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7

L E T T E R S

CONCERNING THE

SPANISH NATION:

Written at MADRID during the Years 1760 and 1761.

By the Rev. EDWARD CLARKE, M. A.

Fellow of ST. JOHN'S College, CAMBRIDGE, and Rector of
PEPPERHARROWE, in the County of SURRY.

Quantos payzes, tantos costumbres.

Donativo del Sr. Conde de
Rivas á la Biblioteca
de la Alhambra. 1909



L O N D O N :

Printed for T. BECKET and P. A. DE HONDT, at Tully's Head
in the Strand. MDCCLXIII.



TO THE
RIGHT HONOURABLE
GEORGE BRODRICK,
LORD VISCOUNT MIDLETON,
OF THE
KINGDOM OF IRELAND;
THESE LETTERS CONCERNING
THE SPANISH NATION
ARE INSCRIBED,
WITH THE SINCEREST RESPECT
AND GRATITUDE,
BY HIS LORDSHIP'S
MOST OBLIGED,
AND OBEDIENT
HUMBLE SERVANT,

EDWARD CLARKE.

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P R E

P R E F A C E.

THE compiler of the following papers having had the honour to attend his Excellency the right honourable GEORGE WILLIAM, Earl of BRISTOL, his Britannic Majesty's Ambassador Extraordinary, and Minister Plenipotentiary to the court of MADRID, in quality of chaplain, for near two years; he made it his business, during his stay there, to collect such informations, hints, and materials relative to the present state of SPAIN, as might either gratify the curiosity of his friends, or prove of some utility to the public in general.

FOR this hath ever appeared to him to be the true and proper design of *Travelling*, to bring back such notices of foreign countries, as may correct any prejudices and errors we have entertained concerning them; such as may improve our present opinions, and contribute to form a just idea of different nations. This employment may be more useful, though, perhaps, not so flattering to the imagination, as that of reading *Virgil* upon the banks of the *Mincio*, *Horace* upon the *Aufidus*, or *Homer* upon the *Scamander*. Writers of authentic accounts of countries, though beneath the attention of elegant genius, and not rising to the higher claims of taste and *virtú*, may notwithstanding be more serviceable to the public, than the purchaser of a decayed *Titian*, the recoverer of a rusty *coin*, the copier of a defaced *inscription*, or the designer of an old *ruin*.

IT is, perhaps, to be wished, that the generality of our young travellers would give more of their attention this way; the subject is not exhausted, and the object is of much greater moment, than the dresses of one country, or the tunes of another; than

the vineyards of this province, or the kitchens of that. To observe the variation of manners, the force of customs, the utility of laws, or the effects of climate, renders a much more essential service to your country, than to set a new fashion, teach a new air, or give a new dish.

THE writer, apprehending that his stay in SPAIN would have been of much longer duration, had formed his original plan of a much larger extent, than that which is now laid before the public: but as the war, which unfortunately broke out between the two courts, prevented his prosecuting that more extensive design, the reader will, he hopes, charitably place this defect to the account of that unforeseen event, and not to any want of intention or industry in the writer.

HE is very sensible of the many imperfections and defects of this performance, and is convinced, that it stands in need of all the apologies he is capable of making for it. The reader owes the refusal of it not to the writer's own sentiment or opinion, but to the determination of abler judges, who conceived, that with all its errors it might be of use to the public, as relating to a country, the accounts of which now extant among us are more apt to mislead, than to inform.

THE following papers would have been much less superficial and jejune, if the country, in which they were collected, had been half so *communicative* as that in which they are published. In SPAIN, the want of that general education and knowledge, which is so universally diffused throughout this island, renders the progress of all enquiry very slow and difficult: the reserved temper and genius of the Spaniards makes it still more embarrassed; but the caution they use, and the suspicions they entertain with regard to hereticks, especially priests, are generally sufficient to damp the most industrious and inquisitive researcher. Add to this that invincible obstacle to all free enquiry in catholic countries, *the inquisition*, and then it is apprehended that the reader will not wonder, that he finds so little entertainment and information in the following letters.

BUT

But this is not all; besides the difficulties a foreigner meets with in the dominions of his catholic majesty, *that* of the language is not the least. FRENCH and ITALIAN are now become so very fashionable and common among us, that most of our young travellers set out with the *Bocca Romana*, and the accent of BLOIS. But how few are there of us, that go out Spaniards? that have language enough to ask, Which is the way? or, How many miles are there to the next town? This inconvenience will be sensibly felt by every enquiring mind. For want of Spanish, the compiler of these papers used to endeavour to avail himself at first of that almost universal tongue of mankind, the *Latin*: but in that, besides the difference of pronunciation, he found a much worse circumstance belonging to it: few of the monks or clergy understood any thing of it; and still fewer were able to speak it. Their common answer was, *No entiendo Uste; No es Latino por aca, pero es Latino por alla*: that is, "I do not understand you, Sir: it is not the Latin of this here country, but of that there country."

HAVING fairly apprised the reader of those imperfections which he will find in this miscellany, the writer hopes to be indulged in submitting to him what may be modestly said in favour of the performance.

THE accounts which we have of SPAIN, may be reduced to *three* sorts; the *Romance*, the *Obsolete*, and the *Modern*. With regard to the first, the author rejoices to see that absurd kind of writing so generally disregarded, that even the very names of the celebrated romances of the last age are almost as much forgotten as those of their authors: Though it is to be feared, that the wretched tribe of novel-writers, which have succeeded, have done greater mischief. The too sublime *CLÆLIA* and *PHARAMOND* were compositions, perhaps, of less pernicious tendency, than some of our later printed poisons: the former might fill the mind with improbable fictions, but the latter may inflame the heart with probable vice: the apprentice, or young miss, may be less incited by objects of impossible imitation, such as the wandering knight in black armour, or the rambling lady upon a milk-white palfrey,

than by the familiar history of the seducer and the seduced, which fill up most of our modern novels; these are subjects of more probable, and, therefore, more dangerous, imitation.

BUT to return from this short digression: the *romance*-accounts of SPAIN have had this bad effect upon us, that they have in a manner infused themselves into our ideas of that country. The manners of the most inflexible people, and such the Spaniards are, undergo some alteration in every age; the mad exploits of chivalry, and the extravagant gallantries of the old Spaniards, are now no more: the guittar and gauntlet are both thrown aside. The more refined manners of FRANCE passed over the *Pyrenees* with the house of BOURBON. Even the *Spanish language* is now making its last struggles against the more insinuating one of FRANCE; and, if the court did not still retain that laudable custom of answering foreign ambassadors in their own tongue, it would probably have fallen into great neglect before now. *French politesse* has given a new air to, and softened the ferocious features of that country: the mustacho has dropped from the lip, and the cloke from the shoulders of their noblesse. Even the *Inquisitors* have since learned not only the politeness, but humanity of that people, and have left off roasting heretics *alive*: a custom, which, within this century, has been practised at GRANADA.

