

lages and follow their respective occupations. The regiments, which all consist of one single battalion of seven hundred and twenty men \*, must always be complete. As soon as a soldier of the militia dies, deserts, or is discharged, lots are drawn in the village whence he was taken, to replace him. The ordinances of 1703 and 1705, enact that the drawing of the militia shall take one person from a hundred; a rule which must have been departed from in practice. It cannot be supposed that such a regulation has ever been observed; forty-two regiments of seven hundred and twenty men each would amount to upwards of thirty thousand men. These thirty thousand multiplied by a hundred will give three millions of subjects fit to bear arms in the provinces of the crown of Castile; and it will be found difficult to reconcile this calculation with the real state of population in those provinces.

\* Besides these there are several companies of

\* Except that of Majorca which has two.

The regiments of militia have a particular inspector. Their colonels are chosen from among the most distinguished gentry of the district; and their authority is very extensive over the men. They have the power of inflicting punishments, and there is no appeal from their sentences, but to the king, through the medium of the council of war. Few states in Europe have a better regulated body of militia. The grenadiers of these regiments are in time of war united to the regular troops. They enjoy among their fellow citizens a reputation which their whole conduct during the last war justly merited.

The Spanish soldiers in general have long been justly renowned throughout Europe, for their firm and persevering courage, and the resolution with which they support labour, fatigue, and hunger. Those of our countrymen who saw them at Minorca and before Gibraltar, can determine

whether or not they have degenerated.

I have, however, frequently heard the Spaniards say their troops were not so well commanded as they ought to be. I know not how far the censure is well founded. I have been honoured with the acquaintance of many Spanish officers of rank, as well as subalterns; and they generally appeared to me to be actuated by the true spirit of their profession. Those who derogate from it seem at least to do themselves justice by concealing the defect. It must however be allowed, that there is more merit in Spain in being what is called a good soldier than in France.

In the first place, although Spain has taken a part in all the wars of this century, it may still be said, that since those of Italy terminated in 1748, her troops have made no real campaigns. The Spaniards themselves dare not give this  
name

name to the short war with Portugal, in which they encountered but few obstacles and little danger. The expeditions to Algiers and Buenos Ayres were soon ended; they called into action only a part of the army, and afforded but few opportunities for the display either of courage or of experience. What army in Europe would not have lost its activity by a peace of thirty years almost without interruption? Add to this that the Spanish officers have not the same means of forming themselves with the French. Most of their garrisons are solitary and ill provided, without resource either for instruction or innocent pleasures; the officers have not the privilege of the *sémes tres* \* and but seldom obtain leave of absence to regulate their private affairs. This is undoubtedly a means of making excellent officers of those who are thus in a situation uninterruptedly to perform the duties of their

\* Leave of absence for six months every year, or every second year, in France.

profession. But these in all countries are but few in number ; and in general this unvaried and insipid life in the end absorbs the faculties and destroys activity, or diverts the mind to improper objects. It has besides the inconvenience of rendering the service less desirable, and keeping from it those to whom a smaller fortune or a liberal education offers other resources. The Spanish army has lately however undergone an advantageous revolution in this respect. The different schools of which I have spoken, furnish it with persons of distinguished abilities. A martial spirit has been awakened in the nobility of the first distinction ; who embrace the profession of arms, which in them is a greater merit than in ours. What young French colonel would resign himself to pass three or four years at Briançon, Charlemont or Gravelines, remote from his family, his affairs, and what is still more, from the pleasures of the capital ? Yet have I known more than one grandee of Spain willingly submit to similar sacrifices.

All I have said of the infantry is applicable to the other corps of the Spanish army. The cavalry consists of fourteen regiments, not including the brigade of carbiniers, raised in 1730. There are eight of dragoons. These two corps have each an inspector. Each regiment of cavalry is composed of four squadrons, which should contain a hundred and fifty men. Were the corps complete, Spain would have an army of thirteen thousand two hundred horse. I have been, however, assured, that in 1776, at the approach of a war, which soon after took place, there were but eight thousand effective horse. In time of peace, the six hundred men, of which each regiment ought to be composed, are reduced to four hundred and eighty, and of this number there are eighty men dismounted.

