

In my new habitation I met with a comfortable bed, clean sheets, and a kind reception from the family ; and when I was to quit them in the morning, they could not be prevailed upon to accept a recompense. I was much surpris'd at finding such generous sentiments in a cottage ; but I have since had frequent opportunities of admiring the high spirit of the Spaniards, and, *in many instances*, their contempt for money.

The putrid fever was not confined to the posada ; it raged without restraint ; and, not only in this village, but in those of the vicinity, there was scarcely a house from which they had not lately buried one of the family. It is much to be lamented, that the curates in Spain are not taught the management of fevers. As they must attend the dying, to administer the sacraments, it would be a deed of mercy well suited to their character, and by no means inconsistent with their sacred functions, should they learn to prescribe the medicines, which, in England, when properly applied, generally succeed in checking the disease, and rescuing from death. This knowledge may be easily acquired ; and whenever it shall be
universally

universally diffused, fevers will cease to be so destructive as at present, and will be feared in many cases no more than fire, which, well regulated, is not only safe, but salutary; yet, if suffered to spread, is fatal to the house. It is not my intention to insinuate, that the two professions of physic and divinity should be united, but only that in every place there should be some one at hand, who might endeavour to extinguish this destructive flame the moment it appears; and, considering how small and thinly scattered are the villages in Spain, and how wretched their inhabitants, the curate is the only person from whom they may naturally expect relief.

The country beyond Malpartido is exceedingly broken; and the granite rocks, exposing their rugged fronts without a covering, shew clearly, that the summit of this great chain of mountains is not remote. We had been ascending all the way from Salamanca; but having left the Tormes, as we draw nigh to Piedrahita, the waters take another course, and run into the Adaja.

Piedrahita is a village of one hundred and fifty houses, with three convents and a beaterio, belonging to the dutchess of Alba, and famous

famous only on account of a country-seat erected here by the late duke, in imitation of the English. Instead of being built round a court, with a corridor, like the Spanish houses, it presents a front of one hundred feet, with two projecting wings of sixty feet; and the ground floor, instead of being abandoned to coach-house and stables, is occupied by the kitchen, the offices, and the principal apartments; and over these, are bed-chambers for servants. Contrary to the Spanish custom, every room is ceiled, and the walls are papered. Altogether, it is a comfortable residence; but, to an Englishman, it has no great pretensions. Had not the fairest part of its furniture been removed, it would have seemed more beautiful; for the dutchess, who had been there with her friends for a few weeks during the greatest heats of summer, was lately returned to court, and her presence would have made a more humble habitation appear enchanting.

In leaving Piedrahita, we continued along the valley, shut in between high mountains, all covered with the ilex and gumcistus. These, mixed with the grey granite rocks, make

make a beautiful appearance. As we advanced, we overtook several Merino flocks returning to the south. Near the *Casas del Puerto*, we entered another valley, running east and west near ten leagues, and never much more than a mile in breadth. At the end of it, stands *Avila*.

The soil is sand; the plough is like that last described; the fields are divided into small portions; and the pasture is common. Their sheep are folded, and the shepherd remains all night with his dogs near his flock, sheltered only by a straw cabin, just large enough to stretch himself at length. They have no iron about their carts, either on the wheels or axle-tree; the whole is wood. The oxen are yoked in pairs, and draw heavy burdens by their horns. The dress of the peasant is the *colecto*.

As soon as we arrived in *Avila*, I visited the market, to make, as usual, provision for the day; and having purchased a kid, which, when the Merino flocks are passing, sells for about ten reales, or two shillings, I sent it to the cook's shop, and then began my rambles. Whilst I was making some inquiries, a gentleman accosted me, gave



me the informations I required, undertook himself to be my guide, and, before we parted, made me engage to dine with him. This was D. Baltasar Lezaeta, a prebendary of the cathedral; from whom I received as much attention as if I had been recommended by a friend.

Avila has at present only a thousand houses, or one-sixth part of its former population; yet the convents are not diminished, being sixteen in number, nine for men, seven for women. Besides these, it maintains eight parish churches, a cathedral with forty canons, five hospitals, and a university. No wonder, then, that it should swarm, as it does, with sturdy beggars.

This city, built upon a granite rock, and inclosed by a wall, with eighty-eight projecting towers, has every where the appearance of great antiquity, but more especially in the cathedral.

In this are many things worthy of attention, but principally the cloister, for its exquisite neatness, and elegant simplicity. The sacristy is a good building, and the treasure contained in it, both in plate and
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 jewels,

jewels, would in England be called inestimable. The custodia, as usual, of solid silver, is four feet high, adorned with Ionic, Composite, and Corinthian columns, and displays much taste both in its design and execution. Among their jewels they have the pectoral of the late archbishop of Toledo, the infant don Luis, valuable chiefly for its gems, all large and of the finest water. The choir has beautiful carvings.

Of the convents, the most remarkable are those of the Carmelites; one for nuns, the other for friars; the latter built upon the spot where S. Teresa was born, the former where she took the veil. In this, the principal thing at present worthy to be noticed, is a picture by Morales, representing a dead Christ in his mother's arms; of which, nothing need be said after having named the painter, because all his works have such peculiar softness and expression, that men have universally agreed in calling him, divine. The Carmelites of Avila, once possessed a treasure infinitely more valuable to them, than all the pictures ever painted by Morales: this was the body of S. Teresa. It was originally interred at Alba, A. D.

