

The East-India goods brought here are carried on truces to MEXICO, from whence what exceeds their own consumption is sent by land-carriage to LA VERA CRUZ, to pass over to TERRA FIRMA, to the islands, and some even to OLD SPAIN, tho' in no great quantity.

ACAPULCO lies two hundred miles south of MEXICO, on the SOUTH SEA. MEXICO, though no port, nor communicating with the sea by any navigable river, has a prodigious commerce, and is itself the center of all the trade that is carried on between AMERICA and EUROPE, on one hand, and between AMERICA and the EAST INDIES on the other; for here the principal merchants reside, the greatest part of the business is negotiated, and the goods that pass from ACAPULCO to LA VERA CRUZ, or from LA VERA CRUZ to ACAPULCO, for the use of the PHILIPPINES, and in a great measure for the use of PERU and LIMA, all pass through this city, and employ an incredible number of horses and mules in the carriage: Hither all the gold and silver is sent to be coined; here the king's fifth is deposited; and here is wrought all that immense quantity of utensils, and ornaments in plate, which is every year sent into EUROPE. Every thing here has the greatest air of magnificence and wealth. The shops glitter on all sides with the exposure of gold, silver, and jewels, and surprize yet more by the work of the imagination upon the treasures which fill great chests piled up to the ceilings, whilst they wait the time of being sent to OLD SPAIN.

THE trade between SPAIN and her colonies in AMERICA, which has been just described, is the most considerable part of their external commerce, and the great support of their navy; for, till our late breach with FRANCE, very few of their ships navigated into foreign parts; and the chief source that supplied the balance of their trade with other nations, arose from this branch. Their *internal* traffic is by no means proportionate to the numbers of their people, the natural advantages of their situation and climate, the abundance of raw materials which the country produces, and their INDIES supply them with; especially when we reflect on the many years of peace which they have enjoyed.

joyed, and that commerce was never so much considered by the several European states, as it is in the present age.

THE great error of the SPANISH policy seems to be this; they never sufficiently attended to the truth of the following political maxim, That industry, manual labour, and the arts, are more beneficial, and truer sources of wealth to a state, than the richest mines of gold and silver. Dazzled with the spoils of AMERICA, they turned their whole attention to seize the exclusive possession of those seeming riches; they neglected agriculture and manufactures, and contracted a contempt for the mechanic, and even liberal arts; in consequence of which, the country becoming daily less populous, their maritime and military strength soon declined. Of late years the Spanish ministry hath been fully sensible of this fatal mistake, and hath endeavoured to raise a spirit of industry among the people, by promoting the establishment of manufactures, in various parts of the kingdom: But though they have tempted the people, by exemption from taxes, and many other privileges, yet the progress they have made is not so considerable as might have been expected.

THEIR most remarkable manufactures are the following; the woollen fabrics are carried on at SEGOVIA, where they made, in the year 1759, 7,400 pieces of cloth, of 30, 60, and 80 bars in length; also at *Valdemoro*, *Guadalajara*, *Saragosa*, *Agulada*, and *Barcelona*. The woollen manufactures owe much of their present establishment, as USTARITZ tells us, to the care and encouragement of the DUKE DE RIPERDA, who had the direction of them in the year 1724. The old silk manufactures are chiefly in *Andalusia*, *Valencia*, and *Murcia*. Those in *Catalonia* are more modern. The principal one of all is at *Talavera de la Reyna*, in NEW CASTILE, for the richest gold and silver tiffues. At *Madrid* there is also a manufacture of tiffues, lutestrings, and other slight filks. There is a manufacture of linen at *Corunna*, said to supply the King's table; another of linen at *Segovia*. At *Madrid* is lately set up a manufacture of porcelain, in the gardens of the King's palace of the *Retiro*, wrought by Artificers brought from SAXONY. There is likewise in that city a new manufacture of good

good tapestry, and of cards, as the finest cards of all, which are made at *Barcelona*, are there prohibited. The fabric of glass is at *St. Ildefonso*, that of swords is at *Toledo*, and those of iron in *Biscay*; that of paper at *Segovia*. The pottery fabrics are very numerous and excellent, particularly that of *Talavera de la Reyna*. The looms of silk, wool, and linen, in all the kingdoms, are said to be 20,000; but whether that account be exact, I cannot presume to say.

THAT their manufactures are not now more considerable, is not *solely* owing to their indolence, and the other causes above-mentioned, but likewise to the oppressive spirit of that superstition which reigns there, under the mask of religion. This will be evident from the following extract of a memorial, presented by EMMANUEL DE LIRA, first secretary of state to CHARLES II. which breathes such a spirit of patriotism and toleration, that I persuade myself it will be very acceptable to the reader. DE LIRA having, in his memorial, proposed the establishment of a general company of commerce, in which all foreigners that pleased should be allowed to be sharers, adds,

“ THERE is only one obstacle on our side, that can prevent the establishment of the company. It is, I confess, great, but nevertheless very easy to be surmounted, especially by your majesty, when you are once informed, that the removing of that obstacle would be a means of remedying several abuses introduced among us, and also of preventing the daily profanation of our most sacred mysteries. This obstacle arises from the law established in these kingdoms, and from the decrees and edicts of the holy tribunal of the Inquisition, against the Jews, and against heresy!

“ I KNOW, Sir, that it is the greatest glory of SPAIN, that it is the only nation which keeps itself pure in the faith of the Catholic, Apostolic, and Roman church; it is this which gives your Majesty the just title of Catholic Monarch, which you so worthily possess. I likewise know, that there is not a more holy, nor a more salutary institution than that of the holy tribunal; but

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I shall endeavour to make it appear, that by granting the liberty of commerce to heretics, and even to Jews, no prejudice could from thence result to SPAIN, nor to the glorious title of Catholic King, nor to the laws and prerogatives of the Inquisition.

“ MY reputation is unfullied, and I flatter myself that nobody will suspect me, as to my soundness in the Catholic Faith. I am evidently a zealous and true Catholic, by presuming to propose to your Majesty to grant liberty of conscience in these your kingdoms, as such a liberty would prevent a great many profanations that are daily committed.

“ Is it not a truth, Sir, that all the prisons of the Inquisition throughout all SPAIN are filled with Jews and heretics, who have profaned our sacraments, by receiving them as though they had been zealous and devout Catholics! Is it not likewise a truth, that an infinite number of others keep themselves concealed among us, and participate of those sacraments unworthily, and by way of derision. Such a thing never happens in countries where liberty of conscience is allowed to all. The greediness of foreigners after our wealth gets the better of their apprehensions of divine or human punishments.

“ WE might grant to the nations trading to CADIZ, or SEVILLE, or any other place where this company should be established, the free exercise of their religion for them alone, in the same manner as the Dutch, and many Protestant States and Princes, have allowed it to the Roman Catholics in their dominions, namely, not an open toleration. Thus foreigners, interested in, and members of the company, and their clerks and domestics, would have this advantage, which would render their abode in SPAIN very agreeable; foreign merchants who traded hither would be satisfied, and we should deliver ourselves from those enemies of our mysteries, who keep themselves concealed among us, and remove them from our temples and our altars; for as it is interest that inspires them with the courage to surmount all apprehensions and dangers, the same interest would draw them to that place, where they might in full security follow their superstitions.

"THE example of the church of ROME for these several ages past may inform us, that it is not contrary to religion to tolerate a worship quite opposite to ours; for it has given a synagogue to the Jews, and it also allows the Greeks to worship according to their liturgy, without thereby forfeiting the name, or the sovereign title of being the immoveable seat of our religion. This example has been followed by the Grand Duke of TUSCANY, at LEGHORN, and by several other Princes in Christendom.

"THE English merchants, notwithstanding their diversity of religion, have the liberty of trading in our ports, since the treaty concluded by the Constable of CASTILE, and the ministers of JAMES I. King of GREAT BRITAIN.

"YOUR Majesty's father, of glorious memory, granted the same thing to the Dutch, and even engaged, by the treaty of MUNSTER, to furnish them with a convenient and honourable place for a burial-ground.

"THUS, the most difficult step is already surmounted. As to other points, just precautions might easily be taken to prevent the venom of heresy from infecting the heart of Spaniards."

LETTER XIV.

AN ACCOUNT OF THE SPANISH MONEY.

Pecuniam probant veterem, et diu notam.

TACITUS *de Mor. Ger.*

THE SPANISH MONEY is in itself not easy to be understood, especially by those who are not merchants. The Spaniards make up most of their accompts, and form their calculations chiefly in these two Species, the REAL DE VELLON, and the MARAVEDI.

