reproaches of ignorance and indolence to which ſhe had ſo long been expoſed?

Even that would be better, replied the merchant, than to riſk, by endeavouring to derive new and romantic advantages from the iſlands, exciting the jealouſy of thoſe powers which forbear to diſturb them at preſent on account of their inutility, and who would not have ſuffered them to remain ſo long in the poſſeſſion of a more active nation. It would alſo be more advantageous than to increaſe and extend their commerce at the expence of the manufactures of Spain, and at the riſk of diſturbing the tranquility of Europe. But my aſſertions are not ſo oppoſite to reaſon and policy as you ſeem to imagine.

I do not mean that Spain ſhould continue to abandon the Philippines entirely to themſelves. Let thoſe kinds of agriculture and induſtry, to which the ſoil and character of the inhabitants render them proper, be encouraged, but

let theſe be entirely directed to the advantage of the people of the iſland. You ſay, their port is inacceſſible in time of war. In that caſe, the chief taſk of the mother country is performed. It would be ſufficient that now, in time of peace, that port ſhould be opened to all the Eaſtern nations, and that the inhabitants ſhould be permitted to make voyages from one part of India to another. This would ſuffice for their proſperity without endangering their ſafety. By this means the reproaches you would wiſh Spain to free herſelf from will be without foundation, and the mother country will ſignalize that virtue ſo worthy of a great power, the generoſity of rendering her ſubjects happy, without expecting any other return than that reſulting from a voluntary benefaction.

In fact, what reaſon can a government which is ſo ſucceſsfully employed in making roads and canals to facilitate communication through every part of the country; which inceſſantly labours to encou-

rage

rage agriculture and manufactures, to increaſe population, to emancipate the inhabitants from their ancient prejudices, to render the navy reſpectable, and to extend commerce to ſo many other colonies which without the Philippines would ſufficiently contribute to the riches and ſplendor of Spain, be reproached with indolence and ignorance? a government which, not ſatisfied with the eſtabliſhment of a free trade with Spaniſh America in general, has had the wiſdom and courage to take particular meaſures in favour of thoſe parts of that America which, as Trinidad and Louiſiana, had a more immediate claim to its attention? Who that has a reſpect for truth will henceforth dare to give ſo odious and unjuſt a deſcription of this nation? The only anſwer I can return to ſuch declamations is, either the character of the Spaniards has been improperly eſtimated, or it is greatly changed. *

* The gloomy predictions of the Spaniſh merchant have been contradicted in part by experience. Of three veſſels ſent out by the new company, one in-

This led me to a diſcuſſion of the manners and character of the modern Spaniards, in which we agreed much better than on the ſubject of the Philippine company. It confirmed me in the ideas I had conceived of them after a reſidence of ſeveral years in the country.

ſuffered, from a want of ſkill in thoſe who had the care of it, conſiderable damages, which were repaired at the iſle of France; but the two others arrived ſafe at Cadiz towards the end of 1787. Their cargoes were received with the greateſt eagerneſs: their ſales exceeded the price at which they were eſtimated on their arrival from fifteen to fifty per Cent. It is however feared, that this ſplendid beginning cannot be ſupported. The high price was attributed to novelty, and the ſcarcity of the commodities brought by the veſſels. It is preſumed, that if a taſte for them were eſtabliſhed, ſmuggling would furniſh them at a cheaper rate; for the company, for want of having placed experienced ſupra cargoes in the veſſels, made in this firſt expedition very dear purchaſes, and of a middling quality; it is even thought, that in future, the company muſt renounce the article of tea, which among the Spaniards has a rival difficult to ſupplant. Beſides, the conſumption of chocolate cannot be diminiſhed but to the detriment of ſeveral colonies, the property of which is ſtill more intereſting to Spain than that of the new company.

The

The recapitulation I am about to offer to my readers, will inform them what is my own opinion.