1582, but three years afterwards it was secretly taken up, and conveyed to Avila, where it was not suffered long to rest; for the duke of Alba finding all other expedients vain, made application to the pope, and obtained an order for its return.

The life of S. Teresa, lately published among those of other saints, by the Rev. A. Butler, is peculiarly interesting. Her frame was naturally delicate, her imagination lively, and her mind, incapable of being fixed by trivial objects, turned with avidity to those, which religion offered, the moment they were presented to her view. But unfortunately meeting with the writings of S. Jerom, she became enamoured of the monastic life, and quitting the line, for which nature designed her, she renounced the most endearing ties, and bound herself by the irrevocable vow. Deep melancholy then seized on her, and increased to such a degree, that for many days she lay both motionless and senseless, like one who is in a trance. Her tender frame, thus shaken, prepared her for extasies and visions, such as it might appear invidious to repeat, were they not related by herself, and by her
greatest

greatest admirers. She tells us, that in the fervour of her devotion, she not only became insensible to every thing around her, but that her body was often lifted up from the earth, although she endeavoured to resist the motion; and bishop Yopez relates in particular, that when she was going to receive the eucharist at Avila, she was raised in a rapture higher than the grate, through which, as usual in nunneries, it was presented to her. She often heard the voice of God, when she was recovered from a trance; but sometimes the devil, by imitation, endeavoured to deceive her; yet she was always able to detect the fraud. She frequently saw S. Peter and S. Paul standing on her left hand, whilst our Lord presented himself before her eyes in such a manner, that it was impossible for her to think it was the devil; yet, in obedience to the church, and by the advice of her confessor, she insulted the vision, as she had been used to do the evil spirits, by crossing herself, and making signs of scorn. Once, when she held in her hand the cross which was at the end of her beads, our Lord took it from her, and when he restored it, she

saw it composed of four large gems incomparably more precious than diamonds. These had his five wounds engraved upon them after a most curious manner; and he told her, that she should always see that same appearance: and so she did; for from that time she no longer saw the matter, of which the cross was made, but only these precious stones, although no one saw them but herself. Whenever devils appeared to her in hideous forms, she soon made them keep their distance, by sprinkling the ground with holy water. She had often the happiness of seeing souls freed from purgatory, and carried up to heaven; but she never saw more than three which escaped the purifying flame, and these were F. Peter of Alcantara, F. Ivaguez, and a Carmelite friar.

It is acknowledged, that many of her friends, distinguished for their good sense and piety, after examination, were of opinion, that she was deluded by the devil; yet such was the complexion of the times, that she was at last universally regarded as a saint. She had indeed every thing needful to conciliate the good opinion of her friends, and the admiration

admiration of the multitude. The gracefulness and dignity of her appearance, the softness of her manners, and the loveliness of her disposition, the quickness of her wit, the strength of her understanding, and the fire of her imagination, all her natural accomplishments receiving lustre from her exalted piety and zeal, from the sanctity of her life, and the severity of her discipline, all conspired to establish her reputation, as one that had immediate intercourse with heaven.

It is curious, yet most humiliating, to see a person of this description, amiable and respectable as S. Teresa, deceived, and, with the best intentions, deceiving others. In this instance, we can readily account for the delusion from the delicacy and weakness of her frame, the strength of a disturbed imagination, and the prevalence of superstition. But when we see men of the finest understandings, in perfect health, of different and distant nations, in all ages, treading upon the same enchanted ground, we can only wonder; for who can give any rational account of the aberrations of our reason? The history of mysticism, if well

written, would be highly interesting, as embracing some of the finest characters that were ever admired in the world. Should any able writer be engaged to undertake this work, he will explain to us the principles upon which Bossuet, that prodigy of learning, persecuted Fenelon, the most amiable of men, whilst S. Francis of Sales was the object of his adoration; and why he poured contempt upon Madame Guion, whilst he had the highest reverence for S. Teresa.

This extraordinary woman, cherished by sovereign princes, universally admired whilst living, and worshipped when dead, had the happiness of leaving behind her sixteen nunneries, and fourteen convents of friars, founded by herself, and subject to the order of Carmelites, which she had reformed.

Avila, although it no longer possesses her remains, yet, as the place of her nativity and chief residence, is much resorted to at the season of her festival. It has no manufactures. Some years since they began making cloth, but the situation not being favourable, the project was abandoned, and their dependence at present is on the produce

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of the soil. The country abounds with saffron, and this for a season finds employment for the women and the children. Were it not for the cathedral and the convents, the city would be deserted, because not one proprietor of land resides here; the whole being either rented, or held in *administration*, as they express it; that is, cultivated by stewards on the proprietors account.

No country can suffer more than Spain for want of a rich tenantry; and, perhaps, none in this respect can rival England. We find universally that wealth produces wealth; but then, to produce it from the earth, a due proportion of it must be in the pocket of the farmer. Many gentlemen among us, either for amusement, or with a view to gain, have given attention to agriculture, and have occupied much land; they have produced luxuriant crops, and have introduced good husbandry; but, I apprehend, few can boast of having made much profit, and most are ready to confess that they have suffered loss. If, then, residing on their own estates, with all their attention, they are considerable losers; how great would be the loss, if in distant provinces

vinces they employed only stewards, to plough, to sow, to fell, and to eat up all the produce of their lands? In France they are so sensible of this, that for want of wealthy farmers, the proprietor finds stock, and takes his proportion of the produce; but in Spain, excepting a few provinces, the lands are commonly in administration; and hence, extensive districts yield only a contemptible revenue to their lord.

