

no bread sold in the place, but the doctor supplied me with a loaf from his store. At night-fall the Alcalde arrived from sporting in the Sierra, with an enormous wild cat, which his dogs had killed, much to their credit, for it was a formidable animal. When it was brought to the *posada*, the whole village soon came to inspect it; I coveted the skin, which I could not ask for; but gave orders privately to my *mozo* to purchase it at any price, if it could be effected. Unfortunately, some of the company viewed it with different eyes; their stomachs began to yearn, and the question was started whether or not it could be eaten. Most were of an affirmative opinion, some were silent; only the Alcalde and myself agreed we should not like to touch it; at last a well-dressed character came in, with an air of authority, and examined it amid a general silence; he then deliberately gave his judgment, that dressed with rice it would be excellent. Various Spaniards, to whom I have related this story, pronounced immediately that he must have been a Valencian, from his partiality for this mode of cookery. This settled the matter; his decision was received with loud acclamations, and they proceeded to prepare it for the operation. All hopes of the skin being obtained in a state fit for preservation vanished. In a short time it was dissected and handed round, and the opinions of the disputants asked, whether there was any cause of objection, and whether it did not exactly resemble rabbit, its favourite food, in appearance and smell. It certainly did so, and supper was soon prepared. The Alcalde, like a true Spaniard, gave up all claim for himself, save some fragment as a remembrance of the capture. The repast took place, amidst the animation which distinguishes the people on those occasions, so different from their usual manners. The banquet was confined to a chosen

few, for they excluded all who, by mewing and other antics, had thrown ridicule on the proceeding. After keeping it up very late, and drinking quantities of wine, they sallied out, to "finish," at the *aguardienteria*, a place where brandy is sold. Here they became so noisy, that the Alcalde, whose liberality in his private capacity was the cause of the uproar, found it necessary to interfere in his official one, and he ordered the whole party to be put in prison, where they remained when I left the place. During the excitement of this scene, which is exactly of the description of those which are transferred to the stage, and form their inimitable *Sainetes*, not the slightest breach of manners or respect to themselves or to each other took place, so different from the practice of the corresponding classes in most parts of Europe. The *posadero*, under whose roof it took place, was a boor; his wife exactly the reverse. She was a young woman of eighteen, who had been married very early, and had two children. Her form was so light and elegant, that it would have been remarked any where. Her skin, excepting her hands, was white as snow, her eyes and hair black, her mouth small and beautiful, and her features as like the Grecian form as are generally seen. In the plainest attire, she presided in this strange scene, alternately answering the call of the guests, attending to her culinary duties, and awing the child in her arms, which was of a wayward temper, to submission, and then with the tenderest caresses feeding it from her mouth in the manner of birds, and occasionally finding a moment for conversation, which she did with the ease and incomparable grace of the country. She was a native of a neighbouring village. I could not ascertain her parentage, but her appearance was Valencian, and in every thing very different from the rustic beauties of the place of her residence. As her husband was among the delinquents, she sat up very

late, anxiously waiting for his return in the chimney corner, with her back to the wall, and her two children grouped in her arms like a figure of Charity; and at early dawn she was stirring to enable us to depart.

Priego, where this scene was exhibited, is a complete epitome of the country. The situation is beautiful and the climate excellent. Although at the foot of the Sierra, the garden produce is the earliest in the district. The wine is of the best quality, and was selling at five *reals*, about one shilling, the *arroba* of twenty-five pounds. Observing that our consumption was very great, I enquired the reason, and the *mozo* informed me he was in the habit of bathing the mule's shoulders with it, to refresh them in the evening. Corn was equally cheap, yet the poor people were starving, and only for the generosity of a public functionary in the place, many of them would have died from want in the preceding winter. Every thing is in keeping. There is a ruined feudal castle; a *plaza* and regular buildings had been commenced, but left unfinished. The *posada* had a regular elevation of good architecture; leaving an open attic, as usual in Valencia, the roof being supported by Caryatides of decent sculpture. The original church had been Gothic, and a Tudor arch, which is rare in Spain, forming the entrance, remains. A sumptuous edifice was intended to replace it, of which a part only was finished. It might be supposed to be designed by Brunelleschi, so exactly is it a transcript of his works at Florence. The *campanario*, or belfry, is rustic, in the manner of the Pitti palace; the aisles of the style of Santo Spirito. The architect's name, which is not recorded in the long list of his profession in the work of Cean Bermudez, is Miguel Lopez.

The ground in the neighbourhood was covered with the dwarf yellow jasmine, and many beautiful and interest-

ing plants. We feasted on excellent mutton, which was found in every place, and varied the uniformity of Spanish travelling diet. Provisions being abundant, our consumption was proportionably great; for my *mozo* made a practice of distributing largely, at the close of each repast, to the bystanders, who were always willing to partake, but never asked for any thing. The sheep are a small and light race, quite unlike the merinos, and more resemble the improved Cheviot breed.

In about an hour from leaving Priego, I arrived at the banks of the Guadiela, one of the innumerable Moorish compounds relating to some quality characteristic of the stream or valley. It is the western arm of the Tagus, and nearly equal to the other in magnitude. Its colour was a sea green, like the Tessino, as it descends from the St. Gothard, and finely contrasted with the dark red of the sand-stone in which the bed is deeply excavated. After coasting it for some distance, we passed a solid bridge, with a mill attached to it, and by a parallel direction, but at a greater distance, descended, by the other bank, through a similar country.