THE MARAVEDI is the lowest of the denominations of their copper money, and in this the *King's accompts* are kept; consequently the revenues of SPAIN, and the wealth brought from PERU and MEXICO, are annually computed by an integer of copper, that is *three times less than our farthing*.

THE REAL DE VELLON is the smallest piece of their *silver money*, the ninetieth part of the pound Sterling, and equals our *two-pence-halfpenny, and two thirds of a farthing*.

BUT though it be the most usual way in SPAIN to compute by the *Maravedi* and the *Real de Vellon*, yet there are several other methods of calculation still in force. Thus, pensions from the court, payments of the army, navy, &c. are set down in the register of the Spanish finances, in *Escudos* and *Ducados*, (or copper

per crowns and ducats) reduced to *Reals Vellon*. Some accompts of merchants, and of private persons, are likewise kept in this way; but few things are bought and sold there, but by the former computation of *Maravedis* and *Reals*. There are, besides, *provincial* ways of calculation, and denominations of money peculiar to them, still subsisting, being the remains of the usages of the old kingdoms.

BUT our English merchants traffic chiefly in *Pieces of Eight*, and compute usually by the *Piaſtre*, or old diſuſed Piece of Eight, conſiſting of fifteen Reals and two Maravedis: or, if they reckon by *Piſtoles*, they mean the *Piſtole* of ſixty Reals, the *common Piſtole*, not the *gold* one of ſeventy-five, and ten Maravedis, otherwiſe called the *Doblon eſſectivo de Oro*.

IN the office of *Decimal Rents*, as they call them, that is to ſay *Tytbes*, belonging to the archbiſhop of TOLEDO, accompts are ſtill kept in the obſolete denomination of *Dineros*, ten of which make a *Maravedi*. There are no leſs than fifty clerks in this office; and well there may: think only how *voluminous* accompts muſt be for above 30,000 pounds a-year, that are kept in a denomination, the value of which is more than *thirty times leſs* than our farthing!

THE different monies, and ways of reckoning, ſtill ſubſiſting in the *provinces*, make it neceſſary, that every province ſhould have a ſeparate office in MADRID for its own convenience: and though they live in the ſame ſtreet, the clerks of *one* office know no more of the proceſs of accompting in the *other*, than a Chineſe or Laplander would do.

IN the REAL HACIENDA, or Royal treasury, accompts are kept only in *Millions of Maravedis*.

BUT all the offices in SPAIN, whether eccleſiaſtical or ſecular, compute by ſome of the following denominations; either by *Dineros*, *Cornados*, *Blancos*, *Crowns*, or *Ducats*: but theſe are antiquated

antiquated divisions, those of the *Maravedi* and *Real* being most in use.

THESE small denominations, which the Spaniards love to compute by, must, as you will easily imagine, render their accounts very like themselves, slow, tedious, and elaborate; but then they have this advantage, that they make their accountants most minutely exact. An error is much more easily detected, where the sum is divided into such a number of equal parts, and perhaps into *fractions* infinitely nice.

OF their lowest denomination, called a *Maravedi*, three and one fifth make an English farthing. Thirty-four *Maravedis* go to a Real de Vellon, and ninety Reals Vellon are equal to the Pound Sterling.

THEIR money writers make mention of *Maravedis of plate*; but these, though they might exist formerly, are now no more in being.

THE different exigencies of government, and the various expedients to support expensive projects of ambition, under the preceding reigns, have occasioned more alterations in the value and in the currency of the Spanish money, than in that of any other nation in the world, I believe; particularly from the year 1642 to 1688, and during the confusion and necessities of the succession war. In PHILIP IV.'s time, in 1642, things were in such confusion, that the Piece of Eight in August passed for twelve Reals, the Doblón for forty-five; in October the Piece of Eight went at twenty-five Reals, and the Doblón at eighty-nine; in December the Piece of Eight was at twenty-four Reals, and the Doblón at eighty-seven.

THE President OÜRRY, who was so distinguished for his great abilities, was three times sent for from FRANCE by PHILIP V. to re-establish the disordered finances of the Spanish monarchy.

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As the Spanish money hath been scarce ever recalled, there hath arisen a confused multitude of imaginary species of coin. They committed a great error, in not making, upon the union of the several kingdoms, *one general coin, solely current throughout the whole peninsula.* All these circumstances plainly shew how little the genius and disposition of this people is turned to trade. What could be more *uncommercial*, than a money standard perpetually fluctuating, and there being one sort of coin in CASTILE, another in CATALONIA, a third in ARRAGON, and so on?

THE *Mints* of SPAIN were formerly many, namely, that of MADRID, SEVILLE, SEGOVIA, CUENZA in NEW CASTILE, of SARAGOSSA, BARCELONA, and VALENCIA. Of these the two first only, I believe, are now remaining. It is said there are *four* American mints, that of LIMA, POTOSI, MEXICO, and GUATIMALA.

IN order to give the reader the clearest idea of this matter, I will first begin with the Spanish *copper* money, then go on to the *silver*, and close the account with the *gold*.

I. Of the SPANISH COPPER MONEY.

THE Spanish Copper Money is, for the most part, a very contemptible sort of coin; some of it stamped without either form or regularity; and what is even struck in a set dye, is far inferior to the worst of our halfpence.

THEIR Copper Monies are only four.

1. The Maravedi, $34 =$ to the Real Vellon.
2. The Ochavo, $= 2$ Maravedis, $17 =$ to the Real Vellon.
3. The Quarto, $= 4$ Maravedis, $8\frac{1}{2} =$ to the Real Vellon.
4. The Pieza de dos Quartos, $= 8$ Maravedis, $4\frac{1}{4} =$ equal to the Real Vellon.

IN 1718, PHILIP V. ordered they should coin milled Money of pure Copper, making out of each pound 51 Quartos, 102 Ochavos, and 204 Maravedis.

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THERE is mention made of *Maravedis* in a grant of the site of the cathedral of SEGOVIA, by ALPHONSUS, in the year 1160, where they are called, as the grant is in Latin, *Morabetini*, which plainly shews, that the coin itself, as well as the word *Maravedi*, is Arabic, though COVARRUVIAS thought it was Gothic. See Colmenares Hist. Segov. p. 110. For, the word *Maravedi* is a corruption from *Almoravedi*. They dropped the *Al*, and called this little Copper Money *Moravedi*, now vulgarly stiled *Maravedi*. The English took only their *calculation-cyphers* from the Arabs, but the Spaniards took the Arabic numerals, and their manner of computation likewise.

SMALL denominations, and minute divisions of money, were in all countries at first probably owing to the great scarcity of specie. But, however small the *Maravedis* may appear to us, being 34 to the Real Vellon, those who are acquainted with the Roman writers will remember, that the Latin TERUNCIVS was very near as small a denomination, being $\frac{2}{15}$ of our Farthing.

THE Computation, indeed, by *Reals Vellon*, is almost the same as the Roman by *Sestertii*. l. s. d.

A Roman *Sestertius* was worth - - - 0 0 2

The Real de Vellon, - - - 0 0 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{2}{3}$

What can be well nearer? Does not this similitude almost induce one to think, that the original of this computation of *Reals Vellon* came from ROME? and though the *Maravedi* is Arabic, the *Real* is Roman. So far is very certain, that the gold *Escudo* was for many ages called the *Aureus*, and was current under that name down to the time of DON FERNANDO.

THE most ancient Spanish money was made in imitation of the PUNIC. As the Carthaginians had been absolute masters of SPAIN, it is no wonder the Spaniards should copy from their models. This ancient money had *characters* stamped upon it, which no one has been able to explain to this day, and therefore they are called MEDALLAS DESCONOSCIDAS. Antonio Augustino, the learned archbishop of Tarragona, has taken infinite pains to

make them out; see PATIN's L'Hist. des Med. p. 103. JOUBERT, Science des Med. Inst. 7.

THE Spanish Copper Money is more like the first rude monies of a barbarous people, than the coin of a great and civilized nation. They have often seen the Roman money for ages past; vast quantities of it are every day ploughed up, and brought to sale. It is much they should never have attempted the imitation of the *Roman Brass Coins*, though they might despair, perhaps, of executing their *Denarii*, or their *Aurii*. But there has been always something in the genius of these people averse to improvements.

STRABO says, that the Spanish *Silver Money* consisted of very thin pieces, or laminæ, which had been three times refined in the fire. This must have been pure indeed, but wretched coin, stamped, and without any *alloy*; consequently their Iron or Brass Money most probably was much more rude and barbarous, such as CÆSAR says our British ancestors made use of in his time. The *Quatros* of PHILIP V. are the best that I have seen of the Spanish Copper Money.