From Avila we proceeded about a league through a rich valley, and then began to climb those mountains, which, dividing the two Castilles, formed for many ages the strong barrier between the Christians and the Moors; till Ferdinand I. descending with the united forces of Castille and Leon into the plain, drove the infidels before him, and displayed his victorious banners in Guadalajara, Alcala, and Madrid.

On these high mountains we travelled near five leagues without seeing a human face, or habitation, and scarcely a beaten track.

At a lower level we found the ilex. As we ascended, these were succeeded by the roble oak; but near the summit we saw only

only pines, with the *juniperus europæus*, the *daphne mezereum*, the *matricaria inuvis*, the *genista*, and a variety of aromatic herbs, but chiefly thyme. At almost every level, the cistus tribes abound upon the granite mountains, excepting where, like these, the summits are covered with an eternal snow.

The first little village we passed through, is called *Naval Peral*; the next, at the distance of a league, *Navas del Marqués*: this, although it has only fifty cottages, has a church, a chapel, and a convent. From hence we proceeded about three leagues, and then began descending into the plains of New Castille.

All the way from Salamanca I observed saffron growing wild, which, if collected, would help to employ the poor in their villages, and yield considerable profit.

As we approached the Escorial, we entered upon the king's hunting road, made like those of England, rather for use than beauty. Had the Spaniards been every where satisfied with such; where they have finished one league, they might have completed twenty. Their ambition aims in every

every thing at perfection, and by seeking too much, they often obtain too little. The idea they have formed to themselves of a perfect road, in point of utility, is most undoubtedly well founded; but in attempting to reduce this to practice, they are forced to lose much time, and to expend more money than the benefit to be derived from it is worth. Had their ambition been less aspiring, ere now a communication would have been opened between all their great cities, and much of their produce, now lost, would have found a market. This hunting road should convince the theorists among them, that a high-way may be firm without side walls, and support any given weight without such a foundation of huge rocks as would be needful for a castle. And although, for the mere purpose of expedition, to be perfectly both strait and level would be desirable, yet the traveller is better pleased where he finds variety, and is charmed, as he proceeds, with a constant succession of new prospects.

On my arrival at my journey's end, I found a letter from our minister, Mr. Linton, to inform me, that when the court

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left S. Ildefonso, where he had been for some time expecting me, he had visited Madrid, and that he should not come to the Escorial till the beginning of the week,

Having therefore some time to spare for the excursion, I immediately proceeded to repass the mountains, not returning by the same road, but going eastward by Guadarama, and crossing by the *Puerto de Fuenfria*, a pass so called from the coldness of its waters. This puerto is elevated, and the prospect from it is delightful; but with the scorching sun, the ascent to it is scarcely bearable. In looking down towards Segovia, the whole country appears level, like the surface of a lake, and extended like the ocean; but, as we descend into this plain, we see the mountains rise before us. The country immediately around us, near this summit, is majestically wild, with deep ravins and projecting rocks, covered with pines, wherever pines can grow, and torn by raging torrents.

In a deep recess, open and exposed only to the north wind, stands S. Ildefonso, enjoying freshness, and gathering the fruits of spring,



spring, when all to the south of these high mountains, fainting with heat, are engaged in reaping, and collecting the autumnal crops. This change of climate, in the space of eight leagues, for that is the distance from the Escorial to S. Ildefonso, induced Philip V. to build a palace here.

S. Ildefonso occupies three sides of a square, the two wings of which being joined, each by a long range of buildings, designed for the king's retinue, and closed in at bottom by iron gates and rails; the whole forms a beautiful and spacious area. The principal front, of five hundred and thirty feet in length, is to the south, looking to the garden, and through its whole extent the apartments communicate with all the doors on the same line.

To give some idea of the pictures, it may be sufficient to name the masters, whose works have been here collected by Philip, and by succeeding princes. The principal are Leonardo de Vinci, Michael Angelo, Raphael, Hannibal Caraci, Guercino, Guido, Carlo Maratti, Correggio, Rubens, Poussin, Paul Veronese, Wouverman, Teniers, Martin de Vos, Andrea del Sarto, Vandyke,

Vandyke, Dominicini, Tintoret, Albert Durer, Jordano, Velasquez, Ribera, Ribalta, Valdez, Murillo, Mengs. In the church, the fresco paintings are by Bayeu, Mariano, and Maella.

In the lower apartments is a collection of antique statues, made by Christina, queen of Sweden, and considered as inestimable.

The church is dark, but elegant; and, with respect to treasures, has few to rival it in Spain. Among the vast variety of gold and silver ornaments, the most striking is one of the *custodias*, valued originally at seventy thousand ducats, or £. 7,690. 8s. 6d. sterling.

The garden occupies a ridge, rising to the south, and falling both to the east and to the west. Near the palace it is laid out in the old taste, with clipped hedges and straight walks, highly adorned and refreshed with numerous fountains; but in proportion to the distance, it becomes more wild, till it terminates in the uncultivated and pathless forest, where the cragged rocks appearing among oaks and pines, present a striking contrast with the works of art.