Alcocer, which is the principal place on this road, is a large and substantial village, with good buildings, but is hastening to decay. After this, the country altered in character; deep and precipitous vallies are worn in the marle, and resemble, on a much larger scale, the hilly parts of Devonshire. I dined at Sacedon, a miserable place in a picturesque valley, bounded by lofty mountains, at a league distance from the baths, where there is a royal colony, founded lately at a great expense. A good road has been made to it, and it was occasionally visited by the king. A number of gypsies were encamped outside the town. They had been refused quarters at the *posada*, when the curious question arose, to occupy the *escribanos*, whether such refusal was legal, and whether the *posadero* was not

obliged to receive all wayfaring persons who might claim his assistance. Whether, in fact, in a country where the idea prevails, that every man's house is his castle, this functionary\* was to be the exception, and his residence considered on the footing of a *caravansera*, or as a public resort, where all had the right of entry, as the mules to drink in the public *plaza*? This question embraced so many points, and opened so vast a field for reply and rejoinder, that there was no chance of a speedy decision. The *Alcalde*, however, determined, that without entering into the knotty question as to the right of occupation of the *posada*, he had a clear right to interdict their entry into the town, and they were accordingly forced to remain outside. They were accused of pilfering and other idle habits, exactly as in England and elsewhere. Whence the excessive sensibility of the landlord proceeded, I could not imagine. He at least might have slept in security, for the sharpest eye of a gypsy would have been puzzled to find any thing in his establishment worth carrying off. They were magnificent men, almost black, with good features, and extremely clean in their persons. Their linen was white as snow, contrasting with the Ethiopian hue of their skins. Whatever may have been the foundation of the prejudice against them, they were very superior to the miserable race which inhabits these villages, whom, if mere physical power were concerned, they could easily have dispossessed of their residences. We were told a story of another party, who had recently stolen some asses in La Mancha. The people had traced them, and as justice was difficult to procure in such cases, they had taken the law into their own hands, and executed summary vengeance on them. The number of vagabonds, who were scattered over the country, was

\* The *posada* is often a kind of official appointment by the *ayuntamiento*.

increased by a late order at Madrid, expelling all who were not well lodged and were unemployed, from apprehension of the cholera.

The road to Guadalaxara enters a deep *barranco* in the pine-clad range which bounds this valley, whence you emerge on a romantic pass, through which the Tagus winds its way. Below is a most picturesque defile, with pines covering the rocks. We crossed by a bridge, and, traversing a country of deep ravines, and abrupt ascents, reached an extensive table covered with oak, of which the copse only remains. At the termination of this is a deep valley, with a convent, in a beautiful situation at the entrance of it. Below is Tendilla, a decaying place, with the remains of better days. The feudal castle is in ruins on a height above, the possessor of which figures in the history of the last wars of Granada. In the evening a respectable man, of the class of *labradores*, or yeomanry, arrived from the borders of Estremadura, with his son, a boy whom he was going to place with the Franciscan monks of the convent. The building is of great extent, but they were reduced to the number of twelve.

From this to Guadalaxara the country is beautiful, but in a state of the greatest neglect. In the town there is nothing worthy of notice, excepting the splendid palace of the Duke of Infantado, an enormous building, which it is inconceivable they should have found an architect in the sixteenth century to execute in such bad taste. It is neither Moorish, nor Gothic, nor classic, but an attempt at a compound of all three. The great *patio* is magnificent, and two galleries to the garden truly regal. The principal facade is in bad taste, a sort of bastard Gothic, but is of imposing dimensions. The *patio* is disfigured by execrable sculpture, the shafts of the columns of the upper gallery to the

garden are oval. The inside is equally bad in arrangement, ample space frittered and lost without comfort or splendour. To complete the mismanagement, it is so placed, that there are no grounds or garden, excepting a small spot like those in the middle of cities. The royal manufactory of cloth, now abandoned,\* is built quite under the windows, which would command a noble view of the plain, and distant mountains, with the Henares below. The Pantheon of the family, which is at the convent of St. Francisco, is in much better taste, and appears to have been built in imitation of that of the Escorial. It is an oval shaped room of most correct design, to which you descend by a staircase lined with the finest marbles. In niches were placed beautiful sarcophagi of the same material, intended to receive the bones of the individuals which were placed in the first instance in a cemetery above. When the French vacated the place, it was found that the bones had been taken out, and strewed over the floor, and nearly every sarcophagus was broken, or injured, a work of considerable labour to the perpetrators of this mischief. The original intention cannot now be fulfilled, but the mingled bones were gathered together and placed again in some of the niches, with an inscription to commemorate the cause. In this ancient town are some buildings of Moorish design, but they appeared to be rebuilt on the original designs, and I saw none of which I was satisfied of the originality.

Below the town flows the Henares, a noble stream; one of the tributaries of the Tagus, with an extensive bridge, originally Roman, of which three small arches remain. The rest is a mixture of successive repairs, Moorish and

\* This is an immense, untenanted, suite of buildings, which, when the French entered, employed 24,000 people.

modern. The plain is of surpassing fertility, being a rich loam, and is one of the granaries of the capital, but without a tree or object to break the view.

Lower down on the river, at four leagues distance, is Alcala de Henares, another crumbling remain of ancient celebrity, now fast hastening to decay. It has an university, and a military college, and boasts of being the birth-place of Cervantes.

The archbishop's palace is an old edifice, with a splendid inner *patio*, by Berruguete.\* After crossing the Jarama, the rich loam which forms the beautiful plain of Guadalupe is succeeded by the unproductive soil characterising the dreary radius of Madrid.

\* See that artist under the head of Sculpture.



JUNTA DE ANDALUCIA

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



## CHAPTER VI.

Madrid to Zaragoza and Pamplona, Northern or Free Provinces.

I WENT from Madrid to Zaragoza in an excellent diligence, by the new road, which occupies two days and a half. The first night we slept at Guadalaxara, and at an early hour proceeded to Ariza, the next day arriving in the capital of Aragon.

The road from Guadalaxara is entirely new, and when finished, which it is on the point of being, will leave nothing to desire. It is narrower than most of the royal roads, and more resembles those in England. The first day's journey beyond Guadalaxara was chiefly through *des-poblados*, or uninhabited country, but after crossing the division of the waters of the Tagus and the Ebro it improved. The vale of the Xalon, which flows to the latter river, is well cultivated, the stream being extensively used for irrigation. It is a northern region, producing hemp, barley, and pulse of various kinds. Walnut and cherry trees are mixed with the vines.