THE next accounts which we have of SPAIN, may be called *Obsolete*; and such should be esteemed all those which have not been published within this century. They are accounts, indeed, which were once true, but are now no more a just description of the Spaniards, than an account of ENGLAND in the time of EDWARD III. would be called now: such are *The lady's travels into Spain*, a book pirated from a French writer; and many others. The *Delices d'Espagne*, though a good book, is now quite antiquated; even the descriptions of places in it are become unlike, because the face of a country will change with time, as well as the manners of a people.

THE third class of accounts mentioned above, are the *Modern*; of this sort we have very little that is either tolerably correct or

authentic. Mr. WILLOUGHBY's *Travels*, though republished in HARRIS's Collection, are of no moment; it is said the botanical, or natural history part of it is good; which, I suppose, made them appear together with Mr. RAY's. Mr. AP RICE has indeed lately published *A tour through Spain and Portugal, London 1760*, in 8vo; his view appears merely to have been that of exposing the absurd miracles of the Romish church, which indeed he has done effectually: but, in other respects, that book does not seem to have been written by one who actually visited the places themselves.

THE last thing, which I have to offer in favour of these letters, is, that the reader may be assured, that the utmost care was taken, that the accounts should be had from the best hand possible. The account of the *Spanish Money* was examined and approved by DARCY and JOIS, the great bankers at MADRID, and by the gentlemen of the embassy. The state of the *Army, Navy, Finances, and Civil List of the Court*, were transcribed from an original French MS. of the greatest authority, which may be seen in the author's possession, and which is a curiosity of no small value. The title of that French MS. which is a thin folio, runs thus, *Bilan General des Finances de S. M. C. Don Carlos III. Roi d'Espagne, en 1760.*

THE writer has inserted nothing, which he apprehends to be either ambiguous or false. And though he makes no doubt, but there are mistakes, yet he is certain, that he hath done all that he could to avoid them. He has made use of all the helps, living or dead, which fell in his way. And as he believes he has availed himself of most of what is printed upon this subject; so he is not conscious of having omitted any hints, given him by his friends and acquaintance, either in SPAIN or ENGLAND.

BUT though he has consulted what others have written upon this subject, it has been more with a view of avoiding their observations, than of making himself rich by their spoils: For in this matter he followed, as near as he could, that excellent instruction, which Dr. MIDDLETON hath given to succeeding writers, in his



admirable preface to the Life of CICERO. ‘ In writing history, as in travels, instead of transcribing the relations of those who have trodden the same ground before us, we should exhibit a series of observations peculiar to ourselves; such as the facts and places suggested to our own minds, from an attentive survey of them, without regard to what any one else may have delivered about them: And though in a production of this kind, where the same materials are common to all, many things must necessarily be said, which had been observed already by others; yet, if the author has any genius, there will be always enough of what is new, to distinguish it as an original work, and to give him a right to call it his own:’ which, he flatters himself, will be allowed to him in the following letters.

As to the form of *Letters*, in which this collection appears, it was owing to this circumstance; great part of it was sent to the author’s friends in ENGLAND, in that dress, from MADRID: and when he came to review the whole, he saw no reason why he should alter it; it is the easiest and most comprehensive vehicle of matter; it allows of more liberty than a stiff and formal narrative; it affords more relief to the reader, there being perpetual breaks, where he may pause at pleasure.

BUT there is one circumstance in this publication, which affords the author no small satisfaction; and that is the giving his reader a fresh proof of the happiness, which he enjoys in being *born a Briton*; of living in a country, where he possesses freedom of sentiment and of action, liberty of conscience, and security of property, under the most temperate climate, and the most duly poised government in the whole world. A liberty that cannot become licentious, because bounded and circumscribed, not by the arbitrary will of ONE, but by the wisdom of ALL, by the due limits of reason, justice, equity, and law: Where the prince can do no wrong, and where the people must do right: Where the lawless noble is no more privileged from the hand of justice, than the meanest peasant: Where the greatest minister stands accountable to the public, and, if he betrays the interests of his country, cannot bid defiance to the just resentments of the law.

LET

LET an Englishman go where he will, to SPAIN or PORTUGAL, to FRANCE or ITALY; let him travel over the whole globe, he will find no constitution comparable to that of GREAT BRITAIN. Here is no political engine, no bastile, no inquisition, to stifle in a moment every symptom of a free spirit rising either in church or state; no familiar, no alguazil to carry off each dangerous genius in arts or science, to those dark and bloody cells, from whence there are

— *vestigia nulla retrorsum.*

THE *Monsieur* is polite, ingenious, subtle, and proud: but he is a slave, and is starving; his time, his purse, and his arm are not his own, but his monarch's. The *Italian* has neither freedom, morals, nor religion. The *Don* is brave, religious, and very jealous of his honour, when once engaged: yet oppression and poverty are his portion under the sway of an arbitrary monarch. And though he may boast, that the sun never rises or sets but within the vast limits of the Spanish monarchy, yet he will never see liberty, science, arts, manufactures, and commerce flourish in them with any vigour. The *Portuguese* is equally a slave, ignorant, and superstitious. The *German* is continually at war, or repairing the havoc made by it. The *Hollander*, sunk in sloth, and the love of money, is only active in commerce out of avarice. All these, weighed in the balance against BRITAIN, in point of happiness and advantages, will be found light: Let it, therefore, be considered as no illiberal end of this publication, to inspire the reader with love of the British constitution.

THE papers, which compose the following *Historical Introduction*, consist of three parts. The *first* contains *An extract from the works of the Marquis de Mondecar*, a noble, learned, and judicious Spaniard, shewing the rise and origin of the several kingdoms into which SPAIN was divided, and whose provincial divisions subsist to this day. The *second* is *A short view of the history of Spain from the death of Charles II. to the present time*: This period was chosen, as being that of the accession of the BOURBON-family, which forms a new æra, and is, in the history of SPAIN, what the revolution is in the history of ENGLAND; our modern politics hardly

hardly looking farther back than the present settlement in SPAIN, and the partition of the Italian dominions, which ensued upon it. The *third* part of this historical introduction is, *A list of English ambassadors, &c. at the court of Spain, with the treaties, &c.* which it was thought would be no unuseful appendix to the former.

