

occasion they were distributed amongst the peasantry in Andalusia. A part were recaptured and brought to Seville, where they were considered prize of war, and circulated amongst the amateurs in the place.

He carried off the breeding stallions of a cavalry depot from near Utrera about the same time, thus sparing no sort of available plunder.

He once occupied a post on the great road of Madrid when a great number of detenus were assembled. In the middle of the day, he ordered a sheep to be killed and dinner to be provided, to which the whole party sat down together; after the repast one of the scenes so characteristic of the people, took place. The excitement, which in northern countries would have ended in quarrelling or drunkenness, with this semi African race, took a different direction. Some ladies who were of the party were in the most imminent danger, when they were saved by the voluntary "devouement" of certain *solteras* (single women) who came forward and offered themselves to the sacrifice, entreating that the matrons might be spared. The robbers were so pleased with their conduct that they not only returned their property, but made them presents in remembrance of the adventure.

This class of robbers, are frequently complaisant and even jocular and good humoured in the exercise of their calling. A man well known at Seville, was stopped by one of the great bands. His baggage was dismounted in the usual manner and the contents of his portmanteaus laid out on the ground. He begged for some favourite article to be returned, which was done, and he went on to some others. At last; as he appears to have had the same sort of attachment to his goods which Fielding describes Mr Honour to have felt on a very different oc-

casion, the heap was diminishing so fast; that one of the gang called out to the captain, in Andaluz, the neatness of which is lost in the translation. "Hold! if you do not stop, in place of robbing him, he will rob us." Alluding to the avidity with which he demanded his baggage, that he might not be satisfied with what was really his own property.

In the spring of 1832, one of the chief followers of Jose Maria came to Seville and surrendered himself with some others. He was immediately taken into pay and sent in pursuit of his former leader, whom he engaged to take, dead or alive. In a short time he disagreed with his companions, who assassinated him and dispersed, part of them returning to their former commander, and again offering their services. He enquired for their leader, when they confessed what had happened. He said nothing, but desired then to fall into their places in the troop. Soon afterwards he called some of his most trusty followers and desired them to take a station behind the strangers, and when he should give the signal, to dispatch them. This was soon done, and the hand of justice anticipated in the fate which awaited them, whenever they might after this complication of crimes have been taken.

The principal salteadores in Andalusia were a family who resided in the towns between Granada and the Guadalquivir, in many of which they had connections and were regularly organised. This were said to be rich and seldom sallied forth but for some certain object. Their last exploit was unusually bold and enterprising. The Captain general of Granada, was travelling in state from Madrid, to take command of his province. He was provided with an escort; but apprehending no danger, he rode on with it. The robbers fell on his

rear, and captured the whole of his baggage, with his chest, containing a large sum in specie, which it is the absurd custom of the country to convey in this manner.

This was, however, "too bad," and a most severe search being made, the parties were taken and executed at Granada. Amongst them, was the alguazil mayor (chief constable) of a town, I think Martos, in whose possession some of the dresses of the general were found. This feat could only have been excelled by robbing the royal person, between the sitios. I was once offered to be put under charge of a man who would, by his connections have conveyed me safely through the midst of these people, but I had not occasion to avail myself of it. I should have done so with perfect confidence. In the Alpujarras and other districts where salteadores are always ready, they frequently obtain intelligence at the police offices, and travellers cannot be too careful in these parts, in enjoining secrecy to their attendants. One of the narrowest escapes I had from being robbed, took place in consequence of a dispute which was kept up until a late hour, between the civil and military authorities, as to whose duty it was to sign my passport. The consequence was, a party went out, whom I missed by accidentally turning down a *barranco* to follow a geological section.

The difficulty and delay amounting often to impossibility of conviction before the ordinary tribunals, induced the government to take a step which has been severely and unjustly criticised, that of substituting councils of war to the ordinary tribunals for the trial of these offences. No one ought to approve such a system, but there may be cases, in which it is justifiable, and without any predilection for martial law out of its own sphere,

it is surely a less evil than impunity from crime. I never heard any charge against the officers employed on these commissions, and their hands have a purity unknown in any other tribunal in Spain, in the discharge of that awful duty.

When I was last at Seville the road was so insecure, that a lady of rank who was going to Ecija was escorted by nearly thirty men, paid for the purpose by her husband.