Alhama de Aragon, so called to distinguish it from Alhama de Granada, is a small place, with convenience for the resort of strangers during the season of the baths. It occupies a narrow gorge in an interesting country. Calatayud, a Moorish look-out or beacon-place, with a strong castle, now in ruins, is the principal place in this valley.

It is a wealthy and important town, in a highly cultivated plain, with the Aragonese character of narrow streets, good fronts to the houses, bold roofs, the rafters projecting, and often highly ornamented. Beyond this we left the cultivated country of the Xalon, and crossing a dreary tract of mountain, descended to the plain of the Ebro, through white chalky soil. Not a tree or scarcely a trace of vegetation is seen until you reach the borders of the canal, when, owing to the irrigation, all is verdure and fertility.

I entered Zaragoza by the Puerto de Santa Engracia, celebrated in the history of modern times, being the point by which the French entered the city in 1809. We passed between the ruins of the churches of St. Francisco and Santa Engracia, neither of which have been rebuilt, and the sites, as well as those of most of the houses are occupied by a *plaza* and *paseo*. The object of the besiegers was to obtain access to the *Coso*, a wide street, the principal in the city, which sweeps round the outside circumference of the town on the land side, connecting the market-place and the Ebro. The open space referred to was the barrier, and it was only by a demolition almost complete of the buildings, that the object was attained. The chief means employed was to drive mines through the lower parts of the houses, which were then blown up or rendered untenable. On both sides of the *Coso* the houses exhibit the marks of the round and grape-shot, where they seem preserved as relics. Many of those on the inside have been rebuilt. On the outside *manzana*, these shot marks prove that the houses were still obstinately defended after the enemy had penetrated inside them. The destruction in the city was very great, but there are less remains of it than might be expected, owing to the vast solidity of the houses. In the interior it is a Moorish town, and presents a vast and solid mass, which could only have been destroyed by great

trouble and prodigious expense. The two cathedrals are fortunately on the opposite side, near the Ebro, and escaped without serious injury; but the Sala de Diputacion, a Gothic building of great antiquity, and interest in Spanish art, which stood between them, was destroyed. The defence of this place, like too many of the operations during the dreadful war of independence, furnishes a striking contrast of disinterested patriotism and heroic courage on the part of the people, with the incapacity and imbecility of those who commanded them. It was determined to defend a place, untenable by the rules of war. The military commandant was made subservient to a man, who was totally ignorant of every thing relating to war, and took scarcely any part in the proceedings. A large army was shut up and sacrificed, and incalculable and irreparable destruction of life and property incurred, without the slightest advantage resulting to the common cause. Amongst the garrison were cooped up two thousand cavalry, the horses of which were obliged to be shot in a few days for want of forage! The place was taken, with comparatively very little loss to the enemy, by a force inferior to that shut up inside. To the honour of the French officers, the capture of this place was not attended by the excesses so common on other occasions; but the usual customs of civilized nations appear to have been attended to.

There are two cathedrals, of which the architecture will be more particularly described in its place. They are just the converse of each other; the Seu is dark and solemn, the Pilar light and cheerful, like a theatre. The Seu contains some very interesting sculpture and painting, but I suspect there are errors in transcribing the names either of the authors of these works or of the chapels, in the books. The principal sculptors who figure in the cathedrals are Becerra, the two Morlanes, Obray, Forment, Tu-

desilla, and some others. A small church at the *Manteria* is painted by Coello and Muñoz. The end of the church of Santa Engracia, with some valuable and interesting sculpture by the Morlanes, has by a miracle been preserved.\*

This place is on the decline, like all the provincial capitals, many of the old families having gone to hide their poverty at Madrid, and many magnificent houses are let out in tenements. Their residences are on a scale not exceeded any where in Spain, combining solidity and splendour with taste. The cornices of many are of great chasteness and beauty of design. Provisions of all sorts, corn, wine, oil, mutton, game, and vegetables, are cheap, abundant, and excellent. It is probably the best country for living, in Spain. I found the people civil and polished, as in all the old cities through the country. The lower classes have, however, a bad reputation, and assassinations are said to be common. The peasants of the environs wear a Moorish costume, like those of Valencia. Some specimens of them came whilst I was examining the *alhajas*, or ornaments of the shrine of the Virgin of the Pilar, who were ruder and more ferocious looking than any peasantry which came under my observation in the Peninsula. Notwithstanding the pressure of times wholly unexampled, they presented small offerings of money. The priest received these gifts, treating them with a coolness bordering on rudeness, very unusual in Spain, but certainly suited to their appearance, and they seemed to receive it with perfect indifference. This is one of the races of Spanish Moors mentioned by Cervantes as distinguished in his time by those of Africa, and to which they gave different names. He does not give any characteristic distinction, but at present they certainly appear to

\* See these artists under their respective heads.

be the lowest of the whole. Amongst the *alhajas*, of the shrine, are some splendid diamond ornaments of great value, recently presented by a queen of Spain, I think Maria Luisa, the wife of Charles the Fourth. The value would have been much better expended on the unfortunate sufferers of the place, and it were very much to be desired in the regeneration of Spain, some power greater than the corporate jurisdiction of the church should be found to convert property sunk in this absurd manner, to public use.

