

Mediterranean to close the prospect to the east. The environs are in a state of high cultivation, studded with villages, country houses, and gardens.

The form of Barcelona is almost circular, the Roman town being on the highest ground in the center of the new one; the ancient walls are still visible in several places, but the sea has retired many hundreds of yards from the port gates; one of the principal gothic churches, and a whole quarter of the city, stand upon the sands that were once the bottom of the harbour. The immense loads of sand hurried down into the sea by the rivers, and thrown back by wind and current into this haven, will, in all probability, choak it quite up, unless more diligence be used in preventing the gathering of the shoals. A southerly wind brings in the sand, and already a deep-loaden vessel finds it dangerous to pass over the bar. Some years ago a company of Dutch and English adventurers offered to bring the river into the port by means of a canal, if government would allow them a free importation for ten years. This project might have cleared away the sand-banks, but might also have given a fatal check to the infant manufactures of the country, for which reason the proposal was rejected. The port is handsome; the mole is all of hewn stone, a master-piece of solidity and convenience. Above is a platform for carriages; below, vast magazines, with a broad key reaching from the city gates to the lighthouse. This was
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done by the orders of the late Marquis de La Mina, captain-general of the principality, where his memory is held in greater veneration than at the court of Madrid. He governed Catalonia many years, more like an independent sovereign, than like a subject invested with a delegated authority. Great are the obligations Barcelona has to him; he cleansed and beautified its streets, built useful edifices, and forwarded its trade and manufactures, without much extraordinary expence to the province; for he had more resources, and made money go farther than most other governors can do, or indeed wish to do. On the neck of land that runs into the sea, and forms the port, he pulled down some fishermen's huts, and in 1752 began to build Barceloneta, a regular town, consisting of about two thousand brick houses, quarters for a regiment, and a church, in which his ashes are deposited under a tasteless monument, with the following barbarous epitaph.

D. O. M.

Hic Gusmannorum jacet Epitome

Exc. Dom. Marchio de la Mina,

Dux, Princeps, summus Imperator, Præses,

In Acie Fulmen, in Aulâ Flamen,

Obiit heu! Homo, at non abiit Heros

Cui Inscriptio, Virtus omnis

Die 30 Jan. Anno 1768.

R. I. P.

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As the land was given gratis, the houses were soon run up on a regular plan; a ground-floor and one story above, with three windows in front and a pediment over them; the whole consisting of about twenty streets, and containing nigh ten thousand inhabitants.

The lighthouse at the end of the pier is a slender tower, near which ships lie when they perform quarantine. The old one stood much nearer the land, but was swept away in a dreadful hurricane.

Another of La Mina's improvements, is the rampart or great walk upon the walls, extending the whole length of the harbour. It is all built upon arches, with magazines below, and a broad coach-road and foot-path above, raised to the level of the first floor of the houses in the adjoining street. In these clear, warm evenings, it is very pleasant to walk along this pavement, to the arsenal at the south-east angle of the city; where they are busy raising new fortifications, to prevent a surprize, in case of an insurrection. The late expedition against Algiers, has drained these magazines so completely, that scarce a cannon, or even a nail, is to be seen. The work-shops are built upon a grand scale, but little business is going forward at present.

At this corner the rampart joins the Rambla, a long irregular street, which they have begun to level and widen, with the intention of planting an avenue down the middle. Here the ladies parade in their coaches,
and

and sometimes go quite round the city upon the walls, which are of brick, lately repaired and enlarged. The drive is charming, having a sweet country on one side, and on the other, clusters of small gardens and orange-yards. You descend at the north gate into a very spacious square before the citadel, just where the grand breach was made, when the duke of Berwick besieged the town.

The citadel has six strong bastions, calculated to overawe the inhabitants, at least as much as to defend them from a foreign enemy. The lowness of its situation renders it damp, unwholesome, and swarming with mosquitos. The major of this fortress owes his promotion to a singular circumstance. When the present king arrived at Madrid in 1759, a magnificent bull-feast was given in honour of that event: as it is necessary upon such occasions, that those who fight on horseback should be gentlemen born, the managers of the exhibition were greatly at a loss; till this man, who was a poor, starving officer, presented himself, though utterly ignorant both of bull-fighting and horsemanship. By dint of resolution, and the particular favour of fortune, he kept his seat, and performed his part so much to the public satisfaction, that he was rewarded with a pension and a majority.