I ſhall begin by a few words concerning ſuch eſtimates of national character. They are portraits, which under a brilliant and ingenious pencil, have every merit except that of reſemblance. It is not according to them that an idea can be formed of any modern people. For individuals to reſemble each other, they muſt be under the influence of the ſame climate, have the ſame occupations, and profeſs the ſame religion. They muſt alſo live under a well-eſtabliſhed form of government, and moſt of them give to their ideas, ſentiments and exterior habitude of body, a conſtant and uniform turn. It is the concurrence only of all theſe particulars which can authorize us to apply to all the portrait of an individual. A difference among them, in any one of theſe reſpects, is ſufficient to give infinite variety to their moral and phyſical features. For this

reaſon it would be eaſy to deſcribe the ancient Scythians, or other paſtoral nations, the ſavages of Canada and barbarians in general, who have but one ſimple and uniform mode of worſhip, few laws, and little communication with other nations. The Greeks and Romans alſo in the happieſt times of their republics, almoſt entirely devoted to the love of their country, liberty and fame, inhabiting a confined ſpace, where the influence of climate was in every place nearly ſimilar, and all taking a part more or leſs active in government, might be generally deſcribed by the ſame lineaments. For which reaſon, among modern nations, the Engliſh and Dutch would be found nearer this uniformity, the firſt from that univerſal inquietude which fixes their attention upon government, whoſe operations are ſubmitted to their inſpection, and from that national pride which keeps their minds in continual activity, and which is not, as in other countries, confined to certain claſſes of ſociety; and the latter becauſe, notwithſtanding

ſtanding the various conſtitutions of their ſeven provinces, they have all a point of union which attaches them to their country and liberty, by their portion of an authority infinitely ſubdivided; and, becauſe the nature of their ſoil, and their ſituation with reſpect to other countries,*

* I find in the republick of Holland, a confirmation of this obſervation. Six of the provinces reſemble each other in the nature of the ſoil, which obliges them to commerce, and reduces them to almoſt a ſingle kind of cultivation, and in their conſtitution, which is differently compoſed of ariſtocracy and democracy; while the province of Guelderland which has not one conſiderable harbour, is almoſt without canals, of which the ſoil is more unequal and leſs fertile than that of the reſt of the republick, and which has been long ſince faſhioned to the yoke of a maſter, contains inhabitants which ſenſibly differ from the ſubjects of the other united provinces. It is therefore upon Guelderland that the Deſpot, who has juſt reduced them to ſubjection, has made the firſt eſſay of his power; and, whilſt the other provinces glowed with the noble enthuſiaſm of liberty, its ſtates, chiefly compoſed of gentlemen devoted by intereſt to tyranny, ſighed for his ſucceſs. They were the firſt to offer him aſſiſtance, and gave the warmeſt reception to thoſe who came to aſſure them of his triumph. After this, let the portrait of a real Dutchman be applied to an inhabitant of Guelderland!

preſcribes them all nearly the ſame taſte and employments. But who can flatter himſelf with the idea of giving a good portrait of the German, Italian, and French nations? What a difference between the climates, productions, employments, laws and language of one province and thoſe of another! Who would apply to an inhabitant of Weſtphalia the deſcription of a Saxon or an Auſtrian; that of a Neapolitan to a Venetian; or that of a Fleming to an inhabitant of Languedoc?

The Spaniards are in the ſame ſituation as theſe three nations. There are in the inhabitants of their chief provinces ſuch ſtriking differences of climate, manners, language, habits, character, and even exterior form, that the portait of a Galician would more reſemble a native of Auvergne than a Catalonian, and that of an Andaluſian a Gaſcon more than a Caſtilian. If the Spaniards have ever had characteriſtic marks, applicable to all the inhabitants