ONE reason, they say, why their Copper Money is so base a Coin, is easy to be assigned. When the expensive projects of ambition, in the preceding reigns, had at different times reduced the Spanish finances exceeding low, it had been sometimes an expedient to coin vast quantities of Copper Money: the consequence of this is, that there is now in SPAIN at least ten times more Copper Specie than the circulation requires; and at length it hath become such a burden, that merchants will rather allow one and a half *per cent.* discount, than receive payments in copper. This hath produced another effect, for as the quantity is so great as to be circulated in large bags, marked, of so much in tale, the ministry of SPAIN is afraid of calling in this Copper Specie to the mint, for its value to be reissued in Silver, as they imagine the state would be a great loser by the deficiency. This is Spanish policy; but, for my own part, I cannot see why this

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evil might not easily be remedied; for, if the government would but consent to lay out the small sum of 20,000*l.* Sterling in buying them up, they might suppress 20 millions of these Copper denominations, and the convenience thereby arising to the internal traffic of the kingdom would much more than counterbalance the loss. The Spanish ministry are at present much embarrassed with this grievance. The expedient they now talk of to get rid of the greatest part of it, is to collect it in sacks, and ship it off for the use of their colonies in AMERICA. In the provinces, almost all payments are made in Copper, which renders commercial transactions there very troublesome.

2. Of the SPANISH SILVER MONEY.

THESE are, (1.) The Real de Vellon, = to 34 Maravedis. (2.) The Real de Plata, = to 2 Reals Vellon. (3.) The Peseta Corriente, = to 4 Reals Vellon. (4.) The Medio Real de Plata Colunario, = to 1 Real Vellon and $\frac{1}{4}$. (5.) The Real de Plata Colunario, = to 2 Reals Vellon and $\frac{1}{2}$. (6.) The Real de a Dos Colunario, = to 5 Reals Vellon. (7.) The Medio Peso, = to 10 Reals Vellon. (8.) The Segovian, or Mexican Piece of Eight, or Dollar, or Peso, = to 20 Reals Vellon; but if it happen to be struck at *Seville* in the year 1718, its value is no more than 16 Reals Vellon, and the half of this Peso no more than 8 Reals Vellon.

So that you see the Spaniards have *eight denominations* of their effective Silver Specie; but they have likewise some *imaginary* divisions, like that of our *English Pound*.—Such are the *five* following.

1. THE Escudo de Vellon, or copper, commercial, nominal Crown, = to 10 Reals Vellon.

2. THE Ducado de Vellon, or nominal Copper Ducat, 11 Reals and 1 Maravedi; used chiefly in computing marriage Portions,

tions, contracts, fines, and court pensions, and in rating all ecclesiastical revenues.

3. THE computed Dollar, or old Piece of Eight, commonly called THE PIASTRE, of fifteen Reals Vellon, and two Maravedis. N. B. In commercial computations, where no particular species is mentioned, you must reckon by this *Piastre*.

4. THE Ducado de Plata Nueva = to sixteen Reals Vellon, and seventeen Maravedis.

5. THE Ducado de Plata doble = to twenty Reals Vellon, and twenty-five Maravedis, and $\frac{1}{16}$ of a Maravedi.

IN regard to their *effective* silver specie, in the first place observe, that it has no impress of any royal head; that whenever it has a shield, or coat of arms on it, it is coined in OLD SPAIN, if it be struck before the year 1733; the American silver money struck before that period, having only the *cross* and the *numerals*. But since the year 1733, the American silver money has been the same with that of OLD SPAIN.

THE *Real de Vellon* is the smallest piece of their silver coin; observe only, that though it be of *Silver*, yet it is called *Vellon* Money, that is *Copper* Money: the reason is, that it was *originally* a Copper coin, but when they came afterwards to strike it in *Silver*, they still retained the old name. The effect of this hath been, that when merchants say *Vellon* Money, they mean *Silver*, and now call the Copper Cobre, or Calderilla.

THE *Peso Duro*, Gourdo, Dollar, or famous *Spanish piece of Eight*, is now tolerably well known in ENGLAND; there are four sorts of these *Dollars*; two square, one of LIMA, and one of SEVILLE; two of the round sort, one with pillars, and one without pillars. There have been no square Dollars coined since the year 1733. PHILIP V. then ordered that they should strike only the round and milled. The Dollars of FERDINAND VI. have the arms of CASTILE and LEON on a shield quarterly; the arms

of FRANCE on an escutcheon of pretence under a regal crown. The legend—FERDND. VI. D. G. HISPAN. ET IND. REX.

ON the *reverse*—two globes under a regal coronet, between two pillars, with coronets instead of capitals, labelled with the motto PLVS VLTRA. Legend, VTRAQVE VNVM. These are called *Colunario*, because of the *pillars*; they weigh exactly one ounce of silver, and their proportion between the silver and gold, is exactly as 15 = 1; fifteen of these being equal to the Doblon de á Ocho, which is also exactly an ounce of Gold.—When the exchange of this piece is at fifty-two pence, the English gain four per cent.

As *Silver* has been scarcer in ENGLAND than *Gold*, these Dollars have been imported there with great advantage, while the small Spanish *Gold Crown*, of exactly the *same value*, hath passed unnoticed. The price given for them by the Bank of ENGLAND having been from five shillings, to five and fourpence per ounce: and of late, till the taking of the HERMIONE, so high as 5 s. 8 d. and 5 s. 10 d.

THE meaning of the name *Piece of Eight*, was originally owing to its value; it was a Real, or *Dollar*, of eight Reals of plate currency. But there being now *three* distinct pieces of Eight, still in use, this hath bred some confusion: the reason of this variety is however easily to be accounted for.—The old Piece of Eight was, as I said, originally in value eight Reals of Plate; this by currency in time lost something, almost half a Real of Plate, and went at last for fifteen Reals Vellon, and two Maravedis. But when they came to coin better specie, to make this Dollar a more valuable, and fairer coin, they added the value of *two Reals of Plate* to it, which brought it to its modern standard, namely twenty Reals Vellon.—Yet still, as many of the old pieces of Eight still remained, the merchants were so bigotted to their old calculation of fifteen Reals, and two Maravedies, that they still kept up that computation, and it remains even now, though the pieces themselves are now no more, and is what

what they call reckoning by the *Piaſtre*. This accounts for two of the Pieces of Eight, that of twenty Reals, and the imaginary Piaſtre.

THE exchange of the *Piaſtre* is now at par, or forty pence. The *third* Piece of Eight is that of SEVILLE, of the year 1718, and was ſtruck upon the old principle of eight Reals of plate currency, or ſixteen Vellon, which it now goes for: but theſe are rare, and do not often occur. But remember, that the *three* Reals de á Ocho, or Pieces of Eight, are that imaginary one of fifteen Reals Vellon, and two Maravedies, of ſixteen Reals Vellon of SEVILLE, and the modern one of twenty Reals Vellon.

IN the year 1726, PHILIP ordered, that old Silver Pieces of Eight ſhould paſs for Nine Reals of *Provincial* plate, and one half, that is for nineteen Reals Vellon, one leſs than the preſent currency. At this time there was a general recall of the ſmaller ſilver monies to the Mint.

IN the year 1728, PHILIP ordered a junta to regulate the mints and monies, which ordained that the Reals à 8^o. and à 4^o. ſhould be round and milled at the edges, and of ſixty-eight Reals of Plate the mark: that the *old Real de a Ocho* ſhould paſs thenceforward for ten Reals of Plate, that is twenty Vellon; and the Real a Quatro for five Reals of Plate; the mark for eighty Reals; the ounce for ten Reals of Plate, or twenty Vellon, and ſo on.

Of the SPANISH GOLD MONEY.

THERE were anciently only four Spaniſh Gold coins, and theſe divided by a very fair and goodly proportion; the Doblon of eight, the $\frac{1}{2}$, the $\frac{1}{4}$, the $\frac{1}{8}$; exactly the equal and direct diviſions of an ounce of Gold; ſince that they have added a $\frac{1}{16}$: and their Gold Money ſtands thus;

1. The Eſcudito de Oro, or little Gold Crown = to twenty Reals Vellon.

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2. THE Escudo de Oro, or large Gold Crown, equal to thirty-seven Reals, and twenty-two Maravedis.

3. THE Doblon de a Cinco, or Gold Pistole, = to seventy-five Reals, and ten Maravedis.

4. THE Doblon de á Quatro, or double Gold Pistole, = to 150 Reals, and twenty Maravedis.

5. THE Doblon de á Ocho, or Gold piece of Eight, or four Gold Pistoles, = to 301 Reals, and six Maravedis.

THE Spaniards have also two imaginary species in the Gold, the *Dobla de Oro*, or Double Ducat, = to fourteen Reals, and nine Maravedis—and is used only by physicians and chymists—and the commercial nominal *Pistole* of sixty Reals Vellon.