The ancient practice of travelling in large bodies for mutual defence was renewed the same spring at the great fair of Mairena. This fair is resorted to from all parts, for the purchase of horses and other animals. The Valencians, whose country is unfavourable to the breeding of stock, came in a body of nearly one hundred, all armed, carrying the money necessary for their purchases. The silversmiths of Cordova, were prevented attending by the same cause of the insecurity of the roads.

The timidity and easy good nature of the people in many instances operate as a direct encouragement to the enterprises of men who are in general any thing but courageous, and who seldom attack but with a great superiority of numbers, and from the confidence that those whom they assail are unarmed. Two resolute men with muskets will seldom be molested, unless by the larger bands, and even they are often deterred by a shew of resistance.

The last time I went to Andalusia was in the winter of 1831—32. At that time, the road from Xeres to near Andujar was kept by the royal bands of Jose Maria, and Juan Caballero. Some stragglers infested the road between Cordova and Baylen, and made a valuable capture of a galera with a considerable sum of money, which

some one was imprudently sending without an escort. This prize gave a stimulus to others, and the times appeared so favourable that a band of young Manchegos took the field and commenced operations in the Despeña Perros. It happened that their "coup d'essai" was a diligence which had already been robbed near Ecija by Jose Maria, so that they did not obtain much. They were so raw in their trade, that they forgot to ask for the watches, which some of the passengers retained. The escort, whom we questioned afterwards, ow t hey came to allow the coach to be robbed by such a set of *Novillos*, declared that the passengers forbid their firing and would not permit any resistance to be made.

A very few days after this occurrence, I set out by the same conveyance for Seville; with the road thus manned the chances were against our arriving unmolested. Before we reached Valdepeñas, where we were to sleep previous to entering the defiles of the Sierra Morena, a conversation took place amongst the company in the diligence; in the party was a *moustache* who had served in the war of independance and was then on his way to join his regiment in the corps of observation upon the frontiers of Portugal. This officer and myself soon agreed that the being spread out upon the road with the "Boca Abajo" was to be avoided if possible. Neither of us had much to lose; my companion admitted he had nothing, and I had only the quantity estimated to be necessary in order to ensure civility, in case of accident, a precaution which should always be taken in Spain, to avoid the chance of much worse evils than the loss of a few dollars. But we thought the disgrace of being robbed by a few common *salteadores* made it worth the risking resistance to them.

With the mounted troops we had no chance of contending, but we were of opinion, that with the assistance of the mayoral and two escort who were on the coach, by arming ourselves and alighting to walk through the defile, where we should be on equal terms, and be able to charge or pursue, if necessary, that we could beat off a much greater number than our own, which the escort alone could not do. The plan was very soon arranged, but none of the other passengers were inclined to take part in it. They declared they would rather run the risk of being robbed. We accordingly determined to persevere alone, and the conversation dropped. In the company was a man from the north, whose appearance made his assistance rather desirable, but he reasoned like the others. At length, after a long pause, finding we were not likely to change our plan, with the pride so thoroughly characteristic of the people, he said with the greatest politeness to the officer. "Do you think yourselves better men than us, that you should walk across the mountain whilst we sit in the coach. We will shew that we are equally capable with you, and will walk in company with you." However, none of us were put to the trial, for on sending for the mayoral to give the necessary directions, he said that we were to take up Polynario at Santa-Cruz, and as he was personally acquainted with all the gang, we should not be molested. We accordingly passed without accident, but four of them were in the gorge, waiting for the galeras, some of which were robbed daily, and one of them was pointed out to me, working in a vineyard near Baylen.

The next day on the way to Cordova, we passed a detachment who were posted in a *cortijo*, but they did

not attempt to molest us. We passed the dead body of one who had been killed in a quarrel amongst themselves, most probably respecting the division of spoil. We escaped the large bands by a fresh agreement having been made by the administration of diligences, who paid, I understood, an ounce, (about three guineas) for each coach, by way of black mail, to Jose Maria. To make up this sum, the fares which were already very high, were raised.

The roads near Ecija were patrolled by cavalry, but in this state of things which the Captain general was striving to the utmost to remedy, he was counterworked at Madrid, and an order was sent to call in all the cavalry, and not employ them any longer on such service. I believe this order was the result of complaints of the commanding officers of regiments, but it was not obeyed, and the principle of "Salus, suprema lex," applied to justify the disobedience.