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This garden, delightful for its walks, which, although shady, are neither damp nor gloomy, is most to be admired for its fountains. Of these, the most remarkable are eight, dedicated to the principal heathen deities, and adorned each with its proper emblems. In one, Diana appears attended by her nymphs, who are hiding her from Acteon. In another is seen Latona with Apollo and Diana, surrounded by sixty-four jets of water. The most surprising is Fame seated on Pegasus, with a trumpet to her mouth, throwing up a stream of more than two inches in diameter to the height of one hundred and thirty-two feet. But the most pleasing sight is the *Plazuela de las Ocho Calles*, where eight walks unite, each with its fountain in the centre, and where eight other fountains, under lofty arches, supported by Ionic pillars of white Italian marble, form an octagon, adorned with the images of Saturn, Minerva, Vesta, Neptune, Ceres, Mars, Hercules, and Peace, standing round it; and Apollo, with Pandora, in the middle. The statues are all of lead, varnished in imitation of brass, and were made by Fermin and Tierri.

Besides

Besides fountains innumerable, here are vast reservoirs and falls of water, so disposed as to contribute much to the beauty of the place.

When we consider, that the whole of the garden was a barren rock, that the soil is brought from a great distance, and that water is conveyed to every tree; when we reflect upon the quantity of lead used for the images, and of cast iron for the pipes, with the expence of workmanship for both, we shall not be surpris'd to hear that this place cost forty-five millions of piastres, or, in English money, near six millions and a half.

Nothing is more whimsical than taste; but, if it be true, that beauty is founded in utility; this place will always deserve to be admired. In the present day, it is not uncommon to build the mansion in the middle of a field, open and exposed to every wind, without shelter, without a fence, and wholly unconnected with the garden. Near the habitation all is wild, and art, if any where, appears only at a distance. In all this we can trace no utility, nor will succeeding generations discover beauty. On the contrary, in the garden of S. Ildefonso,

we find every thing, which in a sultry season is desirable ; a free circulation of air, a deep shade, and refreshing vapours to absorb the heat ; whilst from its contiguity to the mansion, the access to it is easy, and at any time these comforts may be instantly enjoyed ; yet, without these numerous fountains, the clipped hedges, and the narrow walks, the circulation would be less rapid, the shade less deep, and the refreshing vapour would be wanting.

The glass manufacture is here carried to a degree of perfection unknown in England. The largest mirrors are made in a brass frame, one hundred and sixty-two inches long, ninety-three wide, and six deep, weighing near nine tons. These are designed wholly for the royal palaces, and for presents from the king. Yet, even for such purposes, it is ill placed, and proves a devouring monster in a country where provisions are dear, fewel scarce, and carriage exceedingly expensive.

Here is also a royal manufacture of linen, employing about fifteen looms ; by which, as it is said, the king is a considerable loser.

Being now within the distance of two short leagues from Segovia, I could not re-
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turn without paying a visit to that interesting city. In the way to it, there is little appearance of cultivation, and the obvious reason is the continual depredations occasioned by the royal deer. As we passed through the woods, before we came into the open field, we saw vast herds of them, unconfined, and free to range unmolested over all the country.

In Segovia, the first object to attract the eye, is the aqueduct. It contains one hundred and fifty-nine arches, extends about seven hundred and forty yards, and, where it crosses the valley, it is something more than ninety-four feet high.

The cathedral has no great pretensions; yet in one of the chapels there is a good altar, with the Descent from the Cross well executed in mezzo relievo, by a disciple of Michael Angelo, and finished A. D. 1571. The church is nearly upon the model of the great church at Salamanca, but it is not so highly finished.

The Alcazar, or ancient palace of the Moors, has been so often described, that I should pass it over in silence, did not the attentions I received there deserve a particular remembrance. I had no letters, and

count Lacy, the inspector, was absent ; but, upon presenting myself to his lieutenant, as a stranger, he received me with politeness, and conducted me to every apartment. This strong tower is no longer, as formerly, a state prison : it serves a more honourable purpose, and is devoted to one hundred cavaliers, who are here instructed in the military science. The sight of this building gave me pleasure, more especially the great hall, with the images of all their monarchs ; but the highest satisfaction was, to see the Spanish character strongly marked in the countenances of many among the young gentlemen who are educated here. A Spaniard may possibly grow rich in trade ; he may make a progress in the sciences ; but, were he left to follow his natural inclination, he would certainly betake himself to a military life ; and for that, if generosity, if patience and fortitude, if a spirit of enterprise, are requisite, in all these the true Spaniard will excel.

Segovia was once famous for its cloth, made on the king's account ; but other nations have since become rivals in this branch, and the manufacture in this city has been gradually declining. When the king gave

it up to a private company, he left about three thousand pounds in trade; but now he is no longer a partner in the business. In the year 1612, were made here, twenty-five thousand five hundred pieces of cloth, which consumed forty-four thousand six hundred and twenty-five quintals of wool, employed thirty-four thousand one hundred and eighty-nine persons; but at present they make only about four thousand pieces. The principal imperfections of this cloth are, that the thread is not even, and that much grease remains in it, when it is delivered to the dyer; in consequence of which, the colour is apt to fail. Yet independantly of imperfections, so many are the disadvantages under which the manufacture labours, that foreigners can afford to pay three pounds for the arroba of fine wool, for which the Spaniard gives no more than twenty shillings, and after all his charges can command the market even in the ports of Spain.

In the year 1525, the city contained five thousand families; but now they do not surpass two thousand: a scanty population this for twenty-five parishes: yet, besides the

twenty-five churches, together with the cathedral, they have one and twenty convents. When the canal is finished, and the communication opened to the Bay of Biscay at S. Ander, the trade and manufactures of Segovia may revive; but, previous to that event, there can be nothing to inspire them with hope.