To conclude: Should there be, among the more humane readers, one who, in any remark, circumstance, or reflexion, may imagine that I have heightened or exaggerated this account of the Spanish nation, or have been any where too severe in my animadversions; have *caricatured* the features, or *magnified* the manners of that people: he will, upon better information, discover, that THIS is by far the most favourable and candid account of SPAIN, which is not written by a Spaniard. Those who will take the pains to read what the Marshal BASSOMPIERE, the Countess D'AUNOIS, Father LABAT, the Abbé VAYRAC, Madame de VILLARS, M. DESORMEAUX, DON JUAN ALVAREZ DE COLMENAR, himself a Spaniard, and others have written upon this subject, will see the difference between a fair, true, and impartial account, and one dictated by a heart overflowing with gall, and penned with the ink of invective. And yet, what is more remarkable, their descriptions were written by authors of the same *religious persuasion* with the Spaniards, by true and zealous *catholics*. If mine has any merit to claim over their's, it is by shewing, that a *protestant* has written a more favourable account of a *catholic* country, than *catholics* themselves have published. Truth and fact have been throughout the sole objects of my attention. I had neither ill-nature to gratify, or spleen to indulge: I abhor all national reflections, and despise from my heart the little prejudices of country, or custom. Upon many accounts I love and revere the Spaniards: I admire their virtues, and applaud their valour. All nations and regions have their respective merits. But, notwithstanding, I have steadily kept that just rule in view,

Ne quid FALSI dicere ausus, ne quid VERI non ausus.

Historical Introduction.

(The remarks of the Marquis de MONDECAR upon the Spanish historians being judicious, new, and not commonly to be met with, I thought proper to give the reader the following extracts from his work.)

THE Roman empire in this country lasted something more than 400 years after the commencement of the Christian æra: but the Spanish history is connected with the Roman for near 600, till that empire was utterly extinct. The GOTHs entered about the year 400. HIMERIC, with the SUEVI and ALANS, conquered GALLICIA, about the year 408. These SUEVI, who gave name to GALLICIA, subdued PORTUGAL about 464. REQUINA, the son of HIMERIC, conquered BISCAY, ANDALUSIA, and took SARAGOÇA and TARRAGONA in 488. RECAREDO was King of SPAIN in 587, and called a Cortes, at which prelates, as well as secular lords, assisted, and granted aids to the crown. After him came WITTERIC, to whom succeeded GUNDEMAR, in 610. In 631, SISENANDO was chose King, who called a Cortes at TOLEDO.

THE MOORS entered SPAIN about the year 680, consequently the Gothic government did not last 300 years. TARIK ABENZARCA came in 713.

THE three most principal northern nations which came here, were, the VANDALS, from whom the province of ANDALUSIA received its name; these went afterwards into AFRICA: The SUEVI, who remained long in GALLICIA; and the GOTHs, who conquered the whole country, and held it upwards of 200 years. The GOTHs possessed the whole continent of SPAIN, MAURITANIA, AFRICA, and GALLIA GOTHICA, or that part of FRANCE,
b which

x HISTORICAL INTRODUCTION.

which is now corruptly called LANGUEDOC : but in their turn they gave place to the MOORS or ARABS, whose dominion ceased, when PELAYO was established in his throne. The MOORS conquered all SPAIN, except those mountainous parts, whither some bodies of resolute christians fled for refuge. These by degrees planned and concerted measures to shake off the Arabic yoke. The first stand against them was made by the mountaineers of ASTURIAS, who elected King the Infant Don PELAYO, swearing the nobles over a shield, and crying out, *Real! Real!* This PELAYO was a Gothic prince by birth, so that he in some measure restored again the Gothic monarchy. He recovered GIJON and LEON; and his son got possession of part of PORTUGAL, and all GALLICIA. From this recovery of LEON came the race of the kings of OVIEDO and LEON. The boldness and success of these christians alarming the ARABS, they attacked them in their different strong-holds, in order to cut off their communications one with another. But this produced a very different effect from what they expected. The christians, to repel the danger that threatened them on every side at the same time, chose different heads in different places, who being separate one from the other in their governments, defended their subjects independently of one another. This necessary resolution gave rise to the *different kingdoms* in SPAIN. Such was their undoubted origin, tho' it is impossible to say, at what exact period each kingdom rose, as there are no antient monuments remaining sufficient to prove that point.

THE first kingdom or monarchy that arose, after the Moorish invasion, was that, as we have said, of Don PELAYO in the ASTURIAS, an elective monarchy : and in proportion as the Asturian princes dislodged the pagans of those lands and territories that lay nearest to them, they changed the stile of their titles ; being first called Kings of ASTURIAS, then of OVIEDO, and lastly of LEON and GALLICIA, until they were incorporated with the Kings of CASTILE, by the marriage of Queen Donna SANCHA ISABELLA, sister of King Don BERMUDO III. its last prince, both of them descendants of King Don ALONZO V. who married the daughter of FERDINAND *the great*, to whom some give the title of Emperor, and who was first King of CASTILE.

OF

HISTORICAL INTRODUCTION. xi

OF this long period, in which the christian princes gained such glorious successes, and singular victories over the infidels, there are some short and obscure accounts in the little chronicles of Don ALONZO III. King of LEON, surnamed *the great*, and of ALVEDA, of SAMPIRO, and of Don PELAYO.



COUNTS and KINGS of CASTILE.

AT the same time with these ASTURIAN Princes, arose many nobles, who signed their deeds and instruments, with the titles of Counts or Princes, and, among others, those of CASTILE, which state arrived at sovereignty in the time of the great Count FERNAN GONZALEZ, by his heroic valour, glorious triumphs, and extended power. The most distinguished Prince of this house was Don SANCHO GARCIA, whose violent death was the cause, why this house united itself to the crown of ARRAGON and NAVARRE, by the marriage of the Princess Donna SANCHA his sister, with the King Don SANCHO MAYOR, whose second son Don FERNANDO raised CASTILE into a kingdom. CASTILE afterwards became an hereditary crown in his lineage, in preference to all the other kingdoms, altho' inferior in origin to ARRAGON and NAVARRE.

THE series and chronology of the several counts is much contested between the Spanish writers, ARREDONDO, AREVALO, SANDOVAL, and others: a dispute not worth our entering into, since it is certain, that from the bravery, success, and power with which Don FERNANDO extended his dominion, so as to be stiled first king of CASTILE, his kingdom became so famous, that all the Moorish princes acknowledged him for their sovereign. His son was Don ALONZO VI. his grand-daughter was the Queen Donna URACA, with whom ended the barony of NAVARRE: the crown of CASTILE falling back again into the house of the Counts of BURGUNDY (who came from the Kings of ITALY) by her marriage with the Count Don RAYMUND, her first husband; from which match came their son the great Emperor Don ALONZO VII.

THIS prince left his estates divided between his two sons: To DON SANCHO, the eldest, whose great virtues and untimely death gained him the name of *the regretted*, he left the kingdoms of CASTILE, and part of LEON: And to DON FERDINAND, the second, the rest of LEON, GALLICIA, and ASTURIAS. He took upon himself the title of King of SPAIN, pretending that the primogeniture of the GOTHs, which was re-established in PELAYO, had centered in himself.

DON SANCHO dying, he was succeeded by Don ALONZO *the noble*, one of the greatest princes of his time. It was he who gained the famous battle of the plains of TOLOSA over the MOORS, destroying 200,000 of them at one time †. He dying without issue-male, the two kingdoms of CASTILE and TOLEDO went to Donna BERENGUELA, his eldest daughter.

