

by Appian in his description of Spain, and the rest still remain in Murcia.

In its origin Murcia was, like every other city near Carthagera, only a small village. The latter eclipsed them all until it was conquered by Scipio. The Romans no sooner came to the village of Murcia, and observed its agreeable situation, the natural cascades of the river, and the banks covered with myrtle, where this shrub still flourishes more than in any other part of Spain, than they resolved to consecrate it to their *Venus Myrtia*, who delighted in myrtles, waters and fountains: they added an *a* only to the name, which was *Murci*.

It was in the fields of Murcia that Scipio, returned from his conquest, celebrated the obsequies of his father and uncle. The celebration consisted in games and combats of gladiators, and according to Livy they were not slaves who were forced to combat, but brave champions, who voluntarily came to give proofs of

their valour. Murcia remained six hundred and sixteen years under the dominion of the Romans.

It was taken, dismantled, and sacked by the Goths, who possessed it three hundred and ten years.

The Moors, in their turn, came to besiege it, after having conquered Cordova, Malaga, Granada, and Jaen; and the inhabitants went to meet and fight them. The two armies met in a plain still called *Sangonera*, on account of the bloody battle that followed, in which the Murcians behaved so gallantly, that most of them remained upon the field. In this extremity the governor of the city ordered all the women to be clad in armour, and drawn up on the rampart, whilst, in the character of an ambassador, he went to the Moorish general to capitulate. The Moors, believing the city to be still strong and full of soldiers, granted him very advantageous terms; but what was their astonishment, when, upon

upon entering the gates, they found only an army of women! The same circumstance is related of the taking of Orihuela. At length, after five hundred and twenty-seven years possession, the Moors lost it in 1241, to Don Ferdinand, son of Alphonso the wise, and it has ever since remained under the dominion of Spain.

Murcia stands in a plain, which from west to east is twenty-five leagues in length, and a league and half in breadth. The Segura runs by the side of the city. This river is decorated with a fine stone bridge, and has a magnificent quay.

The principal front of the cathedral is beautiful, but overcharged with ornaments. The three principal doors are of reddish marble, and of the Corinthian order; they are ornamented with thirty-two statues as large as life. The Arabian sculpture which ornaments the pillars is well executed, and in a good taste.

The inside of the cathedral is spacious; the pillars by which the roof is supported have no appearance of gothic lightness; but are much more strong than elegant. The beauty, lightness and elegance of gothic architecture are found in the chapel of the marquis de los Veles, which appears more ancient and is higher than the cathedral; the form is an hexagon, terminated by a cupola, ornamented with all the taste of the gothic ages, and the exterior of the chapel is as well finished as the interior.

The altar of the cathedral is of massive silver, and the steps which lead to it are covered with the same metal.

The tomb of Alphonso X, surnamed the Wise, is in this church. That monarch, who, in an age of ignorance, distinguished himself by his great knowledge of history and astrology, left, at his death, his heart and bowels to Murcia, as an acknowledgment for the good

good reception given him by that kingdom after abdicating the empire he had accepted in prejudice to Richard king of England. Sancho, his son, would have excluded him from his states.

The tower of the cathedral is square, and built in imitation of that of Seville, but it is larger, and, when finished, will be more lofty. The ascent to the summit is so easy, that a horse might go up it without being much fatigued. In the center of this tower, at about half way up, is a spacious apartment, which serves as an asylum to such as from interest, enmity or sudden anger, have had the misfortune to stain their hands with the blood of their fellow creatures. They there live beyond the reach of the laws, and have no other inquietude than that of their remorse.

The base of the tower is ornamented with Corinthian pilasters, and some niches not yet filled up; the following

inscription proves it to have been begun above two hundred and fifty years ago.

Anno Dñi MCCCCXXI die

XVIII Oëtobris

inceptum est hoc opus sub

Leone X summo

Pontifice, sui pontificatús

anno VIII,

Carolo imperatore cum

Joanna matre

regnantibus in Hispania

Matheo sancti Angeli diacono

cardi-

nale Episcopo Carthaginense.