As we returned (October 28,) towards New Castille, my intention was to have travelled at our leisure; but, observing some degree of impatience in my guide to repass the mountains before night, I was happy to indulge him; and the next morning, when I looked back and saw the lofty summits covered deep with snow, I comprehended the reason of his solicitude. The ways behind us were rendered thus for the time impassable, whilst all before us had been only watered by soft and refreshing showers.

In the Old Castille, the usual price demanded by a muleteer is four reals a day for himself, as many for his mule, and six for barley, altogether equal to 2*s.* 9*d.*; but should you omit to make a bargain, you must depend upon his mercy. The whole expence of travelling may be reckoned at ten

shillings



Engraved by J. J. Townsend delin.

Spencer sculp.

*View of the Palace of the Escurial and Convent of St. Lorenzo,
seen from the Hermitage.*

shillings a day, if you go straight forwards ; but if you make a circle, or return with the same mule, it comes to about 7*s.* 6*d.*

The convent of S. Lorenzo is seated in a deep recess, at the foot of those high mountains, which separate the two Castilles ; and, protected from every wind, except the south-east, it looks down upon a wide extended plain, with all the neighbouring hills covered by thick woods, whilst the mountains to the north are bare, or covered almost perpetually with snow. It was built by Philip II. in obedience to his father Charles V. to accomplish his vow made after the battle of S. Quintin, which he gained by the intercession of S. Lorenzo. In honour of that saint, the architect, Juan Bautista de Toledo, took his idea from a gridiron, the instrument on which he suffered, making the royal residence project by way of handle, and representing, not only the bars by multiplied divisions, but the legs, by four high towers placed in the angles of this edifice. The dimensions of the convent are seven hundred and forty Spanish feet by five hundred and eighty, and the height is sixty ; but the dome of the church is three hundred and thirty. The whole was finished under the

inspection of Juan de Herrera, who was pupil to Bautista.

The friars of this convent are one hundred and sixty, and their annual revenue is five millions of reals, or about fifty thousand pounds, arising partly from land, and partly from their flock of thirty-six thousand Merino sheep, besides one thousand kept constantly near home, for the consumption of the family.

Their library consists of thirty thousand volumes, contained in two magnificent apartments, each, one hundred and ninety-four Spanish, or something more than one hundred and eighty-two English feet in length. In the lower room, are chiefly printed books; yet in it is deposited the famous manuscript of the Four Gospels, written in gold letters, a work of the eleventh century. Over these are collected four thousand three hundred manuscripts, of which five hundred and sixty-seven are Greek, sixty-seven Hebrew, and one thousand eight hundred Arabic, the latter well described in a catalogue lately published by Casiri.

In the middle of the lower room is a temple, with a great variety of figures, containing one thousand four hundred and
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forty-eight ounces of silver, and forty-three of gold, beside rich gems.

To a connoisseur in paintings, no place can afford higher entertainment than the convent of the Escorial. In every part of it are seen the works of the best masters, and some of their most capital performances. It were endless to enumerate particulars. Suffice it to say, that during the residence of a month, I never failed a single day visiting the convent, and never left it without regret ; always giving a more minute attention to the productions of those artists who are the least known in England. I had peculiar pleasure in finding here, so many monuments of Titian, who, during a residence of five years in Spain, constantly exercised his pencil to enrich this nation, and to immortalize his name. The pictures which most rivetted my attention, were the famous Supper of Christ with the disciples, by Titian ; and a Holy Family, by Raphael ; the latter once in the possession of our Charles, but sold by Cromwell, and purchased by the Spanish ambassador, for two thousand pounds : it is called *La Perla*. The best of the pictures are collected in five principal apartments ; in the sacristy, a room

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of one hundred and eight by thirty-three ; in the *iglesia vieja*, which is one hundred and five by thirty-four ; and in two halls of eighty by twenty, with their antichamber. These last are called Las Salas de los Capítulos, and, whilst the court is here, are occupied by count Florida Blanca, on his public days. The great stair-case is beautiful, adorned with fresco paintings of the battle of St. Quintin, by Luca Jordano.

The pantheon, or catacomb, where the royal family, beginning with Charles V. are buried, is a subterranean vault of beautiful marble, highly finished, capable of receiving twenty-six bodies, each in its own recess.

As for the treasures of the church, they are inestimable. The image of S. Lorenzo alone contains four hundred and fifty pounds of silver, with eighteen pounds of gold ; yet this bears a small proportion to the rest.

At a little distance from the convent, the prince of Asturias, and one of his brothers, the infant Don Gabriel, have each a little box, fitted up with exquisite taste, and hung with the best pictures, to which they often retire with their friends. That of the prince is the most elegant, and, as far as can be warranted by one specimen, forms a happy

prefage for the arts, whenever he shall mount the throne.

The Escorial, as a residence, is far from pleasant. Were it low, and sheltered, like Aranjuez, it would be agreeable in spring; or, were it elevated, hanging to the north, and covered by thick woods, like S. Ildefonso, it might be delightful as a retreat in summer; but exposed, as it is, to the full stroke of the meridian sun, and raised up near to regions covered with eternal snow, without shelter, and destitute of shade, it has no local charms at any season of the year. The ministers, foreign and domestic, give good dinners, and do every thing they can to make this solitude supportable; but, as few ladies can be accommodated here, the assemblies want that gaiety which is peculiar to the sex.