THE *Doblon of Eight* was originally worth eight Half Pistoles, and thence took its name—*El Doblon de á Ocho Escudos*. It is at present but one Real more in value, because seventy-five multiplied by four, makes 300; but its currency is 301 Reals, and six Maravedis. Observe, that there are no pillars upon any of the Spanish Gold Money.

IN the year 1728, PHILIP ordered, that the *Doblon de á Ocho* should pass for sixteen old Pieces of Eight, or twenty Provincial Dollars; the Doblon á Quatro for eight of those Pesos; the Doblon á Dos for four; the Escudo for two, or twenty Reals of Plate.

THERE are three sorts of the Gold Doblon á Ocho. (1.) The American, or of LIMA, square, with the cross, and the numeral. (2.) With the head of the Prince, as legend, PHILIP V. D. G. HISPAN. ET. IND. REX.—Reverse, arms of the King, with this motto: TIMOR DOMINI INITIUM SAPIENTIÆ. (3.) The third sort has no impress of the Prince, but has the arms of the King under a regal crown, legend, PHILIP.

HAVING now concluded the account of the Spanish money, I shall refer the reader to the following Table, which will show at one view, the reduction of all the species of it into English money; and it is hoped the Table will be found both new and accurate.

Reals Vellon.

Reals Vellon.	Maravedis.	l.	s.	d.	f.	
	1				$\frac{1}{3}$	Maravedi.
	2				$\frac{2}{3}$	Ochavo.
	$3\frac{1}{3}$				1	
	4				$1\frac{1}{3}$	Quarto.
	$6\frac{2}{3}$				2	
	8				$2\frac{2}{3}$	Two Quartos.
	$12\frac{4}{3}$			1		
	$25\frac{2}{3}$			2		
	34			2	$2\frac{2}{3}$	Real de Vellon, or Half Real de Plata.
	$42\frac{1}{2}$			3	2	The Pillar'd Half Real of Plate.
	68			5	$1\frac{1}{3}$	Real de Plata, or Real of Silver.
	85			7		The pillar'd Real of Plate.
	102			8		
	136			10	$2\frac{2}{3}$	The Real de a Dos, or curr Pefeta.
	170			1	$1\frac{1}{3}$	The pillar'd Real de a Dos.
	204			1	4	
	238			1	6	$2\frac{2}{3}$
	272			1	9	$1\frac{1}{3}$
	306			2		The SEVILLE Half Dollar.
10	340			2	2	$2\frac{2}{3}$
11	374			2	5	$1\frac{1}{3}$
11 and 1 Maravedis,				2	5	$1\frac{2}{3}$
12	408			2	8	
13	442			2	10	$2\frac{2}{3}$
14	476			3	1	$1\frac{1}{3}$
14 and 9 Maravedis,				3	2	$\frac{1}{3}$
15	510			3	4	

Real

Reals Vellon.	Maravedis.	l.	s.	d.	f.	
15 and 2 Maravedis,			3	4	$\frac{1}{2}$	The old Piece of Eight, or Piafre nominal.
16	544		3	6	$2\frac{2}{3}$	
16 and 17 Maravedis,			3	8		The Ducado de Plata Nueva, or nominal Ducat of new plate.
17	578		3	9	$1\frac{1}{3}$	
18	612		4			
19	646		4	2	$2\frac{2}{3}$	
20	680		4	5	$1\frac{1}{3}$	Real de a Ocho, Peso Gourdo, or Piece of Eight; the little Gold Crown is of the same value.
20 and $25\frac{1}{16}$ Maravedis,			4	7	1	
21	714		4	8		The Ducato de Plata Doble.
22	748		4	10	$2\frac{2}{3}$	
23	782		5	1	$1\frac{1}{3}$	
24	816		5	4		
25	850		5	6	$2\frac{2}{3}$	
26	884		5	9	$1\frac{1}{3}$	
27	918		6			
28	952		6	2	$2\frac{2}{3}$	
29	986		6	5	$1\frac{1}{3}$	
30	1020		6	8		
31	1054		6	10	$2\frac{2}{3}$	
32	1088		7	1	$1\frac{1}{3}$	
33	1122		7	4		
34	1156		7	6	$2\frac{2}{3}$	
35	1190		7	9	$1\frac{1}{3}$	
36	1224		8			
37	1258		8	2	$2\frac{2}{3}$	
37 and 22 Maravedis,			8	4	1	The Escudo de Oro, or large Gold Crown.
38	1292		8	5	$1\frac{1}{3}$	
39	1326		8	8		
40	1360		8	10	$2\frac{2}{3}$	
41	1394		9	1	$1\frac{1}{3}$	
42	1428		9	4		
43	1462		9	6	$2\frac{2}{3}$	
44	1496		9	9	$1\frac{1}{3}$	
45	1530		10			
46	1564		10	2	$2\frac{2}{3}$	
47	1598		10	5	$1\frac{1}{3}$	
48	1632		10	8		
49	1666		10	10	$2\frac{2}{3}$	
50	1790		11	1	$1\frac{1}{3}$	
51	1734		11	4		
52	1768		11	6	$2\frac{2}{3}$	
53	1802		11	9	$1\frac{1}{3}$	
54	1836		12			
55	1870		12	2	$2\frac{2}{3}$	
56	1904		12	5	$1\frac{1}{3}$	
57	1938		12	8		
58	1972		12	10	$2\frac{2}{3}$	
59	2006		13	1	$1\frac{1}{3}$	

Reals

THE SPANISH MONEY.

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Reals Vellon.	Maravedis	l.	s.	d.	f.	
60	2040	0	13	4	0	The nominal or common Pistole.
61	2074	0	13	6	$2\frac{2}{3}$	
62	2108	0	13	9	$1\frac{1}{3}$	
63	2142	0	14	0	0	
64	2176	0	14	2	$2\frac{2}{3}$	
65	2210	0	14	5	$1\frac{1}{3}$	
66	2244	0	14	8	0	
67	2278	0	14	10	$2\frac{2}{3}$	
68	2312	0	15	1	$1\frac{1}{3}$	
69	2336	0	15	4	0	
70	2370	0	15	6	$2\frac{2}{3}$	
71	2404	0	15	9	$1\frac{1}{3}$	
72	2438	0	16	0	0	
73	2472	0	16	2	$2\frac{2}{3}$	
74	2506	0	16	5	$1\frac{1}{3}$	The Doubloon of Gold.
75	2540	0	16	8	0	
75 and 10 Maravedis,		0	16	8	2	
76	2574	0	16	10	$2\frac{2}{3}$	
77	2608	0	17	1	$1\frac{1}{3}$	
78	2642	0	17	4	0	
79	2676	0	17	6	$2\frac{2}{3}$	
80	2710	0	17	9	$1\frac{1}{3}$	
81	2744	0	18	0	0	
82	2778	0	18	2	$2\frac{2}{3}$	
83	2812	0	18	5	$1\frac{1}{3}$	
84	2846	0	18	8	0	
85	2880	0	18	10	$2\frac{2}{3}$	
86	2914	0	19	1	$1\frac{1}{3}$	The Doubloon de a Quatro of Gold.
87	2948	0	19	4	0	
88	2982	0	19	6	$2\frac{2}{3}$	
89	3016	0	19	9	$1\frac{1}{3}$	
90	3040	1	0	0	0	
150 and 20 Maravedis,		1	13	5	2	
180		2	0	0	0	
270		3	0	0	0	
301 and 6 Maravedis,		3	6	11	0	The Doubloon de a Ocho of Gold.
360		4	0	0	0	
450		5	0	0	0	
540		6	0	0	0	
630		7	0	0	0	
720		8	0	0	0	
810		9	0	0	0	
900		10	0	0	0	
990		11	0	0	0	
1080		12	0	0	0	
1170		13	0	0	0	
1260		14	0	0	0	
1350		15	0	0	0	
1440		16	0	0	0	
1530		17	0	0	0	
1620		18	0	0	0	
1710		19	0	0	0	
1800		20	0	0	0	