This arrangement was produced by the œconomy of 1768. The result is, that the cavalry is less agreeable than it otherwise would be to the Spaniards, because the new recruits remain three or

four years on foot, waiting for their turn to have spare horses. Notwithstanding these defects, the Spanish cavalry may be reckoned amongst the finest in Europe.

The corps of carbiniers deserves the attention of connoisseurs. It only requires to be a little better disciplined to be equal to the best regiments of cavalry of other kingdoms. It is stationed in La Mancha, which it never leaves but from time to time to be reviewed by the king, when his majesty is at Aranjuez. I was present at several of these reviews, and could not but admire the beauty, docility, and vivacity of the horses. The carbiniers are besides a chosen corps, inspired with the true military spirit. But their residence in La Mancha, of which they are, if I may use the expression, become citizens, benumbs their activity, and is not without its ill effects on the morals of the inhabitants.

The cavalry is not easily mounted in Spain as might be supposed, from the  
great

great celebrity of the Spanish horses. It is generally said the breed is degenerated, and it is certain that fine horses are become more rare. This is attributed to the little care that has been taken to cross the breed, and particularly to the too great number of studs of mules bred from the finest mares in the kingdom. The indefatigable ardor of these animals has given them the preference to horses both with the court and individuals, As the studs of Spain do not produce a sufficient number of mules, the deficiency is supplied by a lesser species from some of the French provinces. The studs of horses which still exist in Andalusia, have been neglected, and there are but few, except those of the king, and the grandees, with that his majesty keeps at Aranjuez, which still support the ancient reputation of the breed of Spain.

Nature which has so liberally bestowed on Spain all the necessaries and luxuries of life, and has scarcely refused that kingdom any of the enjoyments



ments that peace permits to be tasted, has been equally lavish in bestowing all the materials of which war composes the means of destruction; she has given iron in abundance, copper, lead, and saltpetre, and we shall see that this country need not be indebted to any other to supply its artillery with these destructive treasures.

It is only since 1710, that the Spanish artillery has taken its present form. At that period it was collected into one regiment, composed of five battalions, without including the cadets, who are brought up at Segovia. The colonel of the regiment is the commander general, who to the corps of artillery is what the inspector is to the infantry, cavalry, dragoons, and militia. This place is at present held by the count de Lacy, a general officer, originally from Ireland, who had previously represented the Spanish monarch in several northern courts, where he was received with an attention and respect which he well merited. It was said, on the occasion  
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of his promotion, that after having been intrusted out of Spain to advance the political interests of his sovereign, he was at length appointed to improve and urge *the last reasoning of kings*; alluding to the motto on some of these destructive engines, the last resource of kings: *ultima ratio regum*.

His predecessor, the count of Gazola, recalled from Naples by Charles III. when he ascended the throne of Spain, had begun to make improvements in the artillery, which had been neglected under Ferdinand VI. like several other branches of administration. The new monarch, wishing to introduce a reform into his arsenals, requested the count to send him a founder. Mr. Mariz was chosen by the ministry, and made several great alterations in the Spanish founderies.

He adopted the method of casting the cannon solid, and boring them afterwards. Envy created him many difficulties, and some unsuccessful efforts  
seemed

seemed to justify the malevolence with which he was received; for many of the cannon cast in this new manner, were found defective. He was unpardonably culpable in casting a great quantity of Mexican copper, without first assuring himself that the metal was sufficiently solid. Most of these cannon failed in the proof, and the clamour against him became general. His own courage, and the protection of the monarch, supported him under the storm; and he continued to employ his best endeavours in the service of a country to which he had been called, though he despaired of ever being useful to it. At length he quitted Spain, leaving behind him his method and his principles, with all the precautions and improvements he had been taught by experience. At present, even his enemies acknowledge that he has rendered real services to the Spanish artillery.

The manner in which it was directed in the late war, particularly at the siege of Mahon, proved that this part at least

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of the military art is as well understood in Spain as elfewhere; and it cannot but be ftill improved under the auspices of fo active and intelligent a commander, whofe zeal is affifted by feveral diftinguifhed officers which Spain neither owes to Ireland nor Italy. Every thing neceffary for arfenal ftores may be found in the Spanifh dominions. Spain has feveral lead-mines, but they are not all in a proper ftate to be worked. The principal one is that of Linarez, in the kingdom of Jaen. It produces much more than is fold in Spain for the king's account; and without much effort this kingdom might export a thoufand tons per annum, though the other mines, in their prefent ftate, produce no more than four hundred tons.