The king spends most of his time in shooting. In the middle of the day, after a short excursion, he returns to dinner, converses with the foreign ministers, retires for a few minutes with his confessor, and, generally before three, sometimes much sooner, leaves the palace, and goes to the distance of twenty or thirty miles before he begins to hunt. When the light fails, he gets in-

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to his carriage, and returns. No weather deters him, because he is not afraid of either thunder, lightning, hail, rain, or snow, but when one cloak is wet, he puts on another; and as for his attendants, he tells them coolly, "Rain breaks no bones." No holidays detain him from his sport, except two in the passion-week; and then, although he is naturally of a most placid temper, he is said to be so cross, that no one chooses to come near him. Even when one of his sons was thought to be at the point of death, he went out as usual, always insisting that he would certainly recover; and when informed that his son was dead, he replied, with his accustomed calmness, "Well, then, since nothing can be done, we must make the best of it." His usual attendants are the prince of Asturias, the captain of the guard, his master of the horse, his groom of the stole, his physician, and his surgeon. All these occupy five carriages; besides which, there is one for medicines, guns, ammunition, dry clothes, &c. Each carriage has six mules; and as, upon the road, there are several relays for them and for the guards, the number required for daily use is about two hundred. Their rate of travelling is twelve miles

miles an hour ; in consequence of which, accidents happen frequently to the men, and to the mules.

In hunting, the king does not depend altogether on his dogs : he has commonly about two hundred men employed to beat up the game, and drive it towards him at convenient places, where he and the prince are ready, with servants attending to charge the guns, and to hand them forwards as fast as they are fired. No game comes amiss to him ; but he is peculiarly flattered with the idea of delivering the country from wolves, of which he keeps an exact account ; and, when I was at the Escorial, the number he had shot was eight hundred and eighteen.

Whenever one is heard of within a reasonable distance, a multitude of people, from sixteen hundred to two thousand, according to the extent of the mountain, are sent out to watch, surround, and drive it into some spot, where the king may have the best chance for killing it. To these he gives six reals each ; but if he kills the wolf, the watchmen have double pay. This expence, it must be confessed, is needless ; because a few peasants would often be sufficient, either to destroy the enemy, or make him

him quit the country ; but where a good sovereign has pleasure in a pursuit, his subjects will be the last to think, that he can purchase it too dearly. It were happy, however, for Spain, were this the whole expence ; but it certainly bears a small proportion to the sum total of what the nation loses by the king's rage for hunting. All round the *sitios*, or royal mansions, the wastes are of vast extent. I am informed, that the forest of the Pardo is thirty leagues in circumference ; and if to this be added, all the uncultivated land near Aranjuez, S. Ildefonso, and the Escorial ; if, moreover, we consider that the deer, being unconfined, range freely over the intermediate country, how high will be the estimate ! It is true, the king pays the farmers to the utmost for the damages they suffer ; but then, the injury sustained by the community cannot be so easily compensated, because the country, wanting food, is depopulated, and the villages are gone to ruin.

I have been told by those, who are best acquainted with the king, that in his youth he had acquired a taste for letters, but being checked in that pursuit, he had given
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scope to the family propensity, a propensity not only now confirmed by inveterate habits, but encouraged in himself with a view to avoid entanglements. He is certainly a man of principle, and is universally allowed to be one of the most virtuous men in his dominions; but this purity of morals he himself attributes to his mind being constantly amused, and not to his natural constitution.

I prolonged my stay at the Escorial, chiefly for the purpose of being present at the *Batida*, or royal hunt, of which there are four every year. This was ordered for the 28th of November, previous to the departure of the court.

On the day appointed, Mr. Liston had the goodness to place me with the Neapolitan ambassador, who, as representing one of the family, gave a sumptuous repast upon the occasion; and in his carriage I proceeded to the scene of action. It was an extensive plain, with a rising ground commanding it, and, at the distance of about half a mile from this eminence, rose a little wood, in which the king, with his three sons, were hid, attended by their servants.

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For many days previous to this, two thousand men had been dispersed in parties over the whole country to disturb the game, and to drive it towards the common centre, by patrolling night and day, and constantly, yet slowly, drawing nearer to each other. Soon after we had occupied our station on a rising ground, we began to see the deer at a vast distance bounding over the plain from every quarter, and making towards the fatal spot. As they approached, we heard, faintly at first, then more distinctly, the sound of guns, and saw the confusion of the game, moving quick in all directions, but changing their course at every instant, as if uncertain where to look for safety. When the scouring parties came first in sight, they appeared to be separated by intervals, and to confine the game merely by their shouts and by the firing of their arms; but as they advanced upon the plain, they formed a wall, and as they drew nearer, they strengthened this by the doubling of their ranks, compelling thus the game to pass in vast droves before the royal marksmen. Then began the carnage; and for more than a quarter of an hour the firing was incessant. Some of
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the deer, who had either more discernment than the rest, or a better memory; who were actuated by stronger fears, or, perhaps, by more exalted courage; absolutely refused to proceed, when they approached the ambuscade; and, making a quick turn, notwithstanding the shouts, the motions, and the firing of the guards, they leaped clean over their redoubled ranks, and escaped into the woods.

When the firing ceased, the carriages all advanced towards the wood, and the company alighted to pay their compliments, and to view the game. We found part of it spread in two rows upon the field of battle, and the king, with his sons, surveying it. The game-keepers were returning loaded with such as had been mortally wounded, but had yet escaped to a considerable distance; and, as fast as they arrived, they deposited the spoil at the sovereign's feet. Having the curiosity to count the numbers, I found one hundred and forty-five deer, with one wild boar. Whilst thus engaged, I heard a murmur, and saw every one in motion. Directing my attention to the spot

to which all were pressing. I saw at a distance a little company coming with a board tied neck and heels together, and slung upon a pole. As they approached; the monarch and his sons, arming themselves afresh, drew up in a line, and standing at a convenient distance, the burthen was deposited; the cords, one after another, were cut; and the poor crippled animal was assaying to move, when a well directed volley freed him from his fears.