ALTHOUGH the royal barony of BURGUNDY ended in the Queen Donna BERENGUELA, it returned and united with the kingdom of LEON, GALLICIA, and ASTURIAS by the marriage of King Don ALONZO, her uncle (who succeeded in those kingdoms to King Don FERNANDO, brother to King Don ALONZO *the noble*, her grandfather) from which match came the King SN. FERNANDO, from whom descended, without interruption, the Kings of CASTILE and ARRAGON, until united in FERDINAND and ISABELLA, they relapsed into the august house of AUSTRIA, by the marriage of the Queen Donna JUANA, their eldest daughter, to the Arch-Duke Don PHILIP I. from which great union sprung the Emperor CHARLES V.

FROM this period downward, the Spanish history is very connectedly written, and well known; I shall now therefore only give a summary view of it from the death of CHARLES II. to the present time.

† Begging the Spanish historian's pardon, this number must be exaggerated: 50,000 slain is full enough for any hero.

A CONCISE VIEW OF
 THE HISTORY OF SPAIN,

From the Death of CHARLES II.

To the Present Time.

AS CHARLES the second of SPAIN had no issue, ENGLAND, FRANCE, and HOLLAND, formed, in 1699, the famous treaty of partition, for dividing the dominions of the crown of SPAIN, upon his death. Each party had, or, at least, pretended to have, the common view, in this treaty, of preventing such a vast accession of power from passing, either into the House of AUSTRIA, or that of BOURBON, already formidable enough of themselves. This step very sensibly affected the court of SPAIN: CHARLES the second was so much offended thereat, that, on his death-bed, he signed a will, by which he bequeathed all his dominions to PHILIP Duke of ANJOU, grandson of LEWIS XIV. Though that Prince had before entered into the partition treaty, yet, finding the succession thus left to his family, he paid no regard to any former engagements or renunciations, but on the 18th of February, declared his grandson, PHILIP, King of SPAIN, who arrived at Madrid on the 14th of April, 1701. This proceeding immediately alarmed the maritime powers and the Emperor; the former were apprehensive of Spanish AMERICA's falling into the hands of the FRENCH, and the latter, besides the injury he imagined done to his own family, dreaded the too great influence of the power of the House of BOURBON. A war ensued; and CHARLES Arch-duke of AUSTRIA was soon after set up, in opposition to PHILIP V. His claim was vigorously supported by the maritime powers, and at first favoured by many of the grandees of SPAIN. In the third year of this war, the King of PORTUGAL and the Duke of SAVOY joined likewise



wife in the alliance against PHILIP; who, in the following campaigns, was driven from his capital, by the success of the allied forces, and almost obliged to abandon SPAIN. In the end, however, his party prevailed, and, at the peace of UTRECHT in 1713, he was acknowledged as King of SPAIN by all the confederates leagued against him, except the Emperor. The allies then contented themselves with such limitations and restrictions, as might keep the two monarchies of FRANCE and SPAIN disunited. A treaty of partition may, indeed, be said to have taken place at the last; for PHILIP, by the articles of the peace, was only left in possession of SPAIN, its American colonies, and settlements in the EAST-INDIES; but the Spanish dominions in ITALY, and the islands of SICILY and SARDINIA were dismembered from the monarchy, which had also lost the island of MINORCA and the fortress of GIBRALTAR, both of which places were ceded to GREAT-BRITAIN. The Duke of SAVOY was put in possession of the island of SICILY, with the title of King; and the Arch-duke CHARLES, who, two years before, had been elected Emperor of GERMANY, held MILAN, NAPLES, and SARDINIA, and still kept up his claim to the whole Spanish monarchy.

THOUGH PHILIP, by the peace concluded at UTRECHT, was left, by the allies, possessor of the greatest and most important part of the Spanish dominions, yet some obstinate enemies still remained to be reduced, before he could be said to have fixed the Spanish crown securely upon his head. The inhabitants of CATALONIA refused to acknowledge him, and, finding themselves abandoned by their allies, solicited the assistance of the Grand Signior, in hopes of establishing themselves into an independent republic. Their blind obstinacy, however, served only to heighten the miseries and calamities to which they had been greatly exposed during the whole course of the war. After a most bloody and stubborn defence, they were entirely reduced by the King's troops, when they were deprived of their antient privileges, and their country was annexed to the crown of CASTILE, as a conquered province.

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THE reduction of CATALONIA restored tranquillity to SPAIN, which had been harassed for twelve years by a most cruel and bloody war. PHILIP, by that conquest, finding himself quietly seated upon the throne, began to turn his thoughts to the re-union of the Italian dominions, which he had seen wrested from him with the utmost regret. With a view to this re-union, his first wife being dead, he married ELIZABETH FARNESE, heiress of PARMA, PLACENTIA, and TUSCANY; which alliance afterwards proved a source of new dissensions and wars among the Princes of Europe; and, to this day, still leaves an opening for bloody contests.

THE match was first proposed, and afterwards negotiated, by the famous Abbé ALBERONI, who, from being a simple curate in the PARMESAN, rose, by a surprising series of fortunate incidents, more than by any extraordinary talents, to be prime minister in SPAIN. ALBERONI was the son of a common gardener. In the beginning of the war he had, by his forwardness and address, insinuated himself into the favour of VENDOME, the French General in ITALY, who brought him with him to FRANCE, and afterwards to MADRID, where, after the Duke's death, he continued as agent for the affairs of PARMA, and laid hold of the opportunity of aggrandising himself, by proposing a match that suited with the views of the Spanish court. The new Queen, being a stranger in SPAIN, was advised in every thing by ALBERONI, who, being protected and countenanced by her, boldly intermeddled in affairs of state, and soon acquired a great degree of favour with the King. A few days after the celebration of the King's marriage with the Princess of PARMA, his grandfather, LEWIS XIV. died, and left his dominions to an infant successor. Though PHILIP had, before the conclusion of the treaty of UTRECHT, solemnly renounced, for himself, and his heirs, all right to the succession of the crown of FRANCE, yet he was now strongly urged by ALBERONI, to insist upon the regency of that kingdom, during the minority, as first Prince of the blood of FRANCE, and next in succession to the present monarch. This wild and imprudent counsel, if it had been followed, would undoubtedly have involved SPAIN in a new war, which

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which would have had no other object, than the meer point of honour; and, upon that consideration, and, perhaps, some regard to the oath, it was rejected by the King. It proved, however, extremely prejudicial to SPAIN, and, in the end, occasioned the ruin of ALBERONI; for the Duke of ORLEANS, who had been declared Regent by the Parliament of PARIS, having received intelligence of his designs, conceived an implacable hatred against him; did his utmost to thwart all his projects of government; and never ceased persecuting him till he saw him disgraced. This happened a very few years afterward, the Duke's wishes being seconded by ALBERONI's own conduct; for the same impetuous and intriguing spirit, which had promoted his grandeur, pushed him on to his downfall.