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Reals

Reals Vellon.	l.	s.	d.	Reals Vellon.	l.	s.	d.
1890	21	0	0	5490	61	0	0
1980	22	0	0	5580	62	0	0
2070	23	0	0	5670	63	0	0
2160	24	0	0	5760	64	0	0
2250	25	0	0	5850	65	0	0
2340	26	0	0	5940	66	0	0
2430	27	0	0	6030	67	0	0
2520	28	0	0	6120	68	0	0
2610	29	0	0	6210	69	0	0
2700	30	0	0	6300	70	0	0
2790	31	0	0	6390	71	0	0
2880	32	0	0	6480	72	0	0
2970	33	0	0	6570	73	0	0
3060	34	0	0	6660	74	0	0
3150	35	0	0	6750	75	0	0
3240	36	0	0	6840	76	0	0
3330	37	0	0	6930	77	0	0
3420	38	0	0	7020	78	0	0
3510	39	0	0	7110	79	0	0
3600	40	0	0	7200	80	0	0
3690	41	0	0	7290	81	0	0
3780	42	0	0	7380	82	0	0
3870	43	0	0	7470	83	0	0
3960	44	0	0	7560	84	0	0
4050	45	0	0	7650	85	0	0
4140	46	0	0	7740	86	0	0
4230	47	0	0	7830	87	0	0
4320	48	0	0	7920	88	0	0
4410	49	0	0	8010	89	0	0
4500	50	0	0	8100	90	0	0
4590	51	0	0	8190	91	0	0
4680	52	0	0	8280	92	0	0
4770	53	0	0	8370	93	0	0
4860	54	0	0	8460	94	0	0
4950	55	0	0	8550	95	0	0
5040	56	0	0	8640	96	0	0
5130	57	0	0	8730	97	0	0
5220	58	0	0	8820	98	0	0
5310	59	0	0	8910	99	0	0
5400	60	0	0	9000	100	0	0

*A TABLE of ENGLISH and PORTUGAL MONEY,
reduced to SPANISH Computation.*

	l.	s.	d.	R. V.	Mar.
Sixpence.	0	0	6	2	8½
Shilling	0	1	0	4	17
Half a Crown	0	2	6	11	8½
A Crown	0	5	0	22	17
Half a Pound Ster.	0	10	0	45	0

Half

THE SPANISH MONEY.

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	l.	s.	d.	R. V.	Mar.
Half a Guinea	0	10	6	47	8½
A Pound Ster.	1	0	0	90	0
A Guinea	1	1	0	94	17
Moidore	1	7	0	121	17
A Pound and a Half	1	10	0	135	0
* A Six and Thirty	1	16	0	162	0
A Three Pound Twelve	3	12	0	324	0

* N. B. Six and Thirties, or PORTUGAL Pieces, exchange in this country at great loss: They will give at CORUNNA only 152, or at most 156 Reals; at MADRID something more. The par is 162 Reals.



JUNTA DE ANDALUCIA

P.C. Monumental de la Alhambra y Generalife
CONSEJERÍA DE CULTURA

O o 2

LETTER

LETTER XV.

The STATE of AGRICULTURE.

THE Soil of SPAIN is naturally dry, and is rendered still more so, by reason of the great heats, which parch up the springs and brooks, and by the want of rain to refresh the earth at proper seasons. Of this a remarkable instance happened about five years ago, when it had not rained in CASTILE for nineteen months together.

THE general surface of the country, if you except the two CASTILES, is uneven, scarped, and mountainous.—It has been doubted by the Abbe de* VERAY, and others, whether there ever were any *mines* of silver in SPAIN, because the Spaniards at present work none: but this presumption has been ill founded. I am told, that it is a standing maxim of Spanish policy, not to work any of their mines in EUROPE, as long as those of AMERICA will supply them. It is a certain fact, that there are many *silver* mines dispersed throughout SPAIN, and at GUADALCANAL in ANDALUSIA in particular.—*Englisbmen* have gone over there, and have examined the very ore, and have found it so promising, that some have been sanguine enough to offer to contract

* But a modern writer has well confuted this opinion.—His words are, “ La prudence Espagnole, qui ne songe pas tant au present, qu’elle ni pense aussi à l’avenir, ne veut pas qu’on y touche, tandis que celles des Indes auront dequoi four-
nir. Je trouve que c’est sagement fait à eux.

for the working of the mines. But suppose the *moderns* had not examined into this point, would not the testimony of the *ancients* have been strong enough to prove it? POLYBIUS, STRABO, and LIVY, all affirm it. CATO imposed a tax upon the silver and iron mines, among the VERGISTANI: See LIVY, Lib. 34.

NOTWITHSTANDING the inconvenience arising from the dryness of the soil, and the want of rain, yet, if the inhabitants were industrious, and applied themselves with assiduity to the cultivation of their lands, a general abundance might prevail, which is far from being the case at present, for in many places there is often great scarcity of *bread*.

THE genius of the people is doubtless naturally averse to toil and labour. Give a Spaniard but his cloak, hat, and sword, his wine and his bread, and he cares not how little he works. Another great obstruction to Agriculture is the immense number of lazy *ecclesiastics* in these kingdoms, and the perpetual succession of *holidays* allowed by the church, which deprive the state of *one third* of the labour, that it ought to receive from its subjects. To these let me add, the thinness of its population; SPAIN in general, and GRANADA in particular, have never recovered that fatal blow of the *expulsion of the Moors*; the effects of which are felt still more, by the addition of civil and religious *celibacy*. When PHILIP, on one hand, banished to the amount of 800,000 industrious infidels, from a principle of religion, he ought, on the other hand, from a principle of policy, to have set open the gates of every nunnery and convent in his dominions. I have heard the number of these useless, sequestered males and females, these dead limbs of the body politic, computed at no less than 200,000; but I believe the calculation much exaggerated.

BESIDES the bad consequences arising from religious celibacy, their thin population is in part owing to the sterility of their females; and above all, to the vast emigrations of their people to AMERICA.

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To remedy these defects, the ministry, in PHILIP III's and PHILIP IV.'s time, offered vast premiums to promote marriage and agriculture. But their imprudent schemes of policy in other instances have rendered those patriot laws almost ineffectual.

ANOTHER unfavourable circumstance to agriculture is, there being no exportation of corn allowed in SPAIN from one province to another, except for the King's use, the exigencies of the fleet, army, and such occasions. In consequence of this bad policy, they are obliged to send to BARBARY and AFRICA, or to ENGLAND for corn; for, it is morally impossible but the harvest must fail annually in some one province or other, and then that province must be supplied from abroad. Indeed, the transportation of it to any great distance is almost impracticable; for their large rivers being left in their natural state, are not navigable.

FOR my own part, I am persuaded, that they look upon all such improvements, in some measure, *as sinful*. What shall we say *superstition* will not persuade men to, when we read the following curious deliberation of a council of state, in the reign of CHARLES II.?—When a company of *Dutch* contractors offered that Prince, to make the TAGUS navigable to LISBON, at their own expence, provided they were allowed a toll, for a certain number of years, upon such goods as were sent by water-carriage that way: for they intended to render the *Mansanares* navigable from *Madrid* to where it falls into the *Tagus*.—The Council of CASTILE having long deliberated upon that proposal, made at last this remarkable determination: “That if it had
 “pleased God, that these two rivers should have been navigable,
 “he would not have wanted human assistance to have made them
 “such: but, as he has not done it, it is plain he did not think it
 “proper that it should be done. To attempt it, therefore, would
 “be to violate the decrees of his providence, and to amend the
 “imperfections which he designedly left in his works.”

BUT besides this defect in their *rivers*, they have opened very few *roads* for carriages; in many places there being scarce
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room even for a mule to pass by. Another disadvantage to agriculture is, that where the land happens to be let to a tenant, which is not often the case, the *sale of the estate voids the lease*; from whence comes their Spanish proverb, *Venta desbáze renta*. — *The sale frees you from rent*. This is so directly contrary to our law, and the equity of the thing, that the discouragement to the farmer need not be insisted on.

THE military spirit of these people, which has always prevailed, has no doubt given them a contempt for agriculture. Whoever travels over SPAIN, will be grieved to see such vast tracks of fine land, turned to so little advantage; great part of it not tilled, and that which is, done in so careless and slovenly a manner, as to produce a starved crop of corn, even in spots where they might command the most abundant harvest. Their corn is usually choked up with stones, filth, and weeds of every kind. There cannot be a stronger proof given of the fertility of the soil in SPAIN, than its producing so much as it doth, when you consider how little labour they bestow upon it. When they *plow*, they scarce do more than just scratch the surface of the ground with a slight furrow; after the first plowing, they let the earth lie for a few days, and then they *sow*, the *Wheat* in September, and the *Barley* in February: when this is done, they seldom use the *Harrow*, but plow it over again, in order to cover the seed. Thus it stands till June or July, at which time they cut it down. The Barley is rarely bound in sheafs, and the Wheat not always. Neither, however, are carried into *Barns*; but they lay it down on some clean dry hillock, and then their mules come with a drag, and tread or beat out the corn; it is a shorter method than our *threshing*. The winnowing there is done still easier, by only throwing the corn up into the air.