The streets of Barcelona are narrow, but well paved; a covered drain in the middle of each street carries off

the filth and rain-water. At night they are tolerably well lighted-up, but long before day-break every lamp is out. The houses are lofty and plain. To each kind of trade a particular district is allotted.

The principal edifices are, the cathedral, Santa Maria, the general's palace, and the exchange. The architecture of the cathedral is a light gothic, which, in the ornaments of the cloysters, is inimitably airy. The stalls of the choir are neatly carved, and hung with escutcheons of princes and noblemen, among which I remarked the arms of our Henry the Eighth. The double arches under the belfry are deservedly admired, for bearing on their center the whole weight of two enormous towers. In the cloysters various kinds of foreign birds are kept, upon funds bequeathed for that purpose, by a wealthy canon. I could not learn what motives induced him to make so whimsical a devise.

Santa Maria is also a gothic pile.

The palace is square and low, without out-courts or gardens, and contains nothing worthy of remark but a noble ball-room.

Opposite to its south front, they are now erecting, out of the ruins of an old habitation of the earls of Barcelona, a new exchange upon an extensive plan, but in a heavy taste. The architect assured us the shell would not cost above 300,000 Catalan livres; but he must either have imposed upon us, or do very extraordinary justice

justice to the trust reposed in him, if he builds such a mass of stone for that sum. The work is carried on by means of a tax upon imports. In the old part of the building yet left standing, the board of commerce has instituted an academy for drawing, in which five hundred boys are taught that art, and furnished with all proper implements, gratis. A master from Paris is the director of their studies; and every month prizes of fifteen and twenty dollars are distributed to the most deserving.

The Roman antiquities in this city are: 1. A mosaic pavement, in which are represented two large green figures of tritons, holding a shell in each hand; between them a sea-horse, and on the sides a serpent and a dolphin. The common opinion is, that this church was a temple of Esculapius; but the ornaments seem to prove very clearly that it belonged to some fane dedicated to Neptune. 2. Many vaults and cellars of Roman construction. 3. The archdeaconry, once the palace of the prætor or Roman governor. From the solidity of the walls, and the regularity of the work, I am inclined to believe the tradition; but there is neither grandeur nor elegance to recommend it to notice. Some medallions and inscriptions fixed in the wall, apparently at the time of its erection, rather invalidate the idea of such remote antiquity. 4. In the yard, a beautiful cistern, or rather sarcophagus, which now serves as a watering-trough for mules. They call it the coffin of Pompey's father,

father, and it may as well be his as that of any one else, for we have no proof to the contrary. A large bas-relief runs round it, of hunters, dogs, and wild beasts. The chief person is on horseback, bareheaded, in a military dress. The figures and animals are executed in a masterly style, and the whole is a fine monument of antiquity. 5. In the house belonging to the family of Pinos, which was almost levelled to the ground by the bombs during the siege, are many excellent busts and medallions. An *Augustus Pater*, with a *corona radialis*, a small elegant Bacchus, and a woman holding a rabbit, supposed to represent Spain, the *Provincia cunicularis*, are the most remarkable. The owners of this house have always remained so true to their principles in politics, that they have constantly resided in a poor dwelling hard by, and left their palace in ruins, as a *memento* to their fellow-citizens, and a monument of their own spirit and misfortunes.

LETTER

L E T T E R V.

Barcelona, November 10, 1775.

YESTERDAY, being the festival of Saint Charles Borromeo, the king's patron, it was kept as a day of *Gala*. All the officers waited upon the governor in grand uniform; the theatre was illuminated, and crowded with well-drest company, which made a very handsome shew; the price of admittance was raised from half a pistreen to a whole one. The pit is divided into seats, let by the year, each person keeping his own key; the boxes are taken for the season, and the upper gallery is filled with women in white veils, and no men allowed to sit among them; so that a stranger is at a loss for a place.

The play was the *Cid Campeador*, an historical tragedy, written with a great deal of fire, and force of character. The actors, in the old Spanish habit and Moorish garment, seemed to enter more than usual into the sense of the author. In all tragedies they drop a curtesy, instead of bowing, to kings and heroes. A pretty ballad was sung by a woman, in the smart dress of a *Maja* or coquette: she wore her hair in a scarlet net, with tassels; a striped gauze handkerchief crossed over her breast; a
rich

rich jacket, flowered apron, and brocade petticoat. I observed the pit was crowded with clergymen.