From Zaragoza I took the route of Navarre, with the intention of seeing the feast of St. Firmin, the patron of that kingdom, which is celebrated with great pomp at Pamplona, in the beginning of July. The road is not yet completed so as to permit a diligence, and to near Tudela the communication is by the canal. The boat is tolerably comfortable, and is drawn by relays of mules, which go at full trot, the drivers keeping up the whole way by running at their side. We dined at Galla, a village by the side of the canal. The landlady had a round face, and resembled a Dutch woman in appearance. She gave us an excellent repast, with delicious eels and tench from the Ebro, of which the lampreys are also celebrated. The company consisted chiefly of merchants going to the fair. There were two monks, one an elderly, grave personage of some rank, the other a young, vigorous and active man, full of life and sociability, a complete descendant of Friar Tuck. As far as circumstances allowed him, he was the life of the company. He had been in America, where probably the voyage had given him these habits. There was also a respectable *cura*, or parish priest. After dinner, the monks gave the benediction, as practised in the refectory, a ceremony which was listened to with a seriousness very unusual in such an assembly. The only

person who endangered the gravity of the scene, was the *cura*, who looked around during the operation in a manner evidently intended to ridicule their performance, which was sufficiently ludicrous, and to show the contemptuous disdain and dislike the lay clergy frequently have for the monks. Amongst the party were an infirm gentleman and his sister, who were going to some baths near Tudela, in the vain hope of improving an apparently hopeless case. They were elderly people, both unmarried, of that ancient class of society, now rapidly disappearing in Spain, with the innate, unaffected nobleness of demeanour, which only nature can confer, and which no change can take away. We soon became acquainted, and the lady related to me their history with the simplicity and delicacy characteristic of real Spanish manners. They had been ruined by the destruction of the family-house, which stood in the unfortunate suburb of Sa. Engracia, and the brother had an employment in some public office, to which almost total blindness now incapacitated him from attending. They were accompanied by a female servant, who had a most perfect Moorish face, with shining eyes, dark hair, a slight tinge of copper in her complexion, and a peculiar sonorous and plaintive voice. She was as perfect a *Mora* as could have been sold at Malaga at the conquest, whence it is not the least improbable her ancestors came. Their kindness and attention to the feeble and helpless man was unremitting; they led him about, and performed every office he required, with the most tender and constant solicitude. The Moor told me they were half *facultativos*, or surgeons, from the number of operations they had performed, doing every thing themselves. The attendant had lived with them from her childhood, and, as is usual in the country, was on a footing of perfect equality, which never altered her attention, or caused her to forget her situation. The mis-

tress was a very well-informed person, the maid not less so, having read various translations, amongst others Tom Jones, which seemed to be her favourite work. She preferred the English literature to the French, as she said it appeared to her more solid; but she observed, it was singular no foreign nation had produced a work like Don Quixote.

There is hardly any traffic on the canal, of which the great utility at present is the irrigation, which is carried on upon a large scale. The country is denuded in every direction; but towards the Bocal, where the water is taken from the Ebro, it improves, and is well wooded. It is throughout of disproportionate dimensions, being nearly double the width required, with an inclination which appeared to me unnecessary. The money expended would have completed it, with more frugal management. At present they have altered the plan, and fixed a point of the Ebro higher up than the original design of its junction with the river. They are working to complete it; but the progress is nearly imperceptible, from the smallness of the funds allotted to it. We landed at the Bocal, near the sluice, and proceeded by coach to Tudela, which is on the river, with a bridge. From this circumstance, and its commanding the entrance of the canal, it is of great importance as a military station, and one of the greatest battles of the early operations of Napoleon was fought in the environs. To Pamplona, the country is dreary and uninteresting in the highest degree. We entered the capital of Navarre after the fair had commenced, and I had great difficulty in obtaining a room for myself, the practice being for three or four people to occupy the same apartment, which entire strangers to each other do without scruple. In the principal inn, they offered me a tenement, in common with a monk and a priest, the only accommodation left. It was Sunday, and no regular bull-

fight is allowed ; but by the Spanish canons, *novillos*, or two year olds, with the horns *embolados*, or tipped, may be introduced for the use of amateurs, and they permit two old bulls to be killed. The next day, the regular sports commenced. There is no amphitheatre, or *plaza de toros*, but the great square of the city is converted to the purpose. It is an oblong, open at one side; scaffolds are placed all round, and enclose a kind of egg-shaped space, of inconvenient length. The houses which face the square are built purposely with the fronts almost entirely of windows. As these feasts are considered a public object, the *ayuntamiento* have a reserved right on every balcony, which are then let out to parties, and the proceeds applied to defray the expense of the festival. Nearly the whole of the upper classes are thus accommodated, the scaffolds being occupied principally by the lower orders. The sight was beautiful, every window being crowded by *mantillas*; not a foreign costume, save that of the Vice-Queen, being visible. The people were extremely animated, and a chorus of female voices was heard above all the rest when a feat of bull or *torero* called forth applause.

After the preliminary operations are gone through, the carriages of the *ayuntamiento* enter in procession, preceded and followed by bands of music, with attendants in red hose and blue vests, the ancient uniform of Navarre. The *alguazil mayor*, in old Spanish costume, with a posse of others on horseback, followed, and a troop of cavalry brought up the rear. The stocks, like the old parish instruments in England, were then carried in procession, to show that the civil power was paramount, and was ready to repress disorder. The *toreros* next appeared, followed by the *molineros*, or millers, of the place, who have the privilege of killing a bull on each day. They were dressed in white frocks and trowsers, with bandanas on their heads,



each with a long lance pointed with sharp iron. They were accompanied by two *aficionados*, or amateur *pica-dores*, on horseback. Notice was sent in form to the Viceroy, as he is termed here, although the government only style him Captain General, to announce that all was ready, but they proceeded without waiting, and he came late. The sport was indifferent the first day. At the close a fray took place between a sentinel on duty and some people of a *barrio*, or quarter well known for their disorderly habits. They disarmed the soldier, but were soon overpowered, and order restored, two or three of them being wounded. The people, who were unaccustomed to these occurrences, became alarmed and panic-struck; a rush took place, threatening a general tumult. I was apprehensive of the scaffold giving way, but with the assistance of a few people who retained their recollection, the crowd was stayed and order restored. The place was then cleared, large detachments of the military having been sent for. This little disturbance was caused by the jealousy of the people at the introduction of the soldiers, who were young and unsteady, and were posted in an unusual manner on the benches in the midst of the populace. Had the civil authorities been left to decide the question, in all probability the troops would have been doubled, or the spectacles put a stop to. The Viceroy, however, with the tact and firmness of a military man, took a different course. He refused to allow the soldiers to enter the *plaza* the next day, answering that he would take care the people should commit no excess. Ample force was accordingly kept in readiness, in case of tumult, but it passed off without the slightest occasion for their services. At the conclusion of the spectacle the last bull was turned out *embolado*. The millers formed in line, and when he had been piked by the amateurs, they received him on their poles. After some ineffectual at-

tempts to break the line, an accidental thrust touched the spine, or some mortal part; the animal fell, and was dragged out like his predecessors. This sport, I believe, is peculiar to the place, and would be impracticable with any of the larger breeds of bulls. Those of Navarre are very small, like the kyloe kind, but their legs are longer, and they are extremely clean made, and very active, bounding over the barriers without effort, like the chamois or ibex.