of

of their Peninſula, it was when the Arabians, by eſtabliſhing themſelves in the nation, had ſtamped it with a particular impreſſion, and notwithſtanding the different cauſes which ſeparated them from it, had communicated to it a part of their manners, ideas, taſte for the arts and ſciences, and of every thing of which the traces are ſtill found in the provinces where they moſtly reſided; it was when the high idea they had of their nation, and which was juſtified by circumſtances, appeared in their perſons, and gave them all a reſemblance to the deſcription ill given of them; by repreſenting them all grave, auſtere,, generous, and breathing nothing but war and adventures. It was, in fine, when in their general aſſemblies, which they called *Cortes*, all took a part, more or leſs active, in government, directing or watching its operations, and when they felt more ſtrongly than at preſent, that patriotiſm which acts ſo powerfully upon the opinions, affections and manners of thoſe whom

whom it animates. But theſe three cauſes of uniformity in national character have almoſt entirely diſappeared, and left the Spaniards more immediately to the influence of the climate, and the laws and productions of their different provinces; ſo that to deſcribe them in their preſent ſtate, they muſt be divided into Caſtilians, Catalonians, Arragonians, Navarrians, Andaluſians, and Aſturians, and to each of theſe people muſt be aſſigned a particular portrait; a difficult and diſagreeable taſk, which could never be compleated without almoſt continually placing the exception by the ſide of the rule; in which it would be ſcarcely poſſible to be exact without deſcending to minuteneſs, to be juſt without being ſevere, or a eulogiſt without appearing to flatter.

However, this revolution has not been ſo compleat as not to leave many features, by which the whole Spaniſh nation may ſtill be known. A part of its manners have ſurvived the event by

which they were changed. The influence of the climate has been modified, but not deſtroyed; in many reſpects the provinces have the ſame form of government. The court of a monarch almoſt abſolute, is ſtill the center of all views and affections. All the modern Spaniards profeſs the ſame religion. In literature they have ſtill the ſame taſte, and copy the ſame models. In many reſpects they have preſerved ſome reſemblance to their anceſtors, and this is what I ſhall endeavour to point out.

When Spain diſcovered and conquered the New World, not contented to reign over a great part of Europe, ſhe agitated and convulſed the other either by intrigue or military enterprizes. At this period the Spaniards were intoxicated with that national pride which appeared in the exterior of their perſons, in their geſtures, language and writings. As there was then ſome reaſon for this, it gave them an air of grandeur which was at leaſt pardoned by

by thoſe whom it inſpired not with reſpect. But by a concurrence of unfortunate circumſtances this ſplendour has been eclipſed, and the aſſuming manners it excuſed have ſurvived it.

The Spaniard of the ſixteenth century has diſappeared, but his maſk remains. Hence that exterior fierceneſs and gravity by which he is at preſent diſtinguiſhed, and which have frequently recalled to my recollection two lines of one of our poets on the ſubject of original ſin, notwithſtanding the conſequences of which the ſublime ſtation man was intended to fill is ſtill eaſy to be known.

C'eſt du haut de ſon trône un roi précipité,
Qui garde ſur ſon front un trait de majeſté *.

The modern Spaniard ſtill preſerves in his air and geſture the marks of his ancient greatneſs. Whether he ſpeaks

* He is a king precipitated from his throne, who ſtill preſerves in his air ſome traces of majeſty.

or

or writes, his expreſſions have an exaggerated turn which approaches bombaſt. The Spaniards will pardon me for treating them in this point with a little ſeverity. To enable them to ſupport it, let them recollect that each nation has its defects as well as good qualities; and that theſe are ſo joined, that defects are ſometimes the conſequence or exceſs of good qualities, in the ſame manner as good qualities are an excuſe for, and frequently the conſequences of defects.