AT this time, however, he was in the height of favour, and continually urged the King, not to delay the renewing of the war in ITALY, against the Emperor CHARLES, who gave just foundation for a rupture, by still retaining the title of King of SPAIN; by creating Spanish grandees; by protecting those who were disaffected to PHILIP; and by punishing those who remained faithful to him, with the forfeiture of their estates in FLANDERS and ITALY. The Queen, who was lately delivered of a son, had now got a great ascendancy over her husband, and zealously supporting ALBERONI in all his proceedings, PHILIP, out of complaisance to her, was easily persuaded to commit the whole management of his affairs to him, and weakly suffered himself to be guided, in every thing, by his counsels. ALBERONI, though not declared prime minister, now acted as such, with a most despotic authority, and caused immense military preparations to be carried on in the ports of SPAIN, with the design of attacking the dominions possessed by the Emperor in ITALY. But, to deceive the Pope, from whom he had, for some time, been soliciting a Cardinal's hat, and who, he knew, would be greatly offended with the renewal of the war in ITALY, he, by private letters, professed his abhorrence of disturbing the repose of that country, and alledged, that the naval armaments were designed against the Turks, who had attacked the Venetian

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Venetian territories in GREECE, and even struck a terror into the Italians, by making a descent upon their coasts.

THE great naval preparations kept all EUROPE in suspense, and very much alarmed several states. The Emperor suspected an attack upon NAPLES and MILAN; the Duke of SAVOY feared an invasion of SICILY, which island, he knew, was not well affected to him; and GEORGE I. of GREAT-BRITAIN, was apprehensive, that the fleet was designed to assist the Jacobites, who had been defeated two years before in SCOTLAND.

ALBERONI having, at length, obtained from the Pope, not only the dignity of Cardinal for himself, but also an indulgence to raise a subsidy, for five years, upon the clergy in SPAIN and Spanish AMERICA, immediately took off the mask, and ordered the fleet to sail against SARDINIA, which island was reduced in less than two months. The Emperor being, at this time, engaged in a war against the Turks in HUNGARY, had left but a very few troops in his Italian dominions, not expecting to be attacked by PHILIP in those parts, as both Princes had stipulated to observe a neutrality, in regard to them. He had, indeed, done some things that might be deemed infractions of that neutrality; but the King of SPAIN not having made any formal complaints of these, was now generally looked upon as the aggressor, by the invasion of SARDINIA.

ACCORDINGLY the Pope, who now never mentioned ALBERONI's name but with some injurious epithet, by a public brief expressed his resentment against PHILIP, and he, in return, commanded the nuntio to leave SPAIN. The King of GREAT-BRITAIN and the Regent of FRANCE ordered their ambassadors at MADRID, to complain of the violation of the neutrality. They even sent ambassadors extraordinary to SPAIN, to press an accommodation between the Emperor and PHILIP. ALBERONI, however, replying, in a very haughty stile, and continuing his military preparations with more vigour than ever, the powers who offered their mediation entered into a league with the Emperor, which was called the triple alliance; and King GEORGE sent a fleet of 26
c ships

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ships of the line into the MEDITERRANEAN, under the command of Admiral BYNG, who was ordered to maintain the neutrality of ITALY.

THE Spanish minister vainly persuaded himself, that no powers but those who were directly attacked, would interfere in opposing his wild schemes, which tended to disturb the settled tranquillity of EUROPE; and he least of all expected to see an intimate alliance betwixt the courts of GREAT-BRITAIN and FRANCE. His success against SARDINIA, which was but a trifling conquest, so far blinded him, that he thought himself sufficient alone to oppose three of the most formidable powers of EUROPE united. He still pursued his warlike preparations with the utmost vigour, which were greater than any fitted out by SPAIN, since the time of the famous Armada against ENGLAND. He consulted with nobody; and the Spanish officers, of the greatest prudence and experience, who ventured to give their advice, were treated by him with contempt and arrogance.

To counterbalance the power of the triple alliance, he vainly attempted to embroil all EUROPE. He sent an envoy to CONSTANTINOPLE, to excite Prince RAGOTSKI to renew the war in HUNGARY, where the Turks had agreed to a truce for four years; he formed a conspiracy in FRANCE, for deposing the Regent, which served only to heighten the animosity of the Duke of ORLEANS against himself; he pressed the Czar of MUSCOVY, to attack the Emperor's hereditary dominions; and he offered large subsidies to CHARLES XII. of SWEDEN, if he would invade GREAT-BRITAIN.

DURING these negotiations, the Spanish fleet, consisting of 26 ships of the line, besides frigates, sailed from BARCELONA, having on board 30,000 of the best troops of SPAIN, most of them veterans, who had been in all the actions of the long war of the succession.

ON the first and second of July 1719, the army landed on SICILY, and, in a few weeks, made themselves masters of a great part of that

that island. The entire conquest, in all probability, would very soon have been completed; but the Spanish fleet, on the 9th of August, being totally defeated by Admiral BYNG, who took and destroyed 23 ships of the line, their land army could no longer receive any considerable supplies, while the Piedmontese garisons were daily reinforced by German troops from the kingdom of NAPLES.

NOTWITHSTANDING the fatal blow the Spanish marine had received, ALBERONI still thought himself able to cope with the many enemies his turbulent ambition had raised against SPAIN, though he had exhausted, not only the King's revenues, but those of many private persons. Being disappointed in his expectations from CHARLES XII. who was killed, on the 10th of December, before FREDERICKS-HALL in NORWAY, he sent for the pretender from ROME, and ordered 5000 men to be embarked at the GROVNE, with a view to invade both SCOTLAND and IRELAND. Only about 1000 of those troops, however, landed in SCOTLAND, where they, and about 2000 Jacobites, who had joined them, were quickly defeated and dispersed. The rest, after suffering greatly by a storm, were obliged to return to SPAIN. A few ships, about the same time, sailed from VIGO to the coast of BRITANY, in hopes of raising an insurrection in that province, against the Duke of ORLEANS; but this attempt had no better success than the other.

THOUGH ALBERONI seemed to triumph in the beginning of his enterprizes, yet he now began severely to feel the superior strength of the powers he had to contend with, which, indeed, had been discovered long before, almost by every body but himself. The Regent of FRANCE sent a powerful army against SPAIN, under the command of the Duke of BERWICK, who, in three months, made himself master of the provinces of GUIPUSCOA and ROUSSILLON, with all their fortified places, and, at PORT-PASSAGE and SANTOGNA, burnt seven ships of war, and materials for seven others, the loss of the whole being computed at near 800,000 l. and, a few months after, the English landed, with 4000 men, at VIGO, where, after making them-

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elves masters of the town, they carried off six small vessels. These invasions, with the bad news from SICILY, where the Spaniards had been obliged for several months to act on the defensive, at length opened the eyes of PHILIP, and induced him to hearken to the representations of his confessor d'AUBENTON, and the Marquis SCOTI, the minister of PARMA, who assured him, that the allies would never agree to a peace, while ALBERONI continued in SPAIN.