Montes, the *élève* of the new college of Seville, and the best bull-fighter now in Spain, was present, and excited great applause by his feats of skill. One, which he frequently repeated, was the leaping over the horns of the animal as its head was lowered to transfix him. Another, still more difficult, was, of calling the bull from some distance. When the animal was running directly at him with full speed, placing a small pole on the ground, just before its head, he leapt into the air, and allowing it to pass underneath, dropt down behind the tail. This feat requires the greatest coolness and power of calculation of distance, and it is indispensable the bull should run true, or with a straight and steady pace. The whole of the *toreros* came from Madrid, and those who were able to travel, set out the instant the fights were over, for Valencia, where they were engaged for another exhibition. All the *picadores* were wounded; one only, who was scarcely able to move, and was confined some weeks at Vittoria, remained to finish the last day's work. One of them, who was in the most imminent danger, was saved entirely by the presence of mind of Montes. He was on the ground, and the bull proceeding to gore him, when Montes, with the quickness of lightning, seized his leaping-pole, and giving the animal a violent blow behind, turned his attention to another quarter. At the close of the day, he was carried round the *plaza* on the shoulders of the mob, a rude and boisterous

ceremony, quite unlike the manners of the Andalusians, which he did not at all seem to relish.

The church is a neat Gothic edifice, with a modern front which does not correspond, although of good design in itself. They talked of disfiguring the choir in the same manner, which will then be quite incongruous with every thing around it. The *silleria* will be mentioned under the head of the author, Ancheta. It is of English oak, imported for the purpose. The Viceroy inhabits the palace of the kings of Navarre, which is an irregular and old-fashioned building, with some modern rooms. There are no objects of art in the other churches, besides the cathedral, but I fortunately arrived in time to see one of the most valuable paintings of Carreño, which is mentioned under his name.

The kingdom of Navarre is still governed by its separate laws and constitution, and enjoys some liberty of commerce. The government of Castile has, however, been unfortunately enabled to get possession of the tobacco trade, which has been placed on the same footing, and which makes it one of the curses of Spain. The country is accordingly full of spies and informers, and every day vexatious inquiries are complained of. A registry of the names of all who smoked was mentioned as being in contemplation.

During my stay, the Captain General was obliged to set out for the French frontier, to quell a foray, or border raid, which are constantly occurring. This arose from the arrest by the Spanish authorities of some men who had planted a small quantity of tobacco on the extreme frontier. The policy of the two countries is nearly alike in this. As the soil could not belong to both, the Spanish troops claimed it, and destroyed the plantation, arresting the men and conducting them to Pamplona. The French national guard immediately armed themselves, and made an inroad, arresting some Spanish peasants as hostages, and threatening to

pillage the monastery of Roncesvalles. The Captain General, however, in the mean time had ordered the release of the prisoners, on their arrival at Pamplona, and the affair ended.

The people are more than usual under the influence of the clergy, who in a small and poor kingdom are disproportionately numerous. They form one of the varieties of the old Spanish character, and were found untameable in their opposition to the French, during the war; their proximity and daily intercourse having had no effect in softening their animosity to the yoke of Napoleon.

The fair, which is one of the most considerable in the kingdom, brought samples of the population from all parts. There was little business done, the commerce, as in every other part, being in a perfect state of stagnation.

The fortress of Pamplona, which possesses such interest to the military reader, might disappoint many who had heard the character it usually bears. The side of the river is inaccessible; that on the right, in facing the country, is strong; but the left and front, where the citadel is placed, in the manner of that of Mentz, is on the level of an extensive plateau, with ample means for a regular investment. Some plan has been proposed for extending the works, but at present it is out of the question. It is owing to other reasons than the impracticability of it, that it has not been regularly taken in modern times. The works are kept up, but there are scarcely any cannon, and only field-pieces were mounted in a few of the flanks and bastions. I was told some brass guns, the last that remained, had been sent to the mint to be converted to other purposes.

I travelled from Pamplona to Vittoria on horseback, The road was not yet completed for carriages, although far advanced. This communication will establish an unin-

errupted line between Bilboa and Barcelona. At present, wheel carriages are obliged to pass by Tolosa.

Vittoria is recovering from the effects of the war, and is a thriving and improving place. The *plaza*, or public square, which is one of the neatest in Europe, is a quadrangle of about two hundred feet square, with colonnades round the lower part, and shops opening into it, above which are private residences. The area serves for the public market, and occasionally as the *plaza de toros*. It is inconceivable that a plan, combining elegance, neatness, and utility, with economy of space, should not be more generally adopted. It is quite of modern construction, the work of a native of the country, who has not been enrolled in the place he merits amongst the architects of Spain.