I therefore ſhall not ſcruple to repeat that the Spaniard has an exalted idea of his nation and of himſelf, and expreſſes it without the leaſt diſguiſe of art. His vanity is not nouriſhed by thoſe pleaſant exaggerations which provoke laughter rather than anger, and which characteriſe the inhabitants of one of the provinces of France. When he boaſts it is gravely, with all the pomp of his language. In a word, the Spaniard, as a man of wit once ſaid to me, *is a Gaſcon who has put on the buſkin.*

I am

I am nevertheleſs much diſpoſed to believe that the genius of the language may alſo be one reaſon for this pompous ſtyle. The Spaniards have not only adopted many words and expreſſions from the Arabic, but their language is impregnated, as it were, with the oriental ſpirit which the Arabians naturalized in Spain. This is found in all the productions of Spaniſh imagination, in works of piety, in comedies and novels. It is, perhaps, one of the cauſes of the ſlow progreſs of ſound philoſophy, becauſe carrying every thing beyond the truth, accumulating images round the moſt ſimple ideas, and favouring whatever borders upon the wonderful, the ſanctuary of truth is ſurrounded with illuſion and rendered inacceſſible. The Spaniard is ſo prolific, ſo diſordered in his conceptions, that to ſay a man conceives brilliant chimeras, or that he receives them as realities, cuſtom has introduced the proverb, *Il fait des châteaux en Eſpagne*, he builds caſtles in Spain, an expreſſion, for the etymology of

of which, I think, it would be ſuperfluous to ſeek elſewhere.

But the haughtineſs of the Spaniard, which would be noble were it more moderated, and his gravity which always awes, and ſometimes repels, are compenſated by very eſtimable qualities, or are rather the ſource of thoſe qualities. Individual pride, like that of a nation, elevates the mind and guards it againſt meanneſs; and ſuch is the effect of Spaniſh haughtineſs. In Spain there are vices and crimes as in other countries; but in general they bear this national characteriſtic. It is obſervable in the moſt obſcure claſſes, in dungeons, and even under rags and miſery. It compenſates, to a certain degree, the genius of a language naturally diffuſe, in which the ear ſeems to be gratified by an accumulation of ſonorous words, and wherein multiplied expreſſions are frequently miſtaken for an abundance of ideas. Haughtineſs is commonly preciſe; it diſdains detail and loves enig-

matical expreſſions becauſe they are conciſe, and leave room to think, and ſometimes to conjecture. Hence is it that the ſame Spaniards who, when their imagination is in the leaſt warmed, diſplay all the luxury of their language, are laconic when their mind is calm. Of this I might give a hundred examples, but I ſhall mention one only. I had occaſion to ſpeak to a Spaniard of the loweſt claſs, and found him gravely careſſing a little child. I aſked him if he were the father? A Frenchman of the ſame rank would have modeſtly anſwered, Yes, Sir; or, at leaſt, I believe ſo; and would have ſaid much more on the ſubject than I ſhould have wiſhed to hear. The Caſtilian, without diſturbing himſelf, or even receiving my queſtion with a ſmile, anſwered me coldly: "he was born in my houſe," after which he immediately turned the diſcourſe to ſome other ſubject.

This gravity, almoſt become proverbial, is however far from what it is gene-

generally ſuppoſed to be; in fact it excludes in the Spaniards what we call affability. They do not anticipate, but wait for you. But this auſtere covering frequently conceals a good and benevolent mind, which will become manifeſt on the leaſt examination. Strangers to the vain hypocriſy of French politeneſs, the Spaniards are ſparing in profeſſions. Their ſmile of benevolence is not the mark of duplicity, and their heart commonly opens with their features. How often have I been repulſed by the exterior of a Spaniard, and remained a long time without being able to approach him, or to conquer my repugnance, which was all that was neceſſary, to find in him a complaiſance not affected but real; an obliging manner, not that which promiſes but that which grants! The Spaniards are, perhaps, in want of that urbanity which is beſtowed by what we call a refined education, but which too frequently ſerves as a covering to falſehood and contempt. They ſupply this by that unaffected frankneſs and good-

nature, which announces and inſpires confidence.