In the spring, I found great improvements made, the road being regularly patrolled by militia, which would have made the execution of any enterprise next to impossible. No real termination however to these enormities can be put, until the government adopt the plan followed in Calabria, by making the communes responsible, and obliging them to repay the losses incurred by travellers in their territory*.

* Since these transactions, Jose Maria has received the indulto or pardon, and is living quietly in some town of Andalusia. His example was followed by Juan Caballero, and I understand the roads are once more secure.

CHAPTER XVI.

Commerce and Revenues.

The external commerce of Spain is at present carried on almost solely with France and England. The former country takes lead, a proportion of wool, some fruit, and a few other articles of little value. Oil formed an article of export, the quantity grown in France not sufficing for the consumption in the great soap manufactories of Marseilles, but in consequence of the prohibitory system of Spain, a corresponding duty has been laid on their produce, and it is now sought for in the east of Europe. With the exception of these and a small quantity of inferior articles, which are sent to America and to the north of Europe, the whole export trade may be said to centre in England. We take the greater part of the wool, nearly all the better wines of the coast, most of the barilla, fresh and dried fruits, the raisins, almonds, oranges and lemons of the south, nuts and chesnuts both from Catalonia and the northern provinces, some kinds of which form almost the sole article of exportation and of revenue from the land, and latterly corn from Castile.

The adjusting exchanges between countries thus situated, and regulating returns, which must be made in

some shape or other, in encouraging the consumption of articles of native growth, by those who desire and are able to pay for them, would appear to be true economy'; the whole study of the Spanish professors is to destroy and annihilate the best trade they possess. They have adopted the maxims of that school of political economy, which teach that the commercial greatness of England is the ruin of other countries, that her prosperity is incompatible with theirs, and that her manufactures are sustained at the expense of others. It is not surprising where information on these subjects is so scanty as it is in Spain, that these doctrines should have made progress. The trade with England is scarcely permitted, and is so fettered that the merchants are placed in the situation of enemies rather than friends. It is true, that the decrees are worded generally, so as not to violate the treaties in force, and the customs of civilised nations, but in fact, they bear almost entirely against the English trade, which, if properly regulated, would be a most beneficial one to both countries, and favor the French, who profess to want nothing, and in reality take very little of the produce of the soil, in return for the manufactures they are hourly forcing into circulation, and whose commerce, if any supply of necessary and indispensable articles can be said to be so, is carried on at a national loss to Spain.

The falsity of the maxim that the trade and prosperity of England depends on the poverty and distress of others, and of their requiring war for their support, have been sufficiently demonstrated by the vast increase of her trade since the peace. That the misery and distress of other countries favors her preeminence, is

equally untrue. The reasoning which maintains these dogmata may be compared to that of the traveller, who, perceiving a house in a village larger than the rest, should undertake to demonstrate that the proprietor had necessarily built it at the expense of his neighbours, or had stolen the materials from them. The causes of the greatness of England are her having been the founder of the modern system of manufactures, and the first to shew the real value of commercial pursuits, in a great national and economical point of view; to her possession of the mines of coal and of iron; to her unrivalled and hitherto inimitable skill in most of the useful arts, whilst other nations are obliged to imitate or copy her productions, which they can rarely equal; lastly, to the security of property for a long time exclusively enjoyed by her under a better administration of government than that of her neighbours, and to the application of accumulated capital resulting from the joint operation of all these causes. These are the real causes of the superiority of Great Britain, and not the exclusive or prohibitory laws which had no more to do in producing it than many other parts of the system now falling to decay. The examination of the countries which are most behind the others in Europe will readily satisfy the impartial observer that their custom is valueless in comparison to what it would be, were they differently situated. The consumption of foreign manufactures proceeds every where from the superfluities of the more wealthy ranks of society and the general circulation of money in the mass, and very little from that of the greater number, who are clad every where in the rude products of the native looms. The peasantry of the papal states, certainly

the lowest in Europe, in manufacturing skill strongly prove this; nearly the whole of their garments are home-made. The warm and handsome clothing of the Andalusians, to whom the jealousy of the Castilians prohibited the retention of the costume of their ancestors, and who are the best clad peasantry in Europe; the pure African habit which has survived all changes in Valencia, Murcia and lower Aragon, the substantial and cleanly dresses of the Manchegos and the rugged and patched drapery of the Asturians are all alike of domestic manufacture.