The three provinces of Alava, Guipuscoa, and Biscay, form a government nominally subject to the crown of Spain; but by their laws and internal regulations, are as free and independent as any canton in Switzerland. They pay no direct taxes, but furnish a certain sum annually, which is raised by themselves. Their contingent of troops, when required, is supplied independently, in the manner of the Hungarian levies. Every office is elective by the people. The general executive power is vested in an officer chosen by the respective deputies of districts, and is called *deputado*, corresponding with the *landamman* of some of the Swiss cantons. There are no custom-houses, and no *derecho de puertas*, or *octroi*, and no restriction on trade, save the articles which are prohibited to the whole monarchy, which can be seized at sea or on the coasts. The Ebro, which during part of its course is the boundary to Old Castile, separates the seat of the purest obedience of high monarchy, from a territory of republicans, where fifty thousand men are armed ready to turn out in an instant to fight the troops of their sove-

reign, should any attempt be made by the Castilians on their *fueros*, or privileges. The government have only the troops necessary to guard the forts and frontiers, which, as far as the country is concerned, are on exactly the same footing as in England, and have only the pure military duty to perform. The law cases are decided by the *alcaldes* of towns, who are named by the people out of the aristocracy, with an appeal to the *deputado*, and a final recurrence to the chancery of Valladolid.

The manners and habits of the people are naturally tinged by these laws and customs. They are cheerful and industrious, and the country is perfectly cultivated. The upper ranks exactly resemble what we consider the old English character, being sedate and of plain and solid minds. The lower orders are trustworthy and honest in the highest degree. In no part of Europe are they excelled in industry. The women carry the heaviest burdens, and pass from one species of labour to another, with a quickness and cheerfulness, which cannot be surpassed. They are a comely and beautiful race, and have always been celebrated for their morality. I was shown a country-house, where, during the operations of the British army, previous to the invasion of France, the military chest was deposited for some days. It was a considerable distance from the head-quarters, and only guarded by four sentinels. The whole country was armed *en masse*, and the surprising and capturing it was a very easy matter to people who were in the daily habit of such enterprises, but it remained unmolested. My informant added, that if such a case happened now, the result would be very different; alluding to the alterations circumstances had made in the habits of the people. However that may be, crimes are still rare amongst them, and neither thieves nor robbers are to be found in the country. By the law of these provinces, trade

is absolutely free in the interior; but a strict blockade is kept on the coast by *guarda costas*, and tobacco, for instance, which is a prohibited article, is taken, and the vessel condemned as elsewhere; once landed, it is free, and the government have no power over it. The same is the case with many manufactured articles. The growth of tobacco, in the smallest quantity, in a soil perfectly suited to it, is punishable by *presidio*, or galleys. The ports are *inabilitados*, or prevented, from trading directly with the colonies, and colonial articles must be brought coastwise from the privileged places. The whole produce of their commerce or manufactures is subject to the same duty, in most instances amounting to prohibition, as that from foreign countries, on passing the frontier into the interior.

The abstraction of these *fueros*, or privileges, has long been a favourite scheme of the Castilians, and every plan of force, fraud, bribery, persuasion, and intimidation, has been tried in vain to induce the renunciation of them. They are still working, and it is understood some plan was arranged with the late government of France, just before its fall, with a view to the introduction of troops, for the purpose of establishing custom-houses on the frontier. At present, it is impossible, as many of the people openly told me, they would, in such a case, call in the aid of the French to repel the attempt. It is only by incessant vigilance, and by the sacrifice of large sums, in law-suits and bribery at Madrid, that they are able to remain unmolested. Some individuals were inclined to admit, that they might be better without the *fueros*, with free access to the interior, but they are in very small number, and it is clear such an arrangement would completely ruin the country. The stagnation of trade proceeded from the same sources, and was infinitely more felt in the interior, which could afford them no assistance; and it is much more probable that under the

same laws, these beautiful provinces would be assimilated to the appearance of the Castiles, than that they would be the gainers by such an union of industry and activity, with torpidity, poverty, and decay.

The principal ports are Bilboa and St. Sebastian; the former is much the most important, and the entrepot for wool, which is brought from Castile, and even from Estremadura, besides corn, fruit, and other articles. The foreign trade of Bilboa is almost entirely in the hands of the English. The usages are purely republican, all the effective power being in the hands of the lower classes. The genius of the place is a convent of Franciscans, who inhabit a huge barrack, with a noble church, which overhangs the city, to the number of no less than ninety-five. They recruit from the lower ranks of the people, and are mixed up with, and said to direct every thing. Here is an exception to the general rules in such cases, for the community is the most moral, and one of the most industrious in Europe, and it affords the curious and perhaps unique spectacle, of a large and opulent place, and a seaport, where little or no vice amongst the women is to be found.\*

St. Sebastian is the other chief sea-port; but there is very little commerce, which is entirely in the hands of the French, being apparently too inconsiderable to be worth the attention of the British merchant. Every thing, even to the wood in building, is brought from the French coast. The bay is a bad one, but there is a small mole, and a league distant is the secure and excellent harbour of Passages.† This place is celebrated for the bloody scene of its assault

\* See the concluding Chapter on recent changes.

† The new government have made St. Sebastian a *puerto abilitado*, or given the privilege of importing colonial produce direct from America, which may, it is to be hoped, give a little stimulus to the trade. There is a considerable manufacture of chocolate, and of cigars.



in 1813, when it was taken in mid-day, under circumstances which will for ever do the highest honour to the courage of those engaged in it. But a melancholy fate awaited the inhabitants: the town, with a trifling exception, being burnt to the ground. The people are unanimous in declaring that it was fired purposely, some time after the capture, whilst in quiet possession of the British and Portuguese army. In consequence of this disaster, the population of the place is reduced to six thousand, which is about one half its former number. It is partly rebuilt, on a regular plan, but the houses are inferior to their former construction. Whatever be the truth, this sad lot could have fallen on no community, whom those who know them could more seriously regret their having met with such a calamity. They are a kind, frank, hospitable, industrious and open hearted people; no trace of prejudice is to be found amongst them, and only by inquiry could it be made out that such an event had taken place. Notwithstanding the unanimity of the people, numbers of whom I questioned, it seems incredible that an act so flagitious, so unlike the customs of war, and with so little apparent object, or utility, should have been perpetrated. It is very much to be regretted, since it certainly did happen whilst the place was in our possession, as these disasters in war are sometimes unavoidable, that the only remedy in our power, the repayment of the sufferers, had not been effected, either by subscription, or by public grants, of which we were so lavish at the time to those who had far inferior claims upon us. I was informed nothing had ever been given by the Spanish government, but a visit to it was made by the king a few months before. A funeral ceremony is annually performed in honour of the victims of the siege, for which preparations were making in the cathedral, when I left the place.