SUCH is the general indolence of the inhabitants of this country, that many of them will neither reap nor gather in their own corn. I should except, however, the industrious GALLICIANS, who, with great numbers out of FRANCE, from AUVERGNE and LANGUEDOC, annually travel over all SPAIN, to be its husbandmen.

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THE corn, when cut down, usually lies exposed upon some dry high ground for a month or six weeks : as it must therefore be watched by night, they build small huts to lodge in. These places being most commonly in the neighbourhood of great towns, it is the evening diversion of the Spaniards, at this season, to walk out to these *Eras*, (or *Areas*) as they call them, to form parties there ; some sitting, others playing on the guittar, others singing and dancing *Sequedillas* or *Fundungos*. During the heats, the cool air of those rising grounds is pleasant, and the scene odd enough. They frequently stay out late at these entertainments. The ladies of fashion at MADRID sometimes partake of them.

STRANGE as this manner of treading out the corn upon the ground, and in the dust, may appear to us, yet I do not find that it receives any damage from this practice ; for it is all of the hard sort, and their flour is fine and white, not inferior to any in ENGLAND. This method of treading out the corn is, however, undoubtedly not less ancient than the time of MOSES, as may be seen in Scripture. When the corn is thus trodden out, they carry it into the public granary, from whence it is dispensed to the people, by particular magistrates, a *board* being appointed for that purpose : this they call *Junta de los Abastos*.

LITTLE else is sown in SPAIN, but Wheat, Barley, and Rye ; to the mules they usually give *chopped straw*, and these animals will undergo amazing fatigue, upon such poor food. The Spanish horse are likewise commonly fed with chopped straw, and it gives them the finest coat imaginable ; but when they are upon hard service, they give them Barley ; the richer sort, indeed, give their mules barley. The Spaniards make little use of oats, tho' there are some few fields of it to be met with.

WHEN I speak of the Spanish Agriculture, I mean the *general* state of it in SPAIN ; for some parts of the country are certainly much more tilled and improved than others ; which must be the case in all countries : thus, for instance, when you pass the SIERRA MORENA, or that craggy saw of mountains, by which you enter into

into ANDALUSIA, the scene is agreeably changed, the country chearfuller, all tilled to corn, or planted with olives; the villages neat and clean; but even here industry is wanting; no inclosures, no trees, but vines and olives.

FROM CORDUBA to SEVILLE you pass over a ruder country, less cultivated, and abounding in olives, and some vineyards. The country, however, about GRANADA, MURCIA, VALENCIA, and BARCELONA, has been of late years very nobly cultivated and improved: in that latter city, in particular, there is so much industry, that you would be apt to think the people were not Spaniards. In the environs, also, of the two former cities, the country is one continued garden, abounding with all sorts of melons, gourds, pimentos, and garden herbs, interspersed with plats of corn, maize, rice, hemp, &c. all growing under the shade of mulberry-trees, which cover the whole country: they have peas, cauliflowers, fallads, beans, &c. fresh from their gardens, without the help of an hot-house, in the middle of our winter.

WITH regard to the other provinces; in BISCAY they attend chiefly to their *Iron* manufactures, and so of course pay less regard to agriculture. ASTURIAS is all mountainous and woody, excepting where they have laid the forests waste for the supply of their navy. I say *laid them waste*, because, through their unskilfulness in cutting and felling the timber, and a careless prodigality in the manner of doing it, they have cut down as much of the noblest wood, to build a few *men of war*, as would have served the Spanish navy for some years. A gentleman, who lately travelled that way, assured me, that the ASTURIAS, in this respect, had more the appearance of a plundered province, than of a country in the hands of its own masters.

THE two CASTILES are miserably cultivated; LEON worse; but some parts of GALLICIA are fine; and though their attention to, and skill in agriculture, is by no means equal to that of the southern provinces of SPAIN, yet it has no mean appearance.

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ONE of the late ministers tried to introduce the *English style* of agriculture into SPAIN, within these few years; and sent for ploughs, harrows, and other implements and tools of husbandry from LONDON. But when he came to teach his *Castilian* peasants, the use and application of these rustic arms, they had no less aversion to them, than the Spanish troops have now to the *Prussian military exercise*. They tried to work with them, but in vain. The DON will as soon quit his skin, as his habits and prejudices. So they laid the tools down very quietly, and told the minister, "Que no se puede trabajar con instrumentos semijantes á los Yngleses—*That it was impossible to work with such tools as the English.*"

WITH regard to *Climate*, the Spaniards certainly breathe the purest air, well suited to such constitutions as are not subject to *cholics*, particularly to what is called the *dry cholic*. It is too thin and subtle to agree with consumptive dispositions; but to such whose constitutions are sound, and unimpaired by hereditary or acquired distempers, there are few better climates in the world. In GALICIA the air is more impregnated with vapours and moisture; but in general, there is neither mist nor cloud, and you have the most serene azure sky constantly over your head, that can be imagined.

IN winter, the cold is not of so freezing a nature as in ENGLAND, nor does it numb the extremities in the same manner; but it is of a more piercing and subtle kind; wherefore great care must be taken at those seasons to guard well the breast and lungs. Fire is as much wanted at MADRID, in the midst of winter, as in LONDON, and yet they use *braziers* in general, and but few *chimneys*. In June, July, August, and part of September, the heats are very oppressive; during the hours of heat, to be still, with as little light in the room as possible, is the only way to be tolerably cool. Great care ought to be taken in regard to the *water* all over SPAIN, particularly at SEGOVIA, and ARANJUEZ; for in those places, if drank without proper caution, it will have the most fatal effects. The surest preservative is to boil it, or to put an hot iron into it, before you drink it. The water,

water, indeed, of MADRID, is excellent, particularly that of the fountain of the *Recoletos*. The court of SPAIN have given it the strongest recommendation possible, for they have sent water from MADRID even to Don CARLOS and Don PHILIP, as far as ITALY.

YOU may find some *Trees* in SPAIN not very common in other countries. The olive tree, green oak, and mulberry tree, abound there; you will meet with vast forests of *fir* and *cork*; of which latter they make stools and benches, and apply it to many other domestic uses. There are fine woods of oak in ESTREMADURA and ASTURIAS; some few *palms* and *cedars* are likewise found. Then as to *Fruits*, there are figs, pomegranates, oranges, lemons, citrons, dates, capers, walnuts, chestnuts, pistachio-nuts, raisins, grapes, peaches, nectarines, apricots, plums of all sorts, pears, apples, mulberries, strawberries, currants, but, I believe, no gooseberries.

GARDENING, except in the neighbourhood of BARCELONA and VALENTIA, and some other places on the MEDITERRANEAN coast, is entirely neglected in this country. They have not even the idea of gentlemen's country seats, with gardens about them, after the English manner, except at the King's palaces, or some grandee's old castle. Yet, notwithstanding, their lettuce, sallads, asparagus, cellery, cabbage, spinnage, endive, garden herbs, onions, garlick, carrots, turnips, melons, cucumbers, artichokes, &c. are good.—The honey of SPAIN, where there is so much wild thyme, is equal to that of HYBLA.

VINEYARDS abound every where; for they make neither *beer*, nor *cyder*; *rum* is prohibited, and their *brandy* is a wretched spirit, distilled from *aniseed*. Foreign wines are very difficult to be had there at any price, except in the *sea-ports*; even the fine wines of their own growth are by no means cheap, or easy to be procured. What wine is sold of foreign growth, is chiefly some poor *Claret*, or wretched *Frontinac*. The wines that are native are remarkably strong; they are pressed out in the ancient manner, so often mentioned in Scripture, by the feet; when thus

trodden out, they are immediately put into *bog skins*, sewed up, and pitched on the inside: the *pitch* is apt to give them a deeper tint, and a very rank taste; this the connoisseurs call tasting of the *Borracho*. There are many fine wines in SPAIN, the very names of which I know not: those that have fallen in my way are the following. 1. *Mountain*. 2. *Xeres*, or what we call *Sherry*, a town near CADIZ. 3. *Paxarete*, both dry, and sweet. 4. *Malaga*, in that country, what the Spaniards call DON PEDRO XIMENES, from the name of a famous vintner in that city. 5. *Malvasia*, in CATALONIA, what we call *Malmsey*. 6. *Tinta de Rota*, or what we call *Tent*. 7. *Peralta*. 8. *Montilla*. 9. *Guarnacha*, in CATALONIA. 10. *Fontcarral*. 11. *Moscatel*. 12. *Ribadavian*. 13. *Maravella*. 14. *Seges*. 15. *Mancha*. This last is the wine of DON QUIXOTE'S country: it is of the red grape, and what is chiefly drank, mixed with water, by the court and gentry at MADRID.