The consumption of British or French articles does not proceed from those, who are the great mass of the population, but from the classes in whom easy circumstances operate to create the feeling of luxury and vanity of display which are in skilful hands the sources of revenue. The government of Spain is quite ignorant of this mode of extracting resources. With the best and most patriotic intentions their acts operate inversely as they are intended, and are annihilating the sources of commercial prosperity. The duty of those intrusted with the management of a state, especially one where there is little or no controul over the acts emanating from the throne, is unquestionably to forward the civilization and resources of it, without regard to the feelings and interests of others, and to encourage, check, or to proscribe, if necessary, such trade as may be prejudicial to it. In this the duty of the ministers of Spain is clear, the only question is whether they have taken the right method, of which a good deal of inquiry and observation would seem to prove the contrary. After the expulsion of the armies of Napoleon but more especially since the establishment of the *sistema constitucio-*

nal, and its fall, the attention of the government has been really and steadily directed to the calling forth the resources of a country which ought to hold the first place in Europe, and which has only been kept back by a long series of mismanagement on the part of the governors of it. These were two methods of effecting this, together or separately, that of raising the agriculture on which the ancient wealth of Spain depended, and from which nearly all the fortunes of the country directly or indirectly are derived. The other by forcing the establishment of manufactures with a view of applying those maxims of certain economists which declare that every country is sufficient for itself, and ought to live on its own resources, providing for its own wants by the employment of its own hands. On a subject embracing such a complexity and variety of considerations it is difficult to offer an opinion, but the probability is that they have taken the short end of a lever instead of the long one, and applied the lesser power in place of the greater to effect the desired purpose.

Perhaps the best parallel to the situation of Spain in these days, may be by supposing England suddenly put back to the state she was in during the early period of the Tudors, when the civil wars had just ceased, the monasteries still on foot, "au grand complet," vast territorial possessions in the hands of a very few individuals, of illustrious names but in a state of beggary and unable to divide their estates burdened to ruin by taxes and other charges, rather tied to their properties than deriving any benefit from them, the roads hardly passable, no canals or scarcely internal or external navigation or commerce, an enormous and unfathomable public debt (unknown in those times), whilst all the rest of

Europe was in the same situation as at present. We should have little idea of the judgment of ministers who should propose to raise their country to a par with others by the establishment of a few manufactories at Glasgow, if that portion of the kingdom belonged to them, whilst they left the whole of England, where the consumers of these manufactures were to be sought, in the same state of depression as before, and so far from relieving the proprietors of lands, were daily subjecting them to additional, unjust and illegal exactions. This is a precise picture of Spain at this moment. A few Catalan companies are masters of the commercial policy of the government and dictate the law as their narrow interests suggest, forcing the consumers to use their bad and dear articles, whilst not a step is taken to relieve the agriculture, which maintains nearly the whole population, from burdens which in any other country would be insupportable. For some years past a virtual prohibition on nearly all foreign manufactures and products has existed. The productions of the Catalans are professedly unequal in quantity to meet the demand, are of far inferior quality, both of beauty and durability and of higher price than those of their foreign competitors. The women, who are the great consumers of these objects have so little partiality for the products of their own country, that their being exotic is the greatest recommendation with them. The consequence of this system is, that the commerce as regards importation fluctuates between the insufficient supply of the native manufactures; what is absolutely prohibited but is introduced by favor and particular exemption to individuals to make up for that deficiency, and the immense quantity which is constantly poured in by contraband. The balance of trade between England and Spain

is in fact, adjusted by the smugglers in the same manner as between France and England; We should otherwise have a large sum to pay in specie annually to both countries, if the theories of certain professors were correct. In Spain, when they wish to ascertain the state of trade, a private inquiry is set on foot as to the amount of the importation of silver, an inveterate prejudice of ancient habits. The proof of the manner in which extraordinary balances are arranged was furnished in 1830 and 1831. A sudden demand for wool, corn, and oil, the latter accidentally and in consequence of the loss of the Greenland ships, the former from increased activity in the woollen manufactures, and a bad harvest in England, raised the exchange considerably against us; according to this theory specie ought to have been sent to repay the articles demanded. Not a dollar arrived, the balance was adjusted by bills negotiated at Paris and other places in the north of Europe, and in a few months the exchanges returned to their usual course. In ordinary times a large portion of the value of exports is received by the assistance of the smugglers, the treasury profiting nothing by it, and the loss accruing to them being laid upon the land, which is already in a state of ruin. These observations refer to the system of commerce as regards the kingdom generally. A late regulation, has very much increased these evils. From the abuses in the collection of the revenue, especially in that termed the *consumo*, or *derechos de puertas*, corresponding to the *octroi* in France, and the *gabelle* or *dazio* in Italy, the attention of government was called to them. As these taxes produced little or nothing, it was determined in an evil hour, to let or farm them. A bidder was found in a state jobber on a great scale at Madrid, who undertook the collection on a