Murcia contains six parish churches, endowed by Alphonso the Wise, ten convents of Monks, and six nunneries. Among the convents that of the Cordeliers is the most distinguished. It has a good library, but ill taken care of, in which are the portraits of several great men who have rendered themselves famous by arms, letters and the art of governing. The Moorish palace stood formerly upon the ground

now

now occupied by the convent of the Dominicans.

Murcia is furrounded by charming public walks, of which the *Maleçon* is the principal.

This city, although considerable and well peopled, has not one inn; the only lodging to be had in it is as wretched as those found upon most of the great roads of Spain in the places called inns, generally kept by *Gitanos* or Gipsies.

The baths of Archena are four leagues from Murcia, upon the road to Madrid, and take their name from a neighbouring little village: they have their source in a rock not very high, but which is commanded by very lofty mountains. Thirty paces from the Segura a canal, upon which three kind of baths are constructed, has been made from this source; the first bath is for the men, the second for the women, and the third for the poor. The first is within ten or twelve

L 4 feet

feet of the source, and the water is so hot that it is impossible to support the heat of it, even with the hand, for more than a second; before it is bathed in, it is beaten for a considerable length of time. This water is of a blueish cast, very heavy and bad tasted; the froth or scum at the source takes fire like sulphur or brandy. Those who drink the waters must use a good deal of exercise to carry them off. They are esteemed useful in all infirmities proceeding from the humours, but are prejudicial in venereal cases. Their great effect is a violent and continued transpiration, and it sometimes happens that persons who have bathed in them are obliged to change their linen five or six times in the day. There are about fifty small huts near the baths where lodging may be had, but provision must be carried thither in case of a few days residence.

The roads from Murcia to Carthagena are horrid, and in the high mountains, over which they pass, are such as the waters have made them.

CARTHAGENA.

CARTHAGENA is announced at a distance by villages, farms, country-houses and several pleasant walks. The principal founders of this city were, we are told, Teucer and Afrubal; but a large city called *Contesta*, from the name of Testa, king of Spain, by whom it was built, is said to have stood upon the same ground 1412 years before Christ. The greatest part of the province also was called *Contestania*. Teucer came next in the reign of Gargoris, and began to embellish and fortify Carthage, but did not complete his work; till, at length, Afrubal finding its situation delightful, made it a magnificent city, and the rival of Carthage in Africa.

Carthage remained in the possession of the descendants of Afrubal until the year 208 before Christ, when it was conquered by Publius Scipio and Caius Lælius. It was at that time governed

verned by Mago, the last Carthaginian chief.

Livy tells us, that at the arrival of Scipio in Spain, Carthage was, after Rome, one of the richest cities in the world; and full of arms and soldiers. Notwithstanding all its resources Scipio took it, and delivered it up to pillage. He carried away with him sixty-four military banners, two hundred and seventy-six golden cups, and eighteen thousand three hundred marks of silver, besides vessels of the same metal; forty thousand measures of wheat, and an hundred and sixty thousand measures of oats: in a word, he acquired there such immense riches, that, the historian says, the city itself was the least thing the Romans gained by the expedition. *Ut minimum omnium inter tantas opes bellicas Carthago ipsa fuerit.*

It was after this conquest that Scipio set the great example of temperance and generosity, so much celebrated in that

and the present age. We learn from history, that some soldiers having brought to him a young female captive of noble extraction, whose beauty attracted the eyes and admiration of the whole camp. Scipio being informed that she had been promised in marriage by her parents to Lucius, prince of the Celtiberians, and that the two lovers had a great affection for each other, sent for the young prince, and restored to him the lady, forced him to take, as a marriage portion, the sum of gold her friends had brought for her ransom, and offered them, at the same time, the friendship of the Roman people.

Carthagena was a long time the Indies of the Romans; and there are still silver mines in the environs. Philip II. had some of the silver melted to estimate the expence of working, and the produce. The lead mines in the village of los Alumbres are very rich; amethysts and other precious stones are found near Cuevas de Porman, and not far from
 Hellin

Hellin there is a very considerable mine of sulphur.