I passed the morning in the cabinet of natural history, belonging to Mr. Salvador. The botanical specimens are the most perfect part of the collection, though he possesses many rare things in every other branch of that study.

This afternoon has been employed in copying out lists of the Spanish forces, with their regulations; a succinct account of which may perhaps be interesting to you at this period, when our politicians in England seem so much afraid of them, and whilst their late unsuccessful attempt against Algiers still renders them the general topic of conversation.

If we are to credit the printed lists, the Spanish army consists of above an hundred and thirty thousand men; but the real number falls far short of this amount, and it is a matter of doubt, whether the regular troops exceed the number of fifty thousand.

The king's household is composed of three troops of gentlemen horse-guards, Spanish, Italian, and Flemish; one company of halberdiers; six battalions of Spanish, and six of Walloon foot-guards; and one brigade of carabiniers.

There are six regiments of Spanish infantry of two battalions; and twenty-seven of one battalion; two Italian, three Irish, four Walloon, and four Swiss regiments

ments of one battalion ; one regiment of artillery of four battalions ; six thousand seven hundred and twelve marines ; and one company of engineers.

Each battalion of foot is composed of one company of grenadiers of sixty-six men, and of eight companies of fusileers of eighty men each, including three commissioned officers.

White or blue is the colour of their regimentals, except one Spanish and three Irish, who are dressed in red.

The cavalry consists of fourteen regiments, of which six are in blue, four in red, three in white, and one in green.

The dragoons form eight regiments, of which one is in blue, one in red, and six in yellow.

A regiment of cavalry and dragoons contains four squadrons, each composed of three companies ; in each company are three commissioned officers, and forty-five soldiers.

Besides the regulars, they once a year assemble forty-three regiments of militia, and twenty companies of city-guards. The corps of invalids contains forty-six companies on duty, and twenty-six disabled. The African and American garrisons have also their respective militia.

Their uniforms are ugly and ill made ; the soldiers abominably nasty in their cloaths, and their black greasy

hair seldom drest. Till very lately, they were commonly in rags, and often mounted guard with half a coat, and almost bare breeched; but now they are rather better clad, and kept in a somewhat more decent trim.

The pay of a soldier is five quartos and an half, and twenty-one ounces of bread a day. After fifteen years service, he has an increase of five reals of Vellon a month; after twenty, nine reals; and after twenty-five, he may retire, and receive a pezzetta per diem, and be cloathed as if he was still on actual service. If he remains thirty years in the army, he is allowed the rank and pay of a subaltern officer. Every forty months, he receives new regimentals, two shirts, two stocks, one pair of shoes, two pair of stockings, a cap, and a hat.

The rank of any officer may be known at first sight, by a particular badge of distinction. A captain-general wears blue, embroidered with gold down the seams, and three rows of embroidery on the sleeves: a lieutenant-general has nothing on the seams, and but two rows on the cuffs; a mariscal de campo, but one: a brigadier has red cuffs, with one row of silver embroidery on his coat: a colonel has three narrow bindings on his sleeve, of the colour of his regimental button; a lieutenant-colonel, two; and a major, one: the mark of a captain is two epauletts; of a lieutenant, one on his right shoulder; and of an ensign, one on the left.

The pay of a lieutenant is two pezzettas and a half
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per diem; that of an ensign, two. As every thing has trebled in price since their pay was established, it is become insufficient for the maintenance of the officers. In the guards, all subalterns must live upon their own fortune, till they get a company, which they may perhaps wait thirty years for.

About seven thousand men form the garrison of Barcelona, of which four thousand two hundred are guards; the rest Swifs and dragoons. Each corps has its quarter appointed, which it provides with centries, and therefore they never interfere with each other.

Most of these troops are lately returned from the Algerine expedition, where they suffered great hardships; this has made them outrageous against Count O Reilly, their commander. Conversation, at present, turns entirely upon that subject, and it would hardly be safe to undertake his justification. In all this there may be a great deal of jealousy, against a foreigner that has made so rapid a fortune, and enjoys so large a share of the confidence of their common master. A singular instance of the national hatred, was exhibited a few months ago at Valencia. Some hundreds of boys got together, and, having divided their numbers into an army of Christians, and one of Moors, pitched upon the lame, deformed son of a French barber, to personate O Reilly, the chief of the Spanish party. The infidels obtained a compleat victory; and a court-martial was held upon the Christian