PHILIP, alarmed with the bad situation of his affairs, had, for some months, expressed great dissatisfaction with ALBERONI, and now parted with him without regret. He ordered him to leave SPAIN in three weeks, declared the Marquis de BEDMAR and the marquis de GRIMALDO his first ministers, and recalled several noblemen, who, on various pretences, had been banished, during the late administration. ALBERONI left SPAIN about the middle of December, and retired to ITALY, where he was so persecuted by the Pope, and even by PHILIP, that for several years he was obliged to travel disguised, and to conceal the place of his residence.

A FEW months after the retreat of ALBERONI, PHILIP, though very unwillingly, acceded to the triple alliance, by which he engaged himself to evacuate both SICILY and SARDINIA. The Spanish troops accordingly abandoned those two islands the ensuing summer, the Emperor being put in possession of SICILY, and the Duke of SAVOY of SARDINIA. Soon after, a congress was appointed to be held at CAMBRAY, to settle all differences among the contending parties, and treat of a final pacification. While some preliminary points were settling, PHILIP sent the Marquis de LEYDE, with a considerable fleet and army, to the relief of CEUTA, which had been besieged for 26 years by the MOORS. The Spanish troops, a few days after their arrival, totally routed and dispersed the MOORS, and made themselves masters of their entrenched camp, and all their artillery.

As the Duke of ORLEANS, since the disgrace of ALBERONI, had seemingly favoured the pretensions of SPAIN, PHILIP the following

lowing year, at his solicitation, contracted a double alliance with the branches of the house of BOURBON in FRANCE. The Infanta of SPAIN, tho' then only three years of age, was sent to FRANCE as future queen to LEWIS XV. and two of the daughters of the Duke of ORLEANS arrived in SPAIN, to be married to the Prince of ASTURIAS and the Infant Don CARLOS. The succession of this last to the Dutchies of PARMA and TUSCANY seemed now to be the chief object of the court of SPAIN. This point and many others were to be settled at CAMBRAY; but as the Emperor, who had no inclination to gratify the Spaniards, purposely delayed the congress, PHILIP this year concluded a particular treaty with the court of GREAT BRITAIN, who having the *assiento*, or contract of supplying the Spanish colonies with negroes, renewed, agreed to restore the ships taken off SICILY.

NOTHING memorable happened in SPAIN during the two following years; but in the beginning of the year after, 1724, PHILIP astonished all EUROPE, by publicly abdicating his crown in favour of his eldest son Don LEWIS, Prince of ASTURIAS, who was then in the seventeenth year of his age. PHILIP himself, tho' he had not reached his fortieth year, had long been sick of regal grandeur. From a weakness of body and mind, the least application to business had for some years given him a disgust; his mind was continually filled with religious scruples, which rendered him timorous and indecisive in every thing; and he falsely imagined that a sceptre was incompatible with a life of integrity.

THE Spaniards expressed great joy upon the accession of LEWIS I. who was endeared to them, not only by being born among them, but by his generosity, affability, and many other virtues. The public joy, however, was soon turned into mourning, by the unexpected death of the King, who died of the small-pox, universally regretted, in the eighth month of his reign.

UPON the death of LEWIS, PHILIP was persuaded to resume the reins of government, and the year following surpris'd all the powers of EUROPE, by concluding a particular treaty with the Emperor, upon which the different princes recalled their plenipotentiaries

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potentiaries from CAMBRAY, where they had trifled away three years merely in feasting and entertainments. By the treaty of VIENNA, which was with the utmost secrecy negotiated by the famous RIPERDA, PHILIP resigned all pretensions to NAPLES, SICILY, the LOW-COUNTRIES, and the MILANESE; CHARLES, on the other hand, renounced all claim to SPAIN and the INDIES, and besides, promised to grant the investiture of PARMA and TUSCANY to DON CARLOS. PHILIP soon after entered into an offensive and defensive alliance with the court of VIENNA; to counterbalance which, the courts of GREAT BRITAIN, FRANCE and PRUSSIA concluded a mutual alliance at HANOVER.

THE system of EUROPE by these treaties seemed again changed, especially as PHILIP was at this time greatly irritated against FRANCE, on account of their sending back the Infanta, and now connected himself most closely with the court of VIENNA. The bad understanding betwixt SPAIN and FRANCE was soon followed with a rupture betwixt that court and GREAT BRITAIN. RIPERDA, by concluding the treaty of VIENNA, rose so high in PHILIP'S favour, that he was created a Duke and Grandee of SPAIN, and was entrusted with the departments of war, of the marine, the finances, and the INDIES. He enjoyed those honours and offices, however, only a few months; for the different regulations he proposed were so disgustful to the lazy Spaniards, that he was accused of mal-administration, and not only disgraced, but persecuted. To save himself, he took refuge in the house of Mr. STANHOPE, the English ambassador; but the court was so exasperated against him, that they took him from thence by force, and sent him prisoner to the castle of SEGOVIA. The ENGLISH Ambassador, in resentment for the breach of his privileges, protested against their violence, and left MADRID.

THE Emperor, who was offended with the opposition he had met with from GREAT BRITAIN, in establishing an East-India company at OSTEND, fomented the differences betwixt this court and SPAIN, and was so successful at MADRID, that the year following, 1727, in the end of February, the Spaniards laid siege to GI-

BRALTAR.

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BRALTAR. They soon found the enterprize, however, above their strength, and, after four months of open trenches, were obliged to retire with disgrace. The bishop of FREJUS, afterwards so well known by the name of Cardinal FLEURI, was at this time labouring to establish a general pacification among the powers of EUROPE, and had prevailed on the Emperor and King of GREAT BRITAIN, and the States-General to agree with FRANCE in signing the preliminaries for a peace. The Spaniards, who wanted a fair pretence to withdraw from GIBRALTAR, soon after acceded to these preliminaries. A general congress being then appointed to be held at SOISSONS, PHILIP sent three plenipotentiaries thither, and soon after sent an ambassador for the first time to RUSSIA, who concluded a treaty of commerce between the two nations. As the negotiations at SOISSONS met with many interruptions, on account of the various claims of the different princes who had sent their plenipotentiaries thither, PHILIP, the following year, 1729, concluded a particular treaty at SEVILLE, with GREAT BRITAIN and FRANCE, to which the States General afterwards acceded. By this treaty PHILIP promised no longer to countenance the OSTEND-company; and the other powers, in return, engaged to guarantee the succession of Don CARLOS to the duchies of TUSCANY, PARMA, and PLACENTIA, and to assist in introducing 6000 Spaniards into these territories. The Emperor, who could not bear the thoughts of seeing Spanish troops in ITALY, was greatly offended with this treaty, and endeavoured, by artifice, to render it ineffectual. Accordingly, two years after, when the succession to PARMA and PLACENTIA opened to Don CARLOS by the death of the last Duke of the Farnese family, the Emperor's troops took possession of several fortified places in those dukedoms, under pretence that the widow of the late Duke had been left with child by him. CHARLES however, seeing no way of securing those duchies by negotiation, and being sensible that the cheat would soon be detected, agreed at length to suffer 6000 Spaniards to accompany Don CARLOS into ITALY, and also engaged to suppress the OSTEND-company, which had given so much offence: GREAT BRITAIN, on the other hand, promising to guarantee his dominions in ITALY: Soon after, an English fleet joined that of SPAIN, and conducted the Infant

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Infant Don CARLOS to LEGHORN, who quietly at length took possession of PARMA, which had been destined to him as his inheritance ever since his birth.