The country round Carthagenæ was formerly called Campo Spartario, and the appellation of Spartaria was also given to the city on account of the great quantities of *Spartum*, or Spanish broom, found in the plains and mountains.

Carthagenæ was totally destroyed in the wars of Atanagilda with Agila king of the Goths in Spain: several antique stones with inscriptions have been found among the ruins. One of these is now in a garden in the town of Espinardo, near Murcia. It has on one side the stern of a ship, and on the other the figure of Pallas holding an olive branch; at her feet are a cornucopia, and the caduceus of Mercury. Cascales, for what reason I know not, attributes this monument to Julius Cæsar, and supposes it to have been erected by him at the time when he formed the design of subjugating the world and his country.

On the land side, Carthagenæ is defended by a mountain formed by three hills; one of which was formerly called *Phesto*, another *Aleto*, and the third *Chrono*. In the middle of the city is a high hill, with a fort, now almost in ruins: it was anciently called *Mercurius Theutates*, undoubtedly from a temple erected there in honour of that deity.

The harbour is spacious, and so deep that ships may moor close to the land. It is a basin hollowed by Nature, which seems to have sheltered it from the winds by several hills placed round it at equal distances; so that from the mole nothing but the entrance of the harbour and the basin are to be seen. No port in the world can be compared to this for safety and regularity. Virgil wishing to give, at the landing of Æneas in Italy, the description of a port as perfect as art and nature could make it, seems to have taken for his model the harbour of Carthagenæ.

Est in secessu longo locus: insula portum, &c.

The

The entrance is defended by two redoubts which are not yet fortified: the mole is protected by twelve pieces of cannon.

The arsenal is extremely large, and provided with every thing that can facilitate the building and fitting out of a ship. Every requisite is there in such readiness, that a ship of the line may be got ready for sea in three days. At the pleasure of the builder the water fills the magnificent basons which serve as stocks, and the ship slides of itself into the sea. Each ship has in this arsenal its particular storehouse, which contains all the rigging necessary to it: the provision of small timber is considerable, but great pieces are scarce as well as masts. It is said, that the king of Spain, or his contractors, procuring timber and rigging at the third hand, pay a fourth more than the value for them. There are great numbers of workmen, Moors and galley-slaves, in the

the arsenal; they are divided into companies, and distributed in the docks, magazines, rope-yards and forges.

ROAD FROM CARTHAGENA TO GRANADA.

THE country, for about two leagues from Carthagena, is very beautiful, but soon afterwards abounds in mountains, which, though not very steep, are difficult of access. The roads become narrow and stony, and continue so to Fuente el Alamo, formerly a considerable village, but now almost in ruins. Barrilla is cultivated in all these districts, and at Totana it is the riches of the labourer. This village is considerable, and belongs to the knights of Saint Jago. The roads afterwards become better, and are still more agreeable as we approach Lorca. This city is said to be
the

the ancient *Eliocroca* of the itinerary of Antonine. The Guadalentin runs by the walls, and separates it from a large suburb. It was very famous in the time of the Moors, but at present is inhabited by labourers. Near two hundred thousand quintals of barilla are annually gathered in the neighbourhood, upon each of which the king has laid a duty of a ducat, about two livres fifteen sols (two shillings and threepence halfpenny); this duty is confined to the barilla gathered near Lorca.

The cathedral is built on the highest ground in the city. It is small and not much ornamented, but contains some excellent paintings.

Lorca is six leagues from the sea. Colmenar says, the inhabitants are principally new Christians, or converted Moors. I do not know that they are new Christians, but there are in Lorca many of the people, called gipsies, who are thieves and

and cheats, and employ all their arts to rob and injure you.