THE Spanish horse were always famous; those of ANDALUSIA are the most beautiful, those of ASTURIAS the strongest: the best mules are the *Castilian*, particularly those of LA MANCHA: but both horses and mules are very dear in this country; fifty or sixty pounds for a mule is no extraordinary price. All travelling, carriage, &c. is generally performed by mules, not horses. In many places, where the mules go with safety, an horse would scarce stand.

THERE are great plenty of oxen and cows, though the Spaniards make no *butter*, *oil* supplying its place. They make likewise very little use of *cows milk*, *goats milk* being only to be had, even at MADRID. They have black cattle in great abundance, and large flocks of sheep. All these are usually poor and lean, for want of pasture, though the flesh is not without its relish, and the meat is certainly more substantial, more nutritious, than what is killed in ENGLAND.

THEY have immense droves of swine, particularly about TALLERA DE LA REGNA. As these are fed with chefnuts, the pork is of a most exquisite flavour. Poultry in general, except the

the turkies, are in this country lean and dry. There are great quantities of game of all sorts, hares, partridges, &c. but neither fat nor well flavoured. The venison is good, but inferior to our own. *Rabbits* breed and multiply astonishingly in SPAIN, and are very good food; they were so great a nuisance, in the time of AUGUSTUS, that the Roman soldiers were obliged to destroy them, as STRABO tells us. This made CATULLUS call SPAIN *Cuniculosa Celtiberia*. And BOCHART says, that the name of SPAIN came from the *Phœnician* SPANIJAM, which signifies *the land of rabbits*.

FISH is scarce ever seen in the interior parts of the country; and what does come there is usually brought in *fresh*. They have great multitudes of craw-fish at MADRID.—But their chief supply of fish is sent them by the English from NEWFOUNDLAND, the *salt fish*, or what they call the BACALAO. The *Spaniards* themselves indeed, near CALES, salt no inconsiderable quantity of the *Thunnus*, or *Ton-fish*; and very excellent it is; though this is no new practice, but as old as the Roman times; for the ELDER PLINY tells us, “*Optima autem omnium in Europa sunt Gaditana Salsamenta.*”

LETTER XVI.

To the Reverend Dr. KENNICOTT, &c. &c.

TO those, Sir, who, like you, are great proficient in the *Hebrew* and eastern languages, there are perhaps few countries in the world that would afford them more pleasure than this of SPAIN, could they but have free access to all the oriental *manuscripts* it is known to contain.

You need not be informed, that when the empire of the MOORS flourished here, they had universities of note, at a time when all the Christian world, and the rest of SPAIN in particular, was buried in the most disgraceful ignorance. The Christians themselves made no difficulty of going to study in those seminaries, to learn astronomy and philosophy.

THIS country was the residence of those learned Arabs, AVICENA, AVERROES, ALMANZOR, and MESSAHALLAH. It was here those able Jews wrote their comments, the Rabbins ABEN EZRA, MOSES BEN-MAYMON, A. ZACUTH, BENJAMIN, MOSES KIMCHI, and his sons DAVID and JOSEPH; with others, whose names and works are so humorously described in that beautiful poem, your *Oxford Auction Davifiana*.

BUT though there certainly are great collections of *Hebrew*, and other *Oriental MSS.* remaining in SPAIN, yet let me intreat you, Sir, not to raise your expectations too high, or sanguinely

to imagine, that you can derive any great accessions to your *new Edition of the Bible*, from this part of the world. Not that I am without hope of obtaining some valuable *collations* for your use hereafter: but that must be the work of much time and application: patience and perseverance are most essentially necessary in all your transactions with a Spaniard.

You no doubt are well aware, that those who glean after such men as XIMENES, MONTANUS, and PERE HOUBIGEANT, in this country, cannot expect to find much left, which they have not *collated*. But still I am persuaded, from knowing the genius of these people, that a skilful and diligent enquirer would discover some *Hebrew MSS.* which these great men never saw: some have doubtless been brought hither since their time, and some probably escaped their search.

BUT, in order that you may see the state of this matter more compleatly, I send you inclosed *two Letters*, translated from the original, written by a very learned and intelligent *Spaniard*. The *first* will give you a full view of the state of the *Hebrew and Arabic* learning in this country; and the *second* contains a most exact account of the *Complutensian Polyglott*.

HAVING used my utmost endeavours to procure you some *collations* of such ancient *Hebrew MSS.* of the Bible, as I could get intelligence of in SPAIN, it is but reasonable, that I should give you, Sir, as satisfactory an account as I can of the steps I took for that purpose.

THERE are but *two* principal obstacles to your procuring the *collation* of the *Hebrew MSS.* in SPAIN: these are, the absolute necessity of his Catholic Majesty's permission; and the difficulty of finding persons of ability, learning, leisure, and what is more, humility sufficient for such a work: for, should you find out an ecclesiastic able enough to go through this dry task, he may possibly have too much pride to receive your pay; and then what motive have you left to engage him with?

BUT

BUT how discouraging soever these obstacles may appear, yet notwithstanding, if there breaks out no war, and I have the opportunity of another year's stay in this country, I am persuaded I shall have the satisfaction of being instrumental in removing them in great measure.

UPON receiving advices from ENGLAND in regard to your undertaking, I immediately wrote to some of the Spanish *literati* upon that subject, and among others to Don FR. PEREZ BAGAR, a canon and treasurer of the church of TOLEDO: he sent me word, that he had by him between * twenty and thirty Hebrew MSS. of the Bible, written possibly in the XIIth century, or not much later; and that there was one in particular, dated 1144. This account of his, however, proved erroneous; for he told me afterwards, that he had only eight MSS. by him of the Hebrew Bible, with another in the church library: for, not having sufficiently examined the rest, he found that several, which he imagined to have contained the text, were only Rabbinical comments.

IN obedience to my directions from ENGLAND, I informed the Earl of BRISTOL of the nature, state, and utility of your undertaking, and endeavoured to induce him to move in it: but his Lordship replied, that he could not; that his office was only *political*, and that he had nothing to do with what was foreign to his commission.

UPON this I wrote to ENGLAND, advising an application to be made to the Count DE FUENTES, in order to obtain his Catholic Majesty's permission, that the Hebrew MSS. of the Bible in SPAIN might be *collated* for your work. That Count's chaplain called upon me soon after at SEGOVIA, and assured me, that the Count DE FUENTES had promised to procure an application from the Romish college of Cardinals to the King of SPAIN, for the English to have the same permission here, which they had in the *Vatican*. This I have heard no more of since; and to tell you the truth, I did not believe at that time.

* See above, p. 83.

You will see in my † catalogue of the ESCURIAL MSS. what there is in that place. While I was there, I had the good fortune to meet with the Count GAZOLA, one of his Catholic Majesty's great favourites, a Lieutenant-general, and his principal Engineer. He having asked me, if I had succeeded in obtaining access to the Hebrew and other MSS. in SPAIN? I replied, that I had seen those of the ESCURIAL, in a very cursory manner, but none else; that as to such an access as I wanted, for the purposes of *collation*, I despaired of ever seeing that point accomplished. He replied, "Courage, mon ami, a mon retour á MADRID, je vous ferois cette grace moi meme."——This I looked upon as a most favourable incident; and accordingly, when I returned to MADRID, I drew up the inclosed Latin epistle to Count GAZOLA, stating the nature of your proposals, and desiring his assistance in obtaining the King's permission.

AFTER this, I saw BAGER at MADRID, who came to desire me to send to ENGLAND for some books, which would be necessary to him in finishing a work he had almost completed, entitled *an Explanation of the Samaritan coins*, to which will be added an account of the Spanish coins, called *desconocidas*. At this interview we made a mutual agreement; I undertook to procure the books, provided he would *collate* and send me the *various readings* of those nine MSS. at TOLEDO. So that you have nothing more to do, Sir, than to write a letter to him in form, requesting the *collation* of those MSS. for your work, in order that he might lay that letter before the chapter of TOLEDO, to obtain their permission.

P. S. Since my return to ENGLAND, I have little more to add, Sir, to this account. When I saw the Honourable Mr. HAY at LISBON, he very warmly espoused the cause of your undertaking; and was so obliging as to offer to keep such a literary correspondence open during the war, if necessary. But as we have now the prospect of peace before us, we are under no restraints of that sort; and whenever you would have any correspondence in SPAIN

† See above, Letter VIII. p. 155.

renewed upon this subject, please to let me know your commands, and I shall very readily obey them.