The great among them have no dignity, if we mean that which is circumſpect in its affability, for fear of provoking familiarity, and which cares but little whether or not it be loved, provided it be but reſpected. Without forgetting who they are, they mark not in a mortifying manner the diſtinction of claſſes, and do not diſdain to form connections among thoſe beneath their own. They have no longer among them a Duke of Alba, a Don Louis de Haro, and a Penaranda, whoſe characters diſplayed in the face of Europe, have undoubtedly contributed to propagate the idea ſtill entertained of the imperious haughtineſs of the Spaniſh nobility of the firſt rank. If ſome have ſtill preſerved the traces of it, in them it is coolneſs, timidity, and embarraſſment; or at leaſt, if I may uſe the expreſſion, their point of contact with the reſt of the nation.

We

We muſt not forget likewiſe, that this exterior gravity conceals in perſons of every claſs a cheerfulneſs, which to diſcover itſelf only needs to be excited. To prove this, I ſhall not have recourſe to the Spaniſh theatres, where buffooneries are ſo well received; this would rather be an argument againſt my aſſertion, becauſe it has been remarked, that the theatres of gay nations are more ſerious than thoſe of grave ones, as if the mind were principally delighted with thoſe emotions which are moſt oppoſite to its habitual ſtate.

But to enable the reader to judge whether or not the Spaniards have the vivacity I have attributed to them, I will conduct him to circles where they are at their eaſe; to their repaſts, even before the vapours of the food and wine have fermented in their brain; I will introduce him to their converſations which abound in ſprightlineſs, pleaſantries and equivoques, all the legitimate or illegitimate offspring of viva-

city; and will there aſk him, if this be not more open and better ſupported than in French ſocieties, circles or *petit-ſoupers*. Undoubtedly he will ſay, that this vivacity is too noiſy, that it is vulgar. But contemptible is that delicacy which condemns men to tireſome inſipidity. Let this cheerfulneſs however, be condemned or not, by the caprice of faſhion, it does not the leſs exiſt becauſe our prejudices have taken a contrary turn.

Similar obſervations may be made on other defects with which the Spaniards are continually reproached. If I have not quite abſolved them from their idleneſs, I have taken the liberty to aſſert, that it was the conſequence of tranſient circumſtances, and will diſappear with them. In fact, when we witneſs the activity which appears upon the coaſt of Catalonia, throughout the whole kingdom of Valencia, in the mountains of Biſcay, and in all places were induſtry is encouraged, and commodities have an eaſy and certain ſale; when on the other hand

hand, we obſerve the laborious life of the muletiers and caleſſieros, who courageouſly conduct their mules and carriages throughout the whole country by the moſt dangerous roads; the huſbandmen who, in the plains of La Mancha and Andaluſia, harden themſelves to the labours of the fields, which the nature of the ſoil, the diſtance of their habitations, and the heat of the moſt burning climate in Europe, render more painful than in other countries; when we conſider the number of Galicians and Aſturians who, like our Auvergnians and Limouſins, ſeek at a diſtance the ſlow and painful means of ſubſiſtence; when we perceive that the idleneſs with which the Spaniards are ſo much reproached, is circumſcribed within the boundaries of the two Caſtiles, that is, the part of Spain the moſt unprovided with roads, canals, and navigable rivers; it is but juſt, to conclude that this vice is not an indelible ſtain in the character of the Spaniſh nation; that it is only the reſult of the tranſient nature of things;

and that a government active and enlightened like the preſent, will find means intirely to eradicate it.

There is another defect which has much affinity to idleneſs, at leaſt it manifeſts itſelf by much the ſame ſymptoms; which is ſlowneſs; and from this it would be more difficult to exculpate the Spaniards. It muſt be allowed, that knowledge penetrates but ſlowly into Spain. In political meaſures, war, and all the operations of government; nay, even in the common occurences of life, when other nations act, they ſtill deliberate. Miſtruſtful and circumſpect, they fail in as many affairs by ſlowneſs, as others by precipitation. This is the more extraordinary, as their lively imagination ſhould ſeem of a nature to be irritated by delay. But in nations, as in individuals, there is not a ſingle quality which is not frequently modified by a contrary one, and in the ſtruggle, the triumph is always on the ſide to which the mind is moſt forcibly diſpoſed by the circumſtance of the moment.