The road from Lorca to Lumbreras is tolerably good. It was here I saw the inns of Spain in all their nakedness and poverty. A *Pofada*, or Spanish inn, merits a particular description. The first room in the house is often a great stable full of asses and mules, through which you must make your way if you wish to ask for and obtain a lodging. It is with considerable difficulty that you get to the kitchen, which is a round or square room, the ceiling of which terminates in a point, and is open at the top to leave a free passage for the smoak. Round this great chimney is a broad stone bench, which, at night, serves the family for a bed; but in the day time offers a commodious seat to travellers, coachmen, and muleteers, who, seated without distinction with the host and hostess, deprive the air of a part of the smoak by swallowing it. The fire, which is in the center of this wretched hovel,

is often made with cow dung mixed with straw; and serves to cook for each person in turn, such provisions as he may have taken care to bring with him. The whole inventory of the kitchen utensils consists in several great frying-pans, and every thing you eat is fried in bad oil. It is true, this is not spared, and abundance is joined to badness of quality to take away the appetite. The corner of the fire-place is generally occupied by some newsmonger, wrapped up to his eyes in the cape of his cloak; or some blind musician, who sings through his nose and strums his guitar, and the children of the hostess, both boys and girls, whose only cloathing is a short shirt or shift, although of an age to be more modestly covered. When you have refreshed and warmed yourself, and wish to retire, you are conducted to a damp corner, called a chamber, and furnished with two chairs, commonly very high if the table be low, and very low if the table be high, because every thing here is contrary to all reason or proportion.

tion. A mattress, a foot shorter than it ought to be, is thrown upon the ground: the sheets are not much bigger than large napkins, and the counterpane, if by chance you find one, scarcely covers the sides of the wretched pallet. On this bed of voluptuousness is the traveller to repose after the fatigues of the road, to wait agreeable dreams, or form new projects of peregrination. The worst inns are those kept by the *Gitanos*, or gypsies; you would be safer in a wood; your eye must be kept upon every thing, and notwithstanding all the precaution you can take, you seldom leave them with all your baggage.

All the inns belong to the lords of the soil, who erect them into farms, and take care their number shall not be great; so that the farmer is under the necessity of fleecing passengers to make up the enormous rent he is obliged to pay. Besides, by a law for which no reason can be now given, every inn-keeper is forbidden from keeping and

selling eatables. If bread, meat, oil, or wine be wanted, the traveller and the innkeeper are obliged to have recourse to the person who has the exclusive privilege of selling them. It must indeed be acknowledged, that without this law, odious as it seems, several villages in the inland parts of the country would have wanted necessaries. The law is at present, however, almost unnecessary, and might be advantageously modified.

At Lumbreras I found the spacious chimney surrounded with muleteers, and upon the fire an enormous frying-pan, in which rice, saffron, long-pepper and stock-fish were boiling up together; I was conducted to a chamber open to every wind that blows, in which, as the weather was cold, some lighted coals were thrown, without ceremony, upon the floor; and by the side of these a kind of mattresses, without sheets or covering. My gipsy host, after wishing me a good night, asked me for something to drink.

The

The roads from Lumbreras to Veles el Rubio are frightful; you travel five leagues in a *Rambla*, or channel of a torrent, seeing nothing but deserts, and naked rocks, and surrounded by high mountains, which early in the winter are covered with snow. Veles el Rubio is a considerable village situated at the entrance of the kingdom of Granada. It has still some remains of Moorish fortifications. The road from this village is less frightful and dangerous; but entirely composed of sand. The first village after Veles el Rubio is Chirivel, which has a very wretched appearance.

Cullar de Baza, a village built at the foot of a mountain, is four leagues from Chirivel; the roads are tolerable, but the country is uncultivated, and offers nothing agreeable to the eye. The sides of the mountain at Cullar de Baza are hollowed and full of habitations. These are real dens, inherited from the Moors, in which three-fourths of the inhabitants of the village now live: the inn is

kept by a Frenchman, who does all in his power not to deviate from the customs of the country.