The expence of that day's sport was reckoned at three hundred thousand reals, or, in sterling, three thousand pounds.

In the evening, the game, as usual, was all deposited in the room where the king took his supper, and there the family ambassadors attended to pay their compliments. By family ambassadors are understood those of Naples, Portugal, and France, who having more free access, and being expected to pay more minute attention, think it incumbent upon them to express their interest in every thing, which gives him pleasure, and not only congratulate him upon these great occasions, but every night, whilst he is at supper,

supper, make inquiries, and afterwards inform their friends, what the king has killed.

Mr. Lifton, desirous of quitting the Escorial previous to the departure of the court, ordered a *Coche de Colleras* to be ready the day after the Batida. This precaution is taken by the foreign ministers to secure mules, because, when the court is in motion, no less than twenty thousand being required for their use, the whole country is laid under an arrest, and neither horse nor mule can be obtained for any other purpose.

In this little journey I was exceedingly diverted and surpris'd with the docility of the mules and the agility of their drivers. I had travelled all the way from Barcelona to Madrid in a *Coche de Colleras*, with seven mules, and both at that time, and on subsequent occasions, had been struck with the quickness of understanding in the mule, and of motion in the driver; but till this expedition, I had no idea to what extent it might be carried. The two coachmen sit upon the box, and, of the six mules, none but the two nearest have reins to guide them;

them; the four leaders being perfectly at liberty, and governed only by the voice. Thus harnessed, they go upon the gallop the whole way, and when they come to any short turning, whether to the right or to the left, they instantly obey the word, and move all together, bending to it like a spring. As all must undergo tuition, and require frequently some correction; should any one refuse the collar, or not keep up exactly with the rest, whether it be, for example, Coronela or Capitana; the name pronounced with a degree of vehemence, rapidly in the three first syllables and slowly in the last, being sufficient to awaken attention, and to secure obedience, the ears, are raised, and the mule instantly exerts her strength. But, should there be any failure in obedience, one of the men springs furious from the box, quickly overtakes the offending mule, and thrashes her without mercy; then, in the twinkling of an eye, leaps upon the box again, and calmly finishes the tale he had been telling his companion. In this journey I thought I had learnt the names of all the mules, yet one, which frequently occurred, created
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some confusion, because I could not find, to which individual it belonged, nor could I distinctly make out the name itself. It sounded like *Cagliostro*, and led me to imagine that the animal was so named after the famous impostor Cagliostro, only suiting the termination to the sex, because the mules in harness are usually females. In a subsequent journey the whole difficulty vanished, and my high estimation of the mule, in point of sagacity, was confirmed. The word in question, when distinctly spoken, was *aquella otra*; that is, *you other also*; and then supposing Coronela and Capitana to be pairs, if the coachman had been calling to the former by name, *aquella otra* became applicable to the latter, and was equally efficacious as the smartest stroke of a long whip; but if he had been chiding Capitana, in that case, *aquella otra* acted as a stimulus to Coronela, and produced in her the most prompt obedience.

We did not leave the Escorial till four in the afternoon, and at half after seven arrived at the duke of Berwick's, where we had been engaged to spend the evening, having travelled seven leagues in about three hours and an half.

M A D R I D.

BEING thus returned to the capital of Spain, where I spent the subsequent winter, it may not be improper to give some idea of the life a stranger leads here, with a few observations on the manners of the age.

Having been once introduced at court, you are at liberty to go as often as you please. I availed myself frequently of this privilege, both for the sake of viewing the paintings at my leisure, and for conversation, because at court is the general rendezvous, where men of distinction assemble every morning to pay their compliments to the several branches of the royal family, whilst they are at dinner, and to talk of what is passing in the world.

When the king gets into his coach, to go out, as usual, to his favourite amusement,
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the company retires; and, as the corps diplomatique is here remarkable for hospitality, a person well recommended is never at a loss for the most genteel society at all hours of the day. Gratitude requires that I should express my obligations, in this place, to those, not only of the foreign ministers, but others, who honoured me with their friendship and protection. I shall therefore take the liberty of describing briefly the kind of life I led whilst I was near the court.

Count Florida Blanca must certainly claim the first place in my remembrance; for although at Madrid he gave no entertainments, yet in the sitios he had always the goodness to admit me into the number of his guests, when he gave his weekly dinners. From our own minister I every where experienced, not merely that general protection, which he gives to all, and those minute attentions, for which he is universally admired, but the kindness, hospitality, and friendship of a brother. His house was at all times open to me, and when he gave a dinner to his friends, I never was forgotten.

My invitation to the duke de la Vauguion's was both general and special. Here the diners were magnificent, the company numerous, and the conversation interesting; and here I dined more frequently, than at any other table in Madrid, attracted, however, neither by the magnificence of the entertainment, nor by the company which resorted to the house, so much as by the ease and elegance of the duke and dutchess, and the lovely simplicity of their children.

With the American, Russian, and Prussian ministers, I felt perfectly at home; and not much less so with those of Genoa and Venice. The other foreign ministers often honoured me with invitations, and I was always happy in accepting them.