ment. The Spaniard, naturally cold and deliberate when nothing extraordinary moves him, is inflamed to enthuſiaſm, when his haughtineſs, reſentment, or any of the paſſions which compoſe his character, are awakened either by inſult or oppoſition. Hence it is, that the Spaniſh nation, apparently the moſt grave, cold, and ſlow in Europe, ſometimes becomes one of the moſt violent when circumſtances deprive it of its habitual calm and deliver it up to the empire of the imagination. The moſt dangerous animals are not thoſe which are in the moſt continued agitation. The aſpect of the lion is grave as his pace; his motions are not without an object; his roarings not in vain. As long as his inaction is undiſturbed, he loves peace and ſilence, but if he be provoked, he ſhakes his mane; fire ſparkles in his eyes; he roars tremendouſly, and the king of animals appears.

It is this combination of ſlowneſs and violence which perhaps conſtitutes the moſt formidable

formidable courage; and ſuch ſeems to me to be that of the Spaniards. The cauſes which retained them in continual inactivity have diſappeared. The vicinity of the Moors, which was not the leaſt of them, has long loſt its effect; as well as the united motives of hatred, jealouſy and fanaticiſm which increaſed its intenſity. The wars of the laſt century, and that of the Spaniſh ſucceſſion, were not ſufficient to keep it up to the height at which it then was. Spaniſh courage therefore, may ſeem abated; but it is capable of being rouzed, and is eaſily excited upon the leaſt ſignal. The revolution in this reſpect is not ſenſible, except in circumſtances in which courage is uſeleſs, or ſometimes prejudicial, and rather the vice of a ferocious people, than the virtue of a poliſhed nation. The name alone of infidels excited fury, but the age of the Pizarros and Almagros is forgotten, happily for Spain and humanity. The coloniſts of Spaniſh America, and the natives ſhe has ſtill preſerved,

no longer tremble under the yoke of the mother country.

If religious intolerance exiſts in Spain, it is only in declamation, and the zeal of perſecution is conſiderably abated. The Spaniards begin to think that religion may permit policy to treat as uſeful neighbours, thoſe whom they had only viewed as irreconcileable enemies. In Spain, as well as in other nations, the progreſs of knowledge and philoſophy, though it may have been ſlow, has ſenſibly ſoftened the manners. The traces of ancient barbarity ſucceſſively diſappear. Aſſaſſinations were formerly common in Spain. Every man of reſpectability, and every one who held a public employment had his aſſaſſins at command; which were hired in the kingdom of Valencia, as it is pretended witneſſes are in ſome of the French provinces. This dreadful cuſtom was in ſome meaſure the conſequence of the weapons then in uſe. One of theſe was a ſpecies of triangular poniard which, concealed under

der the cloak, was drawn forth to take vengeance in the firſt moment of reſentment. A ſtroke from it was much more dangerous than one from a ſword, the uſe of which cannot be ſecret, and requires ſome dexterity; and it was more to be feared than the common poniard known by the name of *rejon*. The uſe of theſe perfidious weapons is not yet entirely aboliſhed, and furniſhes a ground for the accuſations with which foreigners continue to vilify the Spaniards. It is ſeldom that the manners of a people are corrected by violent and precipitate means. A miniſter of the preſent reign has made the ſad experiment. The long cloaks and round hats pulled over the face favoured diſorders, and particularly thoſe which endangered the ſafety of the citizens. He wiſhed to uſe coercive means, and even open force, to prevent their being worn for the future in the capital. The people mutinied, and the miniſter was ſacrificed; the manner of dreſs ſo ſuddenly attacked, was in part continued after his diſgrace; but milder and more

ſlow meaſures, the example of the court, and thoſe about it, added to the activity of a vigilant police, have conſiderably contributed to correct the evil. The ſpecies of maſk, under the name of a hat, which encouraged inſolence by inſuring impunity, is totally laid aſide; and the cloak, very convenient for thoſe who know how to wear it, now favours nothing but idleneſs.

