first* will give you a full view of the state of the *Hebrew and Arabic* learning in this country; and the *second* contains a most exact account of the *Complutensian Polyglott*.

HAVING used my utmost endeavours to procure you some *collations* of such ancient *Hebrew MSS.* of the Bible, as I could get intelligence of in SPAIN, it is but reasonable, that I should give you, Sir, as satisfactory an account as I can of the steps I took for that purpose.

THERE are but *two* principal obstacles to your procuring the *collation* of the *Hebrew MSS.* in SPAIN: these are, the absolute necessity of his Catholic Majesty's permission; and the difficulty of finding persons of ability, learning, leisure, and what is more, humility sufficient for such a work: for, should you find out an ecclesiastic able enough to go through this dry task, he may possibly have too much pride to receive your pay; and then what motive have you left to engage him with?

BUT

BUT how discouraging soever these obstacles may appear, yet notwithstanding, if there breaks out no war, and I have the opportunity of another year's stay in this country, I am persuaded I shall have the satisfaction of being instrumental in removing them in great measure.

UPON receiving advices from ENGLAND in regard to your undertaking, I immediately wrote to some of the Spanish *literati* upon that subject, and among others to DON FR. PEREZ BAGAR, a canon and treasurer of the church of TOLEDO: he sent me word, that he had by him between \* twenty and thirty Hebrew MSS. of the Bible, written possibly in the XIIth century, or not much later; and that there was one in particular, dated 1144. This account of his, however, proved erroneous; for he told me afterwards, that he had only eight MSS. by him of the Hebrew Bible, with another in the church library: for, not having sufficiently examined the rest, he found that several, which he imagined to have contained the text, were only Rabbinical comments.

IN obedience to my directions from ENGLAND, I informed the Earl of BRISTOL of the nature, state, and utility of your undertaking, and endeavoured to induce him to move in it: but his Lordship replied, that he could not; that his office was only *political*, and that he had nothing to do with what was foreign to his commission.

UPON this I wrote to ENGLAND, advising an application to be made to the Count DE FUENTES, in order to obtain his Catholic Majesty's permission, that the Hebrew MSS. of the Bible in SPAIN might be *collated* for your work. That Count's chaplain called upon me soon after at SEGOVIA, and assured me, that the Count DE FUENTES had promised to procure an application from the Romish college of Cardinals to the King of SPAIN, for the English to have the same permission here, which they had in the *Vatican*. This I have heard no more of since; and to tell you the truth, I did not believe at that time.

\* See above, p. 83.

YOU will see in my † catalogue of the ESCURIAL MSS. what there is in that place. While I was there, I had the good fortune to meet with the Count GAZOLA, one of his Catholic Majesty's great favourites, a Lieutenant-general, and his principal Engineer. He having asked me, if I had succeeded in obtaining access to the Hebrew and other MSS. in SPAIN? I replied, that I had seen those of the ESCURIAL, in a very cursory manner, but none else; that as to such an access as I wanted, for the purposes of *collation*, I despaired of ever seeing that point accomplished. He replied, "Courage, mon ami, a mon retour á MADRID, je vous ferois cette grace moi meme."——This I looked upon as a most favourable incident; and accordingly, when I returned to MADRID, I drew up the inclosed Latin epistle to Count GAZOLA, stating the nature of your proposals, and desiring his assistance in obtaining the King's permission.

AFTER this, I saw BAGER at MADRID, who came to desire me to send to ENGLAND for some books, which would be necessary to him in finishing a work he had almost completed, entitled *an Explanation of the Samaritan coins*, to which will be added an account of the Spanish coins, called *desconnocidas*. At this interview we made a mutual agreement; I undertook to procure the books, provided he would *collate* and send me the *various readings* of those nine MSS. at TOLEDO. So that you have nothing more to do, Sir, than to write a letter to him in form, requesting the *collation* of those MSS. for your work, in order that he might lay that letter before the chapter of TOLEDO, to obtain their permission.

P. S. Since my return to ENGLAND, I have little more to add, Sir, to this account. When I saw the Honourable Mr. HAY at LISBON, he very warmly espoused the cause of your undertaking; and was so obliging as to offer to keep such a literary correspondence open during the war, if necessary. But as we have now the prospect of peace before us, we are under no restraints of that sort; and whenever you would have any correspondence in SPAIN

† See above, Letter VIII. p. 155.