Upon one of the hills in the neighbourhood of Cullar there is a gallows, ornamented towards the middle with a large knife. These are the remains of the times, when the lords of the soil had the power of life and death over their vassals; a privilege of which the kings of Spain have deprived them. Hemp is the chief produce of the lands of Cullar. Some individuals gather more than a thousand arrobas every year. Of this harvest the church takes the tithe, but the king also claims his share in the following manner. In every village or district there are, according to its extent, two or three houses, that are called *Casas excusadas*, or privileged houses, and they are commonly the richest in that part of the country. These pay the tenth to the king, who has the power of changing them every year, and removing

moving the privilege to that where the crop has been most abundant.

From Cullar to Baza the road lies for the most part in the bosom of the mountains. The latter town is said to be the *Basti* of the itinerary of Antoninus, and is built at the foot of a high mountain, which, during the greater part of winter, is covered with snow. Baza was famous in the time of the Moors, and governed by several valiant Alcades; most of the houses and edifices are of Moorish construction, that is, of brick or a hard cement. The greatest curiosities here are nine old iron cannon, which aided Ferdinand and Isabella in conquering the city from the Moors. I was not able to judge of their bore, because they serve as pillars to the front of the market-house. On the first of these proud columns is the following inscription: *Estos tiros son los con que los Reyes Don Fernando y Dona Isabella ganaron esta Ciudad sobre los Mauros, anno 1489, en el dia de Sancta Barbara, patrona de esta Ciudad.* “These

cannons are those with which the sovereigns Don Ferdinand and Donna Isabella conquered this city from the Moors, in 1489, on the festival of St. Barbara, patroness of this city."

The road from Baza is a good one, but it passes over high mountains and an uncultivated soil. I crossed several forests, mostly covered with green oak, and observed many numerous herds of swine. The flesh of these is, during three-fourths of the year, almost the only food of the inhabitants, on which account they have the following proverb: *no bai olla sin tocino ni sermon sin Augustino*; "there is no good soup without lard, nor good sermon in which Saint Augustin is not quoted." You descend with great difficulty to the *Venta de Guor*, especially after rain has fallen; it is surrounded by high mountains, but as soon as you have gained the top of those on the opposite side, the road is wide and good to Guadix.

This

This city is ancient and was formerly called *Acci* or *Colonia Accitana*. The neighbourhood of the mountains makes the air colder there than in the rest of the kingdom of Granada; so that neither orange nor olive trees grow in that quarter.

It is an episcopal see, and, what appears singular, the bishop of Guadix is suffragan of Seville, which is upwards of sixty leagues from it.

Guadix was taken from the Moors, in 1252, by Alphonso the Wise, who established there the Christian religion. The Moors got possession of it a second time, and it was not until the year 1489 that they were driven out by Ferdinand and Isabella.

The village of Pellena, the houses of which are for the most part in the sides of the hills, is a league from Guadix. The roads become extremely fatiguing and are very dirty. One of my carriage wheels

wheels breaking, at a considerable distance from any habitation, I arrived on foot, wet and fatigued, at the village of Ifnallos, which is five leagues from Granada.

OF THE KINGDOM OF GRANADA.

THE kingdom of Granada made a part of the ancient Bætica, and was inhabited by the Bastuli, the Sexitani, &c. It is about sixty leagues in length and forty in breadth.

The principal rivers are; the Genil, formerly called *Singulis*, which has its source a little above Granada, and enters Andalusia, after having watered the country round Loxa; the Guadalentin, which rises in the environs of Guadix, and has its singular course from west to east;

east; the Rio Frio, so called from the coldness of its waters, which rises in the mountains of Alhama, in the middle of the kingdom of Granada, and falls into the Mediterranean near Puerto de Torres; and the Guadalquivirejo, or Little Guadalquivir, which rises at Munda and falls into the sea at Malaga.

The kingdom of Granada is intersected in every direction by very high mountains, which form delightful valleys. Among the mountains, those called Alpujarras are so lofty that the coast of Barbary and the cities of Tangier and Ceuta are discovered from their summits; they are about seventeen leagues in length from Veles Malaga to Almeria, and eleven in breadth, and abound with fruit-trees of great beauty and a prodigious size. In these mountains the wretched remains of the Moors took refuge, so that they are covered with villages and extremely populous. The mountaineers seem to have preserved the active and industrious spirit of their ancestors; they cul-

cultivate the vine and almost every kind of fruit tree, the produce of which they sell at Veles Malaga, and on all the coast.