small increase to the rate at which they had been estimated by the scanty returns for some years past, guaranteeing, as he well might, the punctual payment. The administration of the revenue of the whole kingdom was put into his hands, and the collection extended to places which had always been exempt from that mode of contribution.

Not the slightest suspicion was entertained of any change. It was as secretly managed as the famous expulsion of the Jesuits, and the good citizens who had been slumbering over a light system of duties, were as little aware of the harpies who were about to assist at their banquets, as the learned order were of the fate reserved for them, when summoned by the *alcaldes* to quit their retreats. This alteration took place in March 1830, and by it the revenue is divided into two branches, that of the general customs of the kingdom, which are taken by the government on first entry at the custom houses, and are comparatively unimportant, and those far heavier which are the *derechos de puercas* or duties of consumption and are received by the *impresa* or farmer general. The sum understood to be paid for this privilege, is fifty five millions of reals, between five and six hundred thousand pounds. For this small sum the farmer is master of the consumption of nearly every article over the whole kingdom. Every place which is deemed of sufficient importance is subjected to it. The proceeds of course are unknown, but it is probable that the receipts of two or three of the principal cities clear the expences and that all above is gain excepting the collection, which I have heard amounts to 30 per cent, and the enormous dilapidation the management is subject to, in common with every thing in Spain.

The tax bears most unequally, but to judge of this

it is necessary to look at the distribution of consumers or payers of it in the country. The towns may be divided into the following classes. First, the metropolis and the large cities on the coast, in which alone can be said to exist any commercial energy. Secondly, the provincial capitals in the interior, where the residence of authorities and tribunals and of a few old families who are not yet ruined, maintain a certain degree of activity; next to these but much lower is a class termed in the country of *Clerigos*, which depend for a tottering existence on the chapter and ecclesiastical bodies, with perhaps colleges, which in most instances replace the splendour and wealth that have long passed away. Toledo, Valladolid, Cuenca, Alcala de Henares, Leon and Segovia, may be quoted as examples. The last class are the small towns and villages termed of *Labradores*, whose population consists almost solely of farmers, agricultural labourers, and the stewards of non resident proprietors. The last is by far the most numerous class, and is spread over all Spain, embracing a large portion of the population. In these places there is frequently scarcely a shop. A place called the *tienda* supplies miserable oil and wine with a few of the rudest articles used by the peasantry.

The salt and tobacco are a separate monopoly, and are sold at the *estanco*; The small quantity of other goods which are indispensable are bought at fairs or when they visit the larger towns, and commerce which was formerly so flourishing can scarcely be said to exist, among a portion of the community who ought to be the principal consumers. Of the decrease of revenue in some of these places an idea may be formed from one city, the ruined and decaying capital of a large province.

Before the war of Napoleon the custom house receipts were a million of reals per month, they are now ten thousand. I am acquainted with a place in the Sierra Morena where so late as during the *sistema*, there were thirteen *posadas* in full work from the transit through it; there are now three, the proprietors of which can scarcely live. In the first class of cities the revenue is considerable and the collection comparatively easy. In the second it is more difficult from the reduced circumstances of the consumers and the dreadful charges on the sources of their income. In the last class the expences of collection are hardly paid, and the cupidity of the collectors is proportionably great. They may be seen in the decayed and crumbling towns of Castile, prowling about the ruined suburbs like famished wolves, frequently exceeding their powers and jurisdiction. In these the consumption of articles excepting of real necessity is very small and is daily diminishing. The people have an elasticity of mind which enables them to bear privations and misfortunes without murmuring or repining. If the women cannot pay the price demanded, they cheerfully retire and do without. If they cannot appear in the *paseo* as they were wont to do they remain in their houses for weeks or months, only going out privately to mass, to visit relations, or from other unavoidable causes.