There are feveral copper mines alfo in Spain. That of Rio-Tinto is the moft productive; it fupplies a part of the artillery. But the copper of the Spanifh Indies is alfo laid under contribution. That of Mexico and Peru is refined and manufactured in the two royal founderies

deries of Barcelona and Seville. The cannon cast there have two-thirds of Mexican copper to one of that of Peru.

Biscay and the Pyrenees furnish the iron necessary for the Spanish artillery. The cannon of this metal are cast at Lierganes and Cavada. The cast iron comes from the forges of Eugui and Muga. Fire-arms are made in the province of Guipuzcoa. Those of Catalonia, forged at Placentia, and which, discredited in Spain, it is not known for what reason, were sent to Spanish America on board Catalonian vessels, have regained their reputation, and will in future make it unnecessary for Spain to have recourse to France to arm her troops. Lastly, a manufacture of sword-blades has recently been established at Toledo, which promises to revive the ancient reputation of the blades of that city.

Spain is one of the richest countries in Europe in salt-petre. La Mancha and Arragon had the reputation of furnishing this article of an excellent quality.

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A French company had undertaken the preparation of it, and for this purpose sent M. Salvador Dampierre to Spain. This agent, although he wanted not talents, failed in his undertaking. He had made, on a piece of ground near Madrid, some unsuccessful experiments, by which government wisely profited, proving that if its zeal for the public good frequently causes it to have recourse to foreign aid, it does not always stand in need of it to improve what has been sketched out. The ground in question is found to contain salt-petre of a quality superior to that of La Mancha and Arragon; in consequence of which a manufacture was begun there in 1779, which was intrusted to the management of Don Rosendo Parayuelo, one of the commissioners general of rents. At this time it is one of the most interesting establishments of the capital. Within two years it employed four thousand men to carry earth, and boil and purify the salt-petre; which after two boilings is fit for making powder. The first boiling requires eight or ten days, but a few  
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hours are sufficient for the second. Water is conveyed in abundance to this manufacture by subterraneous pipes. Wood has never been wanting since the director has given this opening to that which the inhabitants of the hills of Guadarrama did not before even give themselves the trouble of cutting.

The earth which produces the saltpetre recovers itself with surprising promptitude. The *caput mortuum* is brought to the environs of the manufacture; and sometimes in less than a month the influence of the air, impregnated with nitre, renders it fit for a second operation. It has been remarked, that after the wind has blown from a certain point, the neighbouring soil becomes whitened, as if snow had fallen upon it. The frequent removing of the earth laid in heaps about the gates of Madrid, gives to that side of the city an appearance of negligence and aridity disagreeable to the eye: but, in this case, the agreeable is very properly sacrificed to the useful.

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The salt-petre is sent to the powder-mills in the kingdoms of Valencia, Murcia, and Granada, the employment of which has been considerably increased since the establishment of the manufacture at Madrid. The proprietors engaged annually to furnish government with eleven thousand quintals of its produce. During the war they exceeded their engagement, and the director flattered himself, in 1784, that he should soon furnish thirty thousand quintals a year. The manufacture, however, could not supply the enormous consumption of powder at the camp of St. Roch: and although thirty thousand quintals were sent thither when the attack was to be made on Gibraltar, it was thought necessary to hasten the arrival of more from Genoa, France, and Holland. But if the manufacture of Madrid continues to prosper, it will not only supply the wants of Spain, but will render gunpowder a considerable article of exportation, provided it receives no such checks as that of the floating batteries, which alone, with one hundred



and ninety-two cannon, consumed eighteen thousand quintals.

Hitherto the quality of this new powder is incontestibly good; it carries twice as far as common powder; for which reason the king of Spain, and the infants, make use of no other in shooting; and the king of Naples receives a small quantity of it by his couriers, who every week set off from Madrid.

Spanish America will soon be independent of the mother country, with respect to this precious yet pernicious commodity, which alternately serves for the pleasures and destruction of mankind. The present minister of the Indies has ordered three manufactures of salt-petre to be established there, at Lima, Mexico, and Santa Fé de Bogota. He expects great success from the latter, which, if the event answers his hopes, will soon furnish a hundred thousand quintals of powder per annum. He has sent to America, for the improvement of these manufactures, the same Salvador Dam-

Dampierre who failed in his attempts in Europe. The fidelity of the Spanish colonies, and the importance of them to the parent country merited that these means of defence should be more within their reach. May the genius of Spain prevent their attempting a less innocent use of them.