THE settlement of Don CARLOS being accomplished, the court of SPAIN turned their views to the recovery of ORAN. An army of 25,000 men was accordingly sent to AFRICA under the command of the Count de MONTEMAR, who totally defeated the Moorish army, and in less than a month made himself master of the place, tho' it was defended by a garrison of 10,000 men.

THE recovery of their African possessions was far from satisfying the ambition of the Spanish court; who now eagerly embraced an opportunity of breaking with the Emperor, and thereby extending their dominions in ITALY. The throne of POLAND becoming vacant, by the death of the Elector of SAXONY, the greatest part of the POLES elected STANISLAUS, who had formerly been their King; but a few of the most powerful chose the new Elector of SAXONY, and the son of their late King. STANISLAUS was supported by his son-in-law, LEWIS XV. of FRANCE, who, on this occasion, entered into an offensive and defensive alliance with the Kings of SPAIN and SARDINIA. The Emperor CHARLES, and the Czarina zealously espoused the cause of the other competitor.

THE war which ensued was very favourable to the Spaniards, who, in one campaign, made an entire conquest of the kingdom of NAPLES. The year following, 1735, Don CARLOS completed the conquest of SICILY, and was crowned as King of the Two SICILIES in PALERMO, the capital city of the island. The Emperor, in the mean time, being driven out of almost all his possessions in LOMBARDY and TUSCANY, and being also unable to oppose the French armies on the RHINE, solicited the mediation of the maritime powers, who by threatening to take part in the war, prevailed on the contending parties to agree to a suspension of arms in the beginning of winter. As the Elector of SAXONY was by this time securely fixed upon the throne of POLAND, and the intercession of the maritime powers cut off all hopes from the French and Spaniards of enlarging their conquests in ITALY and GERMANY,

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they were obliged to continue the armistice, and to negotiate a peace.

THE preliminary articles of the treaty which were settled by the courts of VIENNA and PARIS, being published in the beginning of the year 1736, were far from being satisfactory to the court of SPAIN, because, tho' they were allowed to keep NAPLES and SICILY, it was proposed they should restore PARMA and PLACENTIA to the Emperor, and renounce all claim to TUSCANY. The maritime powers, however, acquiescing in the disposition that had been made, SPAIN was obliged to submit, and the year following upon the death of JOHN GASTON DE MEDICIS, the last male descendant of that illustrious family, the Spanish troops evacuated TUSCANY, which by the treaty then negotiating, was given to the Duke of LORRAIN and BAR, who in the beginning of the preceding year had married the Arch-Dutchess MARIA-THERESA, the heiress of the family of AUSTRIA.

THE peace, which had been negotiating near three years, was at length concluded at VIENNA in the month of November 1738. By this treaty, PARMA and PLACENTIA were ceded in full propriety to the Emperor; and his son-in-law was declared Duke of TUSCANY; the Duke, in return, ceding his dutchies of BAR and LORRAIN, to the exiled King STANISLAUS, upon whose death they were to be annexed to the crown of FRANCE. The fiefs of the FORTONESE and VIGEVANCSA were detached from the MILANESE in favour of the King of SARDINIA, and DON CARLOS was left in possession of the kingdoms of NAPLES and SICILY, with some places on the coast of TUSCANY.

THE treaty of VIENNA was hardly ratified, when SPAIN was threatened with a new war with GREAT BRITAIN, on account of the disputes, which, for some time, had subsisted between the two courts, about the freedom of commerce in AMERICA. The British court had, for some years, made loud complaints of the piracies and hostilities committed in the American seas, by the Spanish guarda-costas, who, on trifling and false pretences, seized
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the English ships in their passage to their own colonies, and not only made prize of them, but treated their crews with the greatest inhumanity. The court of SPAIN, on the other hand, alleged, that the British merchants, in violation of solemn treaties, had, for many years, carried on a clandestine trade with the Spanish colonies in AMERICA, by which the commerce of SPAIN had been greatly prejudiced; that SPAIN was, therefore, greatly interested in putting a stop to such an illicit traffic, and that those who were seized in carrying it on could not justly complain of any injury.

BOTH nations insisted loudly on the injuries they had received; but each evaded giving any satisfaction as to those injuries which their respective subjects had committed. The Spaniards, indeed, amused the English with hopes of redress; they sent orders to their commanders in AMERICA to cease hostilities; yet they connived at the breach of those orders; and returned evasive answers to all representations that were made to them on that head. Their presumption was not so much owing to a confidence in their own strength, as to their opinion of the passiveness of the British ministry, and their knowledge of the violent contentions between the different parties in this island.

It was certainly the interest of both parties to avoid coming to extremities; but the Spaniards not acting with sincerity, even in their negotiations for a peaceable accommodation of all differences, and aiming by the famous convention concluded in the beginning of the following year, to quiet the complaints, without having the causes of them fully discussed, the court of LONDON was at length provoked to issue letters of reprisals against the Spaniards, their vessels and effects. This step was soon followed by declarations of war at LONDON and MADRID, and both nations began hostilities with great animosity. The Spaniards at first made considerable advantages by the capture of great numbers of English ships; but they were soon alarmed with the news of the loss of PORTO BELLO, which was taken in the beginning of December 1739, by Admiral VERNON. About the same time, they suffered very considerably by the ravages of the Barbary corsairs

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on their coasts, and were threatened with the loss of their richest provinces in AMERICA, by a conspiracy formed by one CORDOVA, who pretended to be descended from the antient Incas of PERU. The conspiracy however was happily discovered before it took effect, and the author of it put to death.

THE following year the Spaniards sent a fleet of 18 ships of the line to the WEST-INDIES, with a design, as it was supposed, of attacking JAMAICA. The French likewise, though they still professed a neutrality, sent two squadrons to the American seas, to act defensively in favour of the Spaniards, being bound by treaty to guarantee their territories. The English, in the mean time, blind to their own internal strength, suffered themselves most absurdly to be alarmed with the rumour of an invasion from SPAIN, and neglected sending succours to Admiral VERNON, who had bombarded CARTHAGENA, and taken CHAGRE, a town on the river of that name, the head of which is but a few miles distant from PANAMA, on the South Sea.