The fortress is kept in repair, but has scarcely any guns

mounted, nearly the whole being carried away by the French in 1823, with the exception of some English iron ones left there in 1813, and a very few others. As it is a league from the great road, and is only capable of holding a small garrison, as well as from its local situation being very easy to block, it is of comparatively little value as a fortress. The part of the works destroyed in 1813, was rebuilt in the time of the constitution, and to add to the misfortunes to the town, the ground which was occupied as a temporary work, is still held by government, and no recompense has been made to the owners. It forms an inner rampart, which is of no use, as it is highly improbable it will ever again be attacked on that side. It is well known, that after the breach was reported practicable, the British and Portuguese troops passed the river at its outlet to proceed to the storm, and the tide was so strong, that every wounded man was swept away, and perished. The people told me that the loss was greater from the ardour of the troops, who entered the water before the tide had sufficiently fallen. The rapidity is extreme, as a large body of water flows up with the flood, and, in addition to that of the river, is delivered by the ebb through a narrow outlet, with proportionate velocity. When the French intended to besiege it in form in 1823, I have heard the plan was, to attack it on the other front, which is more accessible, but is much more fortified, having been always looked on as the probable point of attack. It would be rendered of still less use, if a plan, which has been determined on by the Spanish government, be carried into execution, which their financial means will, for the present at least, render difficult, the construction of a fortress of the first rank, in a position which has been surveyed and reported fit for the purpose, between Irun and Oyarzun, close to the frontier,

and completely commanding the approach from France.\* The dialect of Vascuense or Basque, spoken here, is one of three distinguished by the natives, and is considered the most pure and graceful of the whole. Music is much cultivated amongst the upper classes, and some concerts, given whilst I was there, produced excellent amateur performers. St. Sebastian is now resorted to in the summer for sea-bathing, on the beautiful sands of the bay. Many people come for this purpose from Madrid, and the freshness of the air, with the verdure, clothing hill and dale, and the industry of the people, form a curious contrast with the sultry climate of the capital of Castile.

The Indian corn or maize is of most extensive cultivation. The *cerealia* are produced in much greater proportion of late years, but the population is very dense, approaching that of the most thickly inhabited countries in Europe, and presses heavily on the means of subsistence. A plan is in agitation, of altering the course of the river, which appeared practicable at a small expense, by cutting through an isthmus, which would deliver a large tract of valuable land to cultivation; but the political circumstances of the times give a check to all enterprise.

In these provinces the primitive custom of making offerings to the church is kept up. The women go on the mornings of Sundays and the feast days, veiled with a wax taper and a loaf, which are deposited on small carpets or cloths on the floor of the church, and taken by the priests, at the time of *misa mayor* or principal mass. The convents are not numerous, but the secular clergy are disproportionably so. They live, however, on good terms with the people, and in the constant habits of intimacy and in-

\* See concluding Chapter, on recent changes.

terchange of good offices, and are quite amalgamated with them. Most of the benefices appear to be, like nearly every office, elective, in the hands of the people at large. In the small town of Tolosa, are no less than fifteen *curas*, or persons holding the rank of rector or vicar, attached to one church, and its dependent chapel, yet no complaint was made of the apparent superabundancé. Passages is rather more than a league from St. Sebastian, but the indentures of the harbours make the land distance much shorter. It afforded shelter to the numerous train of the army in 1813 and 1814. It is too near the frontier to be of much use to Spain, but they say a plan was determined on by the government of Napoleon, to make it a port of war. The entrance is narrow, and was a serious inconvenience before the use of steam. Inside it opens out into a beautiful harbour, smaller, but in the style of Cork. It is the favourite promenade from St. Sebastian. An establishment of Jesuits, after their expulsion from France, fixed their residence at Passages, by a singular coincidence, a few miles only from the sumptuous foundation of their chief, St. Ignacio, which is now almost a ruin, having only the necessary attendants to perform the ceremonies in the magnificent church. These fathers have a few houses in a beautiful situation at Passages, which they have found the means to buy, and convert into a seminary. They receive strangers with the politeness which rarely quits any rank of Frenchmen, and are liberal in showing their establishment. The portraits of the family, whose attachment to their order cost them so dear, are naturally the principal, and almost the only ornaments. They have a few pupils, French and Spanish, and there was one youth lately arrived from Ireland, who was ignorant of any language but his own, and was employed in learning French, to qualify him

to understand the lectures of his preceptors, which had not been thought of previous to his being sent there. The prejudice against the doctrines of these people is so strong in Spain, that only the difficulty of obtaining a decent education could have enabled them to procure support. The elders seem to affect an ascetic, sorrowful, and melancholy mien, more like the manner of Trappists than those which may be supposed to have characterised the order in its better days.



JUNTA DE ANDALUCÍA

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

## CHAPTER VII.

Seville, and Cadiz, Estremadura, Valencia, and Catalonia.