Whenever I wished to cultivate the sciences, or to converse with men of letters, I frequented the more humble, but not less hospitable, tables of some native Spaniards, where I never failed to meet with a kind reception. With Izquierdo and Angulo, I increased my knowledge in mineralogy; and on whatever subject I was desirous of gaining information, I was sure to meet with satisfaction, either from them or from their

their friends. Ortega has been already mentioned as a botanist; D. Fr°. Bayer will always be remembered as a polite scholar; and D. Juan Bautista Muñoz will be celebrated as an historian, whenever he shall favour the public with his work on the conquest of America. Don Joseph Clavijo deserves the highest commendation, as a faithful and elegant translator, and as a man of general information. Besides these, I met with two brothers Fernandez, who have distinguished themselves in chemistry, and the Abbé Guevara, who excels in his knowledge of Spanish history, and political œconomy. With all these gentlemen I was upon a most friendly footing.

I dined frequently with the marquis Imperiali, a grandee of Spain, most deservedly admired for the goodness of his heart, and the softness of his manners; and once I had the honour to dine with the marquis de Ovieco, who is likewise a grandee.

This gentleman is pointed out as an example of an old Spaniard; and, if from one individual we might venture to form a general idea of a community, the politeness, probity,



probity, and true dignity, conspicuous in his whole deportment, must fill us with the highest reverence and esteem for the Spanish nation.

Like the French, the Spaniards drink their wine at dinner ; but as soon as they have finished their desert, and taken coffee, they retire to their couch.

When they rise from the fiesta, they get into their carriages to parade up and down the *parado*, never going faster than a walk. As they move slowly on in one direction, they look into the coaches, which are returning in the other, and bow to their acquaintance every time they pass. On some high days I have counted four hundred coaches, and, on such occasions, it requires more than two hours to proceed one mile.

At the close of day, people say the usual prayer; then wish each other a good evening, and begin retiring to their houses, where they take their *refresco* of chocolate, with biscuits and a glass of water.

When you are properly introduced into a Spanish family, you are told at parting, " Now, Sir, you are master of this house ;"

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but the extent of the grant must be judged of by your own natural sagacity ; because, such is the politeness of a Spaniard, that he makes use of this expression, when nothing more is meant than that you are at liberty to call upon him ; accordingly you see many retire before each meal, or drop in after it : but when it is taken in its full extent, the grant means dinner, refresco, supper, any or all, whenever it may suit you to partake of them.

Most families, especially the great, have their tertulla, or evening society for cards and conversation, after which, they, who are upon a footing of intimacy, stay and partake of a little supper. At these evening meetings you see the same faces from day to day. The society I chiefly frequented was at the dutchess of Berwick's ; but I went often to the dutchess de la Vauguion's, sometimes to the countess del Carpios, and too seldom I visited count Campomanes. Now and then, with a view to get an insight into the nature of society, I wandered away to other families, but not meeting any one, with whom I had been previously acquainted, besides the lady of the family, I was soon weary,

weary, and could seldom prevail upon myself to prolong my stay.

Without any disparagement to the rest, I may venture to say, that the society at the dutchess of Berwick's was the most pleasing. It was frequented by the foreign ministers, and, not only were the dutchess and her sister, the princess of Stolberg, most engaging in their manners, but the ease and freedom, which every one enjoyed, made the time pass delightfully. The dutchess herself, and three of her friends, occupied a whist table, some separated themselves for conversation, and the princess commonly, for a part of the evening, amused herself with drawing, under the inspection and tuition of the Prussian minister, who, for taste and execution, is one of the first masters in that line. Others were engaged at the *piana forte*. For my part, I commonly took up my pencil, and profited by the lessons given to the princess. At eleven o'clock we sat down to an elegant supper, and about one in the morning I retired, having nearly two miles to walk. The duke generally came home to supper, but he

he seldom sat long before he retired to his bed.

At the dutchess de la Vauguion's the society was chiefly French. The amusements were cards, tricktrac, and chess, concluding with a supper.

At the countess del Carpio's all were Spaniards, excepting one Italian, and the amusement was some game at cards. The evening closed with a light supper. The count was commonly at home before ten, and, except when at the play-house, he spent his evenings in his family. He is a sensible man, and well informed; and the countess must give life to every society, where she is found. She is far from handsome; yet, from the sprightliness of her wit, and the softness of her manners, she is highly interesting, and the more so from her delicacy of constitution, and the weakness of her health.

Count Campomanes gives no suppers, and cards are seldom seen; but his conversation fills up the time, and renders all other species of amusement needless. The society is chiefly from the Asturias, where he was born.

Beside

Beside these quiet tertullas, all through the winter the dutcheffes of Berwick and Vauguion gave balls once a week, and the countesses of Cogulludo and Peñafiel gave concerts and balls, attended with splendid side-boards of ices, cakes, and jellies. After the ball, every one retired to supper with his own society.

When you pay a visit to a lady, (for, wherever there is a lady in the family, the visit is to her) you neither knock at the door, nor ask any questions of the porter, but go straight forwards to the room where she usually receives her company, and there you seldom fail to find her, morning, noon, and night; in winter, sitting near the brazier, surrounded by her friends, unless when she is gone out to mass. The friends are mostly gentlemen, because ladies seldom visit in a familiar way; and, of the gentlemen thus assembled, one is commonly the *Cortejo*; I say commonly, because it is not universally the case. During the whole of my residence in Spain, I never heard of jealousy in a husband, nor could I ever learn, for certain, that such a thing existed; yet, in the conduct of many ladies, whether it proceeds