Granada is one of the most healthy and temperate provinces in Spain. It contains an abundance of springs which water the whole country, and cover it with flowers and verdure.

The celebrated baths of Alhama, extremely beneficial in diseases proceeding from cold humours, are a league from Granada; and four leagues from there are those of Alicun, which seem to be of a nature opposite to that of the former, as they are principally efficacious in the cure of diseases proceeding from the sharp humours of the blood.

The water of the Darro is said to cure animals which drink of it of all sorts of diseases. The natives call it the Salutary Bath of Sheep*.

* *Vulgo autem balneum pecoribus salutiferum dicitur, eo quod hæc aqua omnia morborum genera in animalibus*

Whilst Granada was in possession of the Moors it was one of the best cultivated countries in the world; the number of inhabitants was immense, and the valleys and mountains were covered with vines and fruit trees; but its present state is widely different. Depopulation is a terrible scourge to every country. In many parts of Granada the lands have no other ornament than the plants with which Nature has covered them. It is still, however, one of the most fertile provinces in Spain, and produces wine, oil, hemp, flax, sugar, cinnamon, oranges, almonds, figs, and lemons in great abundance. The mulberry tree is cultivated there with great success, and the silk it produces is said to be finer than that of the kingdom of Valencia.

The mountains of Granada contain several quarries of fine transparent jasper,

bus curat. Descrip. of Granada, by George Bruin, and Francis Hogenberg, in a work intitled: *Civitates orbis terrarum*. Cologne, 1576.

black

black, green and red marble, and mines of granite, amethysts and other precious stones.

The principal cities are; Granada, the capital; Guadix, Baffa, Guescar, Loxa, Santa Fe, Alhama, Antequerra, Estepa, Veles Malaga, Almeria, and Malaga.

GRANADA.

THIS city is situated at the foot of the *Sierra Nevada*, or the snowy mountain, and stands upon two hills separated by the Darro. The Genil runs under the walls, and these two rivers are formed from the melting of the snow with which the mountain is constantly covered. The Darro is said to carry with it small particles of gold, and its name, derived from *dat aurum*, may be alleged

as a proof of this: the Genil, in like manner, rolls with its stream little pieces of silver. When Charles V. came to Granada, in 1526, with the empress Isabella, the city presented him with a crown made of gold gathered from the Darro.

Several authors give to Granada the title of illustrious and famous, and some assert that it is still the greatest city in Spain. The country round it is a terrestrial paradise, but extremely neglected.

The Moors are said to regret nothing but Granada, amongst all the losses they have sustained in Spain; they mention it in all their evening prayers, and supplicate heaven to restore it to their possession. The last Moorish ambassador who came into Spain obtained permission of the king to see Granada; he shed tears on entering the Alhambra, and could not refrain from exclaiming, that the folly of his ancestors had deprived them

them and their posterity of that delightful country.

Granada had formerly twenty gates : the first, that of Elvira, which still remains ; the second, that of Bibalmazar, or of conference, because, with the Moors, it was a kind of place of resort where they conversed on affairs ; the third, Vivarambla, so called from its leading to a grand square which still bears the same name ; the fourth, Bib Racha, or of provisions ; the fifth, Bibataubin, or the gate of the hermits, which led to different solitudes, the abodes of dervises ; the sixth, Bibmitre, or Biblacha, the first gate ; the seventh, the mill gate ; the eighth, that of the sun, because it opened to the east ; the ninth the gate of the Alhambra, called by the Moors Bib Luxar ; the tenth, Bid Adam, or the gate of the bones of Adam ; the twelfth, Bib Ciedra, the gate of the nobles ; the Moors kept this gate shut for a long time, because it had been predicted that the enemies, which