The uſe of the fatal poniard ſtill exiſts in ſome parts of Spain, eſpecially in the ſouthern provinces, but it is wholly confined to the loweſt rank. Some bravoes make it a bug-bear to the weak, and with the violent and paſſionate it is the inſtrument of immediate vengeance. The eccleſiaſtics have made it a part of their miſſion of peace and charity to diſarm their pariſhioners. The archbiſhop of Granada, in particular, has with this view ſucceſsfully employed his arguments from the pulpit. Poniards and aſſaſſinations are, however, ſtill common in Andaluſia; where the

power-

powerful influence of climate yet is manifeſt, when not counter-balanced by moral agency. During the ſummer, a certain eaſterly wind cauſes in that province a kind of phrenzy, which renders theſe exceſſes more common then than at any other ſeaſon of the year.

But let the natural face of Spain be renewed; let roads and canals croſs the diſtricts hitherto almoſt inacceſſible; let a more eaſy communication render the vigilance of the agents of government more active and certain; let an increaſeing population expoſe to the public eye, and to public puniſhment, the villains who reign but in ſolitude, like wild beaſts in a deſart; let the progreſs of agriculture, induſtry, and commerce give employment to miſchievous idleneſs; in a word, let the preſent plan of government be executed, and it will ſoon appear, in this reſpect as in others, that the influence of climate will yield to ſuch powerful cauſes. The revolution in manners, within the laſt half century,

tury, evinces the truth of this prediction. It was not until the preſent century that two barbarous cuſtoms were by degrees aboliſhed, which ought long before to have been proſcribed by reaſon and humanity. I mean the *Rondalla* and the *Pedreades*. The former of theſe is a kind of defiance which two bands of muſicians give to each other. Without any other motive than that of giving a proof of bravery, they meet with ſwords and fire-arms, fire at each other, and then cloſe with ſwords. Will it be believed that this cuſtom ſtill exiſts in Navarre and Arragon? That of the *Pedreades* has but lately been diſuſed. This was alſo a kind of combat between two companies, armed with ſlings, who attacked each other with ſtones.

Such manners are equally ſhameful to thoſe who retain them and the government by which they are tolerated. However, as there is ſcarcely any vicious cuſtom which has not its reaſons as well as apparent advantages, there are certain per-

perſons who are diſpleaſed theſe inſtitutions ſhould be aboliſhed, alledging that though they cannot be denied to be proofs of ferocity, they are equally ſo of courage, which they contribute to maintain among the people. Nothing but pity remains for thoſe who ſhew by ſuch arguments that reaſon, in their opinion, is incompatible with true courage, the only one which the glory and ſafety of nations require; as if in any war the arms of barbarians had ever been known to combat with advantage againſt diſciplined troops; or the ferocity of wild diſorder to inſure ſucceſs in military operations. The abettors of ſuch paradoxes undoubtedly regret the revolution, which it is ſaid the work of Cervantes has operated in the manners of Spain, by throwing an indelible ridicule on thoſe adventurers who, neglecting the duties of their ſtation, and the care of their families create themſelves dangers to enjoy the vain glory of braving them; who offer the aid of their reſtleſs valour to thoſe

who

who aſk it not, and whoſe importunate ſervices are at leaſt uſeleſs in countries where charity watches to aſſiſt the wretched, and where the weak are protected by a well regulated police.

The bull-fights are what principally ſeem to be ſome remains of barbariſm in the manners of the Spaniards, but at the ſame time they are more ſuſceptible of apology. Theſe combats, to which the Spaniſh nation has the ſtrongeſt attachment, though highly repugnant to the delicacy of the reſt of Europe, are conſidered by many Spaniards as one means of preſerving, in their nation, the energy by which it is characteriſed; from the habit of exciting violent emotions, which are diſagreeable to none but weak minds. For my part, though I wiſh to reſpect a taſte which I confeſs is by no means in uniſon with my own, I have never been able to comprehend what relation there is to ſtrength and courage, in a ſpectacle where thoſe preſent