The distress which is so universal in Spain is the real cause of the scanty appearance in public of the women, which some wag persuaded a modern traveller; was caused by the priests retaining them in their harems. The total amount of the revenue collected is very considerable, and the misfortune is, that by these and other means, is levied sufficient to carry on the

government, which is now devoured by a set of cor-
morants, whilst scarcely any benefit results to the pu-
blic. The operation of this mode of taxation is very
unjust, as it bears chiefly on the articles of necessity,
which from their bulk, and comparatively small value,
will not pay the expense of smuggling. No article is
exempt from their rapacity. The unhappy beings at
Granada who gain a toilful and precarious existence,
by grubbing up the last remains of the forests of the
Sierra Nevada, and with their asses are ranged along
the Carrera del Darro, have each paid a comparatively
heavy duty, inexorably levied at the barrier, whilst
they must wait days to find customers for their mise-
rable cargo. In like manner, a poor man to whom I
was indebted for an important piece of geological in-
formation, who gained his livelihood by the scanty pro-
fits afforded on the quantity of sandstone his ass could
transport a distance of fifty miles, for the use of the
polishers of marble, had paid his quota to the Cerberus
of the gates before he was allowed to enter.

From the nature of the arrangement of the *impresa*,
the head of it dictates the royal decrees, almost at will.
Shortly before I left Spain, an edict was issued levying
a tax for his benefit on every horse sold, of so much per
cent, this being made out to fall under the *derecho de
consumo*. Their tyranny on the baggage of travellers is
excessive. I knew a Spanish merchant who had been
detained three days by a regular trial, and put to an
expenditure of nearly eighty pounds, for having a pair
of new pantaloons, and some writing paper in his
portmanteau. This gentleman assured me that he
had ascertained there were in the same diligence contra-
band goods, sanctioned by the parties guilty of this ty-

rannical exaction to, the amount of twelve millions of reals.

The articles of higher value, and smaller volume, are either easily smuggled, or the duties are paid by the more wealthy consumers of them. In many districts, nearly every article that adorns the female form, from the mantilla to the shoe (which can only be made in Spain), is of foreign manufacture, and in a great degree, contraband. In their houses, in general, both sexes wear the plainest attire. A grandee of Spain, in the morning, may be seen in a jacket and trowsers of the coarsest and most common cloth; the women in a corresponding manner.

The equipages and horses are almost entirely laid down, and the few families known still to be opulent, are equally solicitous with the others to avoid display, or the slightest appearance of wealth.

The royal household is conducted on the same scale of economy, from the impossibility of money being furnished from the treasury, to meet a higher expenditure. At a grand review at Madrid, when the king went in state, and in the greatest pomp he could afford, to a splendid pageant, which had been for some weeks in preparation, his carriage alone was drawn by horses, those of his suite had only mules. When the sister of the Queen came to espouse the infante Don Sebastian, who is comparatively rich, the banquet he gave to his spouse and to the King and Queen, who met the cortege on the road to Aranjuez, where the nuptials were celebrated, was furnished from an hotel where I was staying at Madrid. The repast was forwarded in a public *galera*, hired for the purpose, with the *mozos* of the inn to attend it, the master following in a carriage with the more choice viands, and this for

a distance of nearly fifty miles. The same universal distress, the same cheerful and patient bearing of it, extend and cover alike

“ Pauperum tabernas, regumque turres. ”

The contraband trade is carried on in vast lines, extending in every direction over Sierra, and through barranco, on the shores of the Ocean, or amid the snows of Mont Perdu, and the wastes of Estremadura, it is in endless and unceasing operation, limited only by the demand, stayed only by the misery of the consumers, and their inability to pay the price, or buy at all.

The existence of regular commerce and contraband are coequal. Ascertain the fact, whether any smuggling is going on, and you know what the state of the district is as to trade; it is the perfect exemplification of the protective system, in its worst operation. It is so managed by the existing laws, that in some places, there is a double process, smuggling in and out, going on simultaneously, neither of course producing any benefit to the revenue. I witnessed these operations at a frontier place, where the authorities were only waiting my passing the boundary, to arrest me, and commit a breach of the law of nations'; at the same time mules were arriving in the middle of the day with cargoes of wool brought from a great distance, and at dusk passed over to the French side, to load other articles in return; thus evading both import and export duty.

The French, who had the benefit of this ingenious mode of collecting revenue, and whose custom house was arranged for the purpose of facilitating it, were hardly better. The system of Saint-Cricq was then in full vigour. I was informed by a shrewd and respec-