ABOUT the same time, General OGLETHORPE, Governor of GEORGIA, attacked Fort ST. AUGUSTINE, the capital of Spanish FLORIDA; but, after lying some weeks before the place, he was obliged to withdraw, with loss. In the end of OCTOBER 1740, the English, at length, sent out a most powerful fleet, as a reinforcement to Admiral VERNON, who, the following year, in the month of March, invested CARTHAGENA by sea and land, with a fleet of 29 ships of the line, and an army of about 12,000 men. The Spaniards, however, by the dilatoriness of the English ministry, having had leisure to reinforce the garrison, and the season of the year being very unfavourable to troops in the field, the English, after a siege of some weeks, were obliged to retire, with the loss of several thousand men. The neglect of timely supporting Admiral VERNON was very fortunate for SPAIN, for, if he had commanded but half that force the preceding year, when he made the first attack upon CARTHAGENA, he would, in all probability, have reduced that city as well as CHAGRE; and, as the passage from this last place to

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PANAMA is but very short, the land troops might also have reduced that town, which would have enabled them to co-operate with Commodore ANSON, who had sailed round CAPE-HORN, and this year began to act offensively against the Spanish settlements on the South Sea.

THE bad success of the English arms in the WEST-INDIES occasioned great joy in SPAIN; and PHILIP, as a reward for the bravery of the Marquis de ESLABA, Governor of CARTHAGENA, promoted him to the rank of Captain-general, and created him Viceroy of PERU. PHILIP, some months before, had published a memorial, claiming the succession of the hereditary dominions of his rival CHARLES VI. who had died at VIENNA in the month of October, and was succeeded by his eldest daughter, MARIA THERESA, who took the title of Queen of HUNGARY. All that the Catholic King aimed at by this claim, was the securing of LOMBARDY for his third son, Don PHILIP, which, he thought, would, at this time, be an easy prize, as the Queen of HUNGARY was unexpectedly attacked by the King of PRUSSIA, and also by the Elector of BAVARIA, who was assisted by the Kings of FRANCE and POLAND. However while the fate of CARTHAGENA depended, the Spaniards made not the least efforts against their new enemy; but, upon receiving the news of the repulse of the English, they assembled a body of forces at BARCELONA, which sailed for NAPLES in the month of November, under the command of the Duke de MONTEMAR. Those troops were reinforced the following year 1742 from SPAIN, and, being joined by the Neapolitans, formed an army of about 60,000 men, MONTEMAR then advanced through the ecclesiastical state as far as the Bolognese: but the King of SARDINIA declaring for the Queen of HUNGARY, and joining the Austrian army, the Spaniards were obliged to retreat, in the end of summer, to the kingdom of NAPLES, where, soon after their arrival, they lost their Neapolitan allies, Don CARLOS being forced to agree to a neutrality, by an English squadron, which threatened to bombard his capital. This was a great disappointment to the Spaniards, for they depended upon being superior in ITALY before the end of the campaign, as Don PHILIP,

LIP,

LIP, after marching through FRANCE at the head of 30,000 men, had now entered SAVOY, and taken possession of CHAM-BERRY. PHILIP expected to conquer this dutchy, while the King of SARDINIA was opposing MONTEMAR; but, to his great surprize, the Piedmontese, who had left pursuing MONTEMAR, quickly attacked him, and obliged him to retreat to FRANCE.

THE Spaniards, notwithstanding the bad success of their arms, were still bent upon pursuing their ambitious views in ITALY, where they supported their armies at a great expence for several campaigns, the detail of which is of no great importance. The Count de GAGES, and their other generals, instead of having any prospect of making conquests in that country, found themselves every year obliged to struggle with new obstacles; and any flattering successes they met with were more than counterbalanced by the advantages gained by their enemies. Their perseverance in the unsuccessful war in ITALY was chiefly owing to the Queen, who having gained a great ascendancy over her husband, prevailed upon him to sacrifice every thing to procure a settlement for her son PHILIP; and her views were seconded by the prime minister, the Marquis ENSENADA, who having been first raised from an obscure station, by the favour of the Count de GAGES, was very active and zealous in furnishing him with supplies, which, however, were seldom adequate to the necessities of the army.

FORTUNATELY for SPAIN, the attention of the English was also drawn off to an unnational object, which exhausted their revenues, and prevented them from prosecuting the war in AMERICA with any vigour. King GEORGE, who had espoused the cause of the Queen of HUNGARY, not only assisted her by large subsidies, but most imprudently transported his troops to FLANDERS, and maintained a large army on the continent, at an immense expence, while naval armaments were almost wholly neglected. Because one enterprize in AMERICA had proved unsuccessful, the English seemed to conclude, that it would be in vain to hope for success in any other. Admiral VERNON, after his return from CARTHAGENA, made a descent upon CUBA near ST. JAGO; but the
troops



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troops, instead of attacking that place, were suffered to remain several months inactive in their camp, where the greatest part of them were cut off by sickness.

IN the beginning of this year, a small reinforcement arriving at JAMAICA, Admiral VERNON again failed for PORTO BELLO, General WENTWORTH, who commanded the land troops, proposing to cross the isthmus, and attack PANAMA: but when they arrived at the Spanish coast, it was agreed, that the enterprise was impracticable. They accordingly failed back to JAMAICA, and in the end of the year returned to ENGLAND. The Spaniards at St. AUGUSTINE in the mean time had made an attempt upon GEORGIA, with two frigates and 30 other vessels, on board of which were 3000 land-forces: but General OGLÉTHORPE quickly obliged them to retire.

THE following year, 1743, the Spaniards were so intent upon supporting their arms in ITALY, that they wholly omitted prosecuting the war against ENGLAND, unless by their privateers, who made a great many prizes both in EUROPE and AMERICA. The affairs of the empire in the mean time chiefly engrossed the attention of the English, who marched into GERMANY under the command of the Earl of STAIR; and after King GEORGE had joined them, defeated the French at DETTINGEN on the 27th of June. One of their squadrons, under the command of Commodore KNOWLES, made an attack upon LA GUIRA and PORTO CAVALLO, two fortresses on the north coast of SOUTH-AMERICA; but were repulsed by the Spaniards with considerable loss.

THE Spaniards were chiefly annoyed by the English squadron in the Mediterranean under Admiral MATTHEWS, who greatly disturbed their trade, and rendered it extremely difficult for them to send supplies to their armies in ITALY. The following year, on the 11th of February, that admiral attacked the Spanish and French fleets united off TOULON; this engagement was prevented from becoming general, by the French declining to come into the line, on one hand, and the backwardness of admiral LESTOCK on the other; but the Spanish ships that engaged were defeated by the