The corps of engineers is separated, as in France, from the artillery; it was not established before the year 1711. It consists of ten directors, ten colonels, twenty lieutenant-colonels, thirty captains, forty lieutenants, and forty second lieutenants; in all, one hundred and fifty officers. The care of the fortifications is not sufficient to employ even this small number of persons, and they are indifferently employed in military operations, and in those which in France exclusively belong to the engineers of bridges and caufeways. There is one commander for each of these works; and he who presides over the works of civil architecture and hydraulics,

lics, nevertheless retains his rank in the army, although he cannot properly be considered as a military man. The person who at present holds the place has the rank of field-marshal. The other has, under his direction, the three academies established at Barcelona, Oran, and Ceuta, for the instruction of engineers, and those who aspire to that profession. Before I conclude what I have to observe concerning the Spanish army, I shall speak of the marks of distinction, and rewards, conferred upon the officers.

The general officers, have, as I have already observed, an uniform very much resembling that of a French general. The colonels, lieutenant-colonels, and majors, wear no epaulettes. The former have three narrow gold or silver laces upon the cuff, the lieutenant-colonels two, and the majors only one. The captains wear two epaulettes; the lieutenants, one upon the right shoulder; the second lieutenants, one upon the left. All officers who are not at least field-m Marshals are obliged continually

nually to wear their uniform even when they appear at court.

According to some late regulations, no person can become an officer without having been a cadet. The military school, first established at Avila, and not long since removed to Port Saint Mary, is not so much intended to instruct students in the first elements of tactics, as to cultivate the dispositions of officers, whatever may be their age, who have the noble emulation of distinguishing themselves in the military profession, in which well-directed studies, though they cannot supply the want of, may in some measure anticipate, experience. Nothing is omitted in this academy which may conduce to that end; and it is, perhaps, the only institution of the kind in Europe. I speak in favour of it with the more pleasure, as its founder is no longer sensible of panegyric or adulation.

The kings of Spain have no more forgotten the declining years of their mili-

military men than their youth. There is a corps of invalids in Spain, as well for officers as soldiers; but the forty-six companies, of which it is composed, are distributed at Madrid, and in the provinces, where they perform an easy duty. Those incapable of all service form another corps of twenty-six companies, divided between Seville, Valencia, Lugo, and Toro. Both these corps are under the inspector of the infantry.

In Spain there is no order of knighthood particularly destined to the reward of officers. The present sovereign has, however, imposed on himself a law to confer on none but these the four military orders; yet, without excluding them from that he has himself founded. But these favours absolutely depend upon his pleasure, and not upon the length of service. There are besides other means of rewarding the old servants of the crown; the king bestows on them pensions or employments analogous to their profession; his beneficence also extends to their widows.

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In 1761, he established a fund from which they receive pensions according to the rank of their husbands. Eighteen thousand reals a year are paid to those of captains-general, twelve thousand to those of lieutenants-general, and in proportion to the widows of petty officers. This fund, consists of a grant of six thousand doblons, about ninety thousand livres (3750l.) anterior to its establishment; a contribution of twenty per cent. upon what the king receives from the spoils of bishops, and from the revenues of vacant bishopricks; a deduction of eight maravedis for each crown upon all the pensions enjoyed by the subjects of the king; half of the first year's pay of all the officers of the army; another deduction of eight maravedis from each crown of their pay; and all the property of officers dying without heirs, or intestate: a truly valuable and beneficial institution, which by insuring a subsistence to the widows of officers, without their standing in need of protection to enforce their claims, has greatly encouraged military men to marry,

marry, and has had an influence, even in this respect, upon the other classes of society.

The place of commandant-general of a province is an opening to general officers, but obliges them to almost a perpetual residence; for in Spain, bishops, intendants, governors and commanders reside where they are employed, although the residence of the sovereign and that of the capital have the same temptations for ambition and dissipation as in other countries.

All the commandants of provinces bear the title of *captain-general*, which however must not be confounded with that of the first military rank. They commonly receive, but from an abuse, the title of vice-roy also, which properly belongs to none but the commandant of Navarre, and those of the principal provinces of Spanish America.









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