EPISTOLA

Ad Excellentissimum Comitem DE GAZOLA, &c. &c.
de Collatione Hebraicorum Manuscriptorum Veteris Testamenti.

CUM nos Britanni, Comes Excellentissime, orbi litterato nuperrimè enunciamus, nos hodie novam suscepisse sancti et antiquissimi istius Fœderis editionem, magni Cardinalis XIMENIS quasi classico et exemplo accensi: ita et in eundem finem rationes publice proposuimus, et è prelo edidimus, collationem manuscriptorum sacri textûs Hebraici solummodo spectantes.

INCREDIBILE est dictu quo ardore et benevolentia tantum opus ab omnibus fere nostrorum hominum ordinibus statim excipiebatur. Academiæ, Oxonia, Cantabrigia, Dublinia suffragia sua perquam libenter detulerunt; nec votis tantum inanibus prosecutæ sunt, sed auro et argento oblatis liberaliter adjuvarunt. Idem dicendum est de Archiepiscopis, Episcopis, Decanis et Capitulis, Collegiis, et ut ne singulos memorem de permultis non minus propter religionem et doctrinam eorum insignibus, quam per stemmata et fastos majorum.

QUAMPRIMUM igitur, Comes Excellentissime, incoeptum et consilium hoc divulgari coepit, tantus ardor et cæteros Britanno apud exteras regiones aliosque populos peregrinantes corripuit, ut confestim manuscriptos codices Hebraicos ubique delitescentes exquirent, eruerent, et felici quâdam indagine aucuparent.

AT ne exteri quidem, ne eorum gloriæ et laudi detraham, tanto operi, tam latæ et universæ utilitatis in rempublicam, in generis

ris humani commodum et ornamentum excogitato, ne ipsi exteri pro suis viribus, pro suâ humanitate nobis defuerunt; Præcipue Romæ, Florentiæ, Bononiæ, Mediolano, Genuæ, Venetiis, Byzantii.

IN urbe vero ROMA, ubi artes et litteræ humaniores tantâ olim ubertate floruerunt, nec hodié deserta sunt, primi ordinis nobiles, et etiam ecclesiæ Catholicæ Romanæ principes, suum operi auxilium et patrocinium humaniter et urbane præstiterunt. Eminentissimus Cardinalis *Passionéi* liberam collationis licentiam a summo et S. S. Pontifice obtinuit, et Vaticani fores confestim patefecit: hodieque omnes in celeberrimâ illâ Bibliothecâ Hebraici manuscripti per Anglorum manus accuratissimè excutiuntur in ipso palatio, et dum vivus aderat, sub Eminentissimi Cardinalis auspiciis et ductu.

SED quorsum omnis tendit hæc oratio me roges forsân Comes humanissime? Aperiam statim, si modo mihi vestram expetenti veniam eam clementer dederis. Tendit, vir doctissime, ut eundem Angli in Hispaniis indulgentiam inveniant, quam a sanctissimo Papâ, et celsissimo Cardinalium Collegio ROMÆ obtinuerunt: Teque, Comes Excellentissime, patriæ meæ nomine oro et obtestor, ut eandem nobis veniam et collationis licentiam in his terris patefacias, quam ubique alias terrarum orbis habuimus.

FREMANT licet Monachorum coenobia, et clament Sacri Officii subsellia, tamen cum liberum patriæ meæ spiritum et animum mecum asportaverim, tibi Comes Litteratissime liberrime dicam quod sentio: quanquam enim nos Christiani in diversa ierimus momenta fidei, tamen *eandem* ambo *fidem* profitemur, ad *easdem* sacras *scripturas* provocamus: Æquè et communiter amborum interest eosdem ex quibus haurimus fontes puros putosque conservare. Quis etenim vel sanus vel sobrius malit eam illam ignorantiam, eosque errores, qui ex oscitantia librariorum libros sacros invaserint, de sæculo ad sæculum perpetuare, a generatione in generationem consecrandos tradere? Eam quam hodie licentiam Romæ Britannis Papa præstitit, *Matrito* certe non detractus erit. Sed in eo non moramur.



REGIS tantummodo licentia et auctoritas nostræ causæ, nostræ quæstioni expetitur. Quis autem adeo fidens inventus erit, qui hanc causam et quæstionem humillimè per Ministros suos ad Regem Catholicum deferat? Excellentissimus Legatus noster Britannicus rei politicæ solum invigilat, neque his curis alienis vel tangi vel impediri possit. Si de me dicerem, qui tantum vile quoddam litteratorum nostrorum in hac quæstione instrumentum sim, et tanquam exilis patriæ meæ vox, hæc me nunquam ausurum susceperumve non diffiteor.

SIN autem patronum aliquem invenero, qualem te Comes Excellentissime, sub cujus umbra protegar; et ut verum dicam præstantiorem potioreve nec velim, nec potuerim: Quippe tu, qui architecturæ et pingendi artes præcipuo quodam amore semper fovisti; ita cæteras scientias, et litteras humaniores publicis studiis, publicâ benevolentia adeo profecutus sis, ut parum sciam ad cujus Patrocinium vel Musæ vel Gratiæ potius confugerent: sub tali Ægide, sub hac Minervâ, causam hanc et partes mihi honorifice delatas me non deserturum fateor, et quoad potuerim executurum.

VALE, Vir doctissime, et te D. O. M. per multos annos sospitem fervet, et si mea ulteriora vota sit fas adjungere.

SIT tibi † POESTANÆ gloria prima rosæ.

† He is publishing the Ruins of the Ancient POESTUM.

L E T.

LETTER XVII.

An EPISTLE to CHARLES CHRISTOPHER PLUER, chargé des Affaires from the Court of DENMARK to that of MADRID, written originally in Latin by Don GREGORY MAYANS, and containing the present State of the HEBREW and ARABIC Learning in SPAIN, and where the principal MSS. in those Branches are to be found.

THE ARABIC and HEBREW languages have always greatly flourished in SPAIN; nor is this extraordinary, for the HEBREW contains the SCRIPTURES, and has interpreters, though for the most part very trifling, yet highly skilful in that language.—Add to this, that the wealth of SPAIN ever attracted the avarice of the JEWS, whose numbers increased so much, that their sons were even admitted to holy orders, until they were forbid by some statutes, particularly that of TOLEDO, in 1547. This statute became necessary, for there were found in one single town, of the diocese of TOLEDO, fourteen clergy, all JEWS but one; and in many other places a similar discovery was made of their increase.—There is no doubt, but that these JEWS not only studied and improved their own language, the HEBREW; but even the most learned CHRISTIANS learnt eagerly that language, in order to convert the JEWS, especially after the Council held at VIENNA, in the year 1311, as we may gather from the first CLEMENTINE, title *De Magistris*, where it was ordained, that in the Universities of PARIS, OXFORD, BOLOGNA, and SALAMANCA, which were

were then the most famed Universities, the *Hebrew*, *Arabic*, and *Chaldic* tongues should be taught.

THIS was done with so much spirit at SALAMANCA, that from thence, as from the TROJAN Horse, mere Princes went forth; men who understood all the *Oriental Tongues* incomparably well. Nevertheless in the time of FERDINANDUS NONIUS, the parent of Greek learning in this country, *Chaldee* and *Arabic* professors were wanting at SALAMANCA, as you may see in N. CLEUARD's *Epistles*, p. 235.

As to the *Hebrew*, it is well known what hatred and aversion hath always subsisted between the JEWS and us CATHOLICS; from whence it happened, that this hatred, which should have been confined only to the perfidy of that people, hath been absurdly exerted against the innocent *Hebrew* tongue itself, and its learned Professors.

How much prejudice the study of the HEBREW created against ANTO. of LEBRISA, a man of most eminent learning, you may learn from his *Apologia*, which is a scarce book; you may see some extracts of it in my *Specimen of a Library*, p. 33. The Letters of LEWIS VIVES will also tell you the ill treatment JOHN VERGERA, and other eminent Hebræans, met with here on account of their knowledge of the *Hebrew*. Read the complaints only of B. A. MONTANUS upon this subject, in his *Commentary de Varia Hebr. Lib. Scriptione et Lectione*, where he is treating of the discordance or agreement of different versions.

WHEREFORE, although Cardinal XIMENES first set the example, and roused the minds of the Spaniards to the study of the Eastern Languages, and particularly of the *Hebrew*, yet as patrons and rewards for it failed after his death, and the prejudice ran against it, that most useful study began to be looked upon as a mark of infamy.

UPON this account, in the beginning of the seventeenth century, it was warmly disputed among the Spaniards, whether or
no