SEVILLE is on the whole the nearest specimen of a large city as they were in the time of the Moors, from whom the architecture, buildings, streets, and mode of living have been transmitted with the least change or variation. The extent is very large, the houses often occupying open spaces, with many courts, or *patios*, and small gardens, in the oriental manner, are seen in great numbers within the walls. The opulence introduced by the first trade with America, having centered in this city, it became, in some sort, the Florence of Spain, and the greatest protectress of art in the whole Peninsula. To this opulence we owe the transmission of much of the luxury and comforts of the former possessors, who far excelled the Christians of that time in the *savoir-vivre*, although many improvements have since been added to their mode of living. The better houses are invariably divided into two parts, the upper and lower; the higher story is occupied in winter, the lower part during the heat of summer, when the *patios* are covered by an awning, which is drawn back at sunset, and spread in the morning. The sleeping rooms are arranged around these courts, in the oriental manner, and the temperature, night and day, is kept at a comparatively moderate degree. The *patios* are generally surrounded by columns of white marble, and paved with the same ma-

terial. This plan, in a great measure, produces the unrivalled cleanliness of the houses, which vies with that of Holland, and is unequalled in any part of the south of Europe. The olfactory nerves of the Spaniards are in general more sensitive than those of the rest of the inhabitants of the south, whose excessive sensibility to the odour of flowers, does not appear at all to extend to those of another description. The mode of cleaning the pavements and floors by a species of mop, is termed *aljofifar*, and the name, as well as the usage, which is almost peculiar to Seville, is decisive evidence of its Moorish origin. It is surprising that in scarcely any part of Spain, where the same want is universally felt, they should not have followed the Seville mode, the only true plan of resisting the heat of this burning climate during the height of summer. The principle is to make the upper part of the house serve as a barrier to the lower, and the progressive increase of temperature may be easily perceived as you ascend the stories. By this management, aided by the construction of these buildings, a body of cool air is kept in the lower precincts, which it is the great object to keep unaffected by the heat which rages without. The same principle extends to the cities. In summer the centre is comparatively cool, whilst the instant you emerge from the mass of buildings, the temperature is changed to the scorching atmosphere of Africa.

The period of changing residence in the houses is about the summer solstice, and they return to the upper story after Michaelmas, those removals being a kind of epoch in the year. The houses are in general neatly, but simply furnished. The upper parts have galleries round the *patios*, which in most houses are now glazed on the winter floor; a prejudice existing very generally that the seasons are modified, and the cold more severe than in former

times. The number of courts varies. Sometimes it consists of three or even more, but in general there are two in the better houses, connecting with each other. The outer court is invariably closed by an open *reja*, or iron gate, highly ornamented, and of beautiful form. The prospect of the *patios* through the gates, with their marble columns, the evergreens, and other ornaments, give an inimitable effect to their houses.

There are beautiful promenades on the Guadalquivir, which have been very much increased of late, and in a few years they will be equalled by few in Europe. The ancient Alameda is surrounded by buildings, and being in a bad quarter of the city, is only used on certain festivals. A small one has been added in a central part, which is very much frequented in the evenings, especially in summer. Some additions are now making on the land side, but they are of little importance, excepting as improving a deserted space, and will not, in all probability, become places of public resort, which is amply provided for on the banks of the Guadalquivir.

The convents are of extraordinary extent and magnificence of building, in their cloisters and lodging conveniences, more than in the churches. The paintings have been in general removed or destroyed, but the sculpture yet attests the pride of Andalusia, in an art carried to its utmost perfection. Private collections of pictures are now no longer to be formed but in small numbers; a few families only possessing pictures *vinculados*, or entailed, which have resisted war and other misfortunes. A few modern collections have been formed amid the wrecks of the former opulence of this emporium of art. The catalogue of artists, whose works are to found here, some of them exclusively, is very numerous. The principal are, Velasquez, Murillo, who can be really seen here only, the two Herreras, the



elder Castillo, Pacheco, Zurbaran, the Polancos, the Valdes, Vasquez, Leandro de la Fuente, Campaña, Osorio, Roelas, Villegas, Cano, Vargas, Tobar, Sturmio, Morales, Alexo Fernandes, Iriarte, and others. In sculpture, Lope Marin, one of the German or Dutch founders of the art in Spain, Torrigiani, whose celebrated St. Jerome is described in its place, Montañes, Cano, Hernandes, Roldan, Delgado, Morel, and some others.

The cathedral takes the first rank in Europe, and is preferred by many persons to every other. The magnificence of the architectural plan, the combination of the Gothic with the Arab *patio*, which ought to have remained untouched, and the splendid tower of the *giralda*, or Moorish tower attached to it, give a peculiar interest possessed by no other. The only deductions from the beauty of it are, the barbarisms introduced in modern times, in various parts, externally and internally, much of which could be easily removed. It is a repository of art of all kinds. There are above twenty pictures of Murillo, besides those of other valuable artists, and some admirable sculpture. In one of the sacristies, is a curious painting, lately placed there, of Tintoretto, a small picture representing the celestial hierarchy in glory, with figures in light, vanishing in perspective into aerial distance of glory, absolutely innumerable, and the garden of Eden underneath. The great sacristy contains a most costly and curious display of *alhajas* and ornaments, amongst which are the Moorish keys of the city, made in order to be presented on the surrender to Ferdinand. The celebrated painting of Campaña, which served as a study, to form the great artists of the school, at the foot of which Murillo was, by his own desire, buried, has been removed here, and is admirably placed in a noble situation. The church in which it was originally placed was taken down in the war. Imme-

diately adjoining the cathedral, is the *alcazar*, a part of the site of which is occupied by the royal palace and gardens. Some of the work of this palace is Moorish; some Moorish restored; some of the time of Charles the Fifth, in good taste, and some modern, in extremely bad. The dimensions of it were very large, as it comprised gardens and detached houses spread over a considerable space, in the oriental manner, parts of which are now let out in tenements, or let out or sold to private individuals. The Moorish part is magnificent, scarcely yielding, in many parts, to the *Alhambra*. It is kept up as a royal residence, and will probably survive the palace of Granada. On a part of the site of the *alcazar*, is the magnificent *lonja*, or exchange, long since useless for that purpose, and converted to the *archivo de Indias*, or depository of papers belonging to America. Next to the *alcazar* in magnificence, is the palace of the Dukes of Alcala, now centered in the house of Medina. Celi, and commonly called the house of Pilate. The style is similar to the *alcazar*, to which it bears some resemblance, on a smaller scale. The house of an individual affords a noble specimen of a Moorish hall, in what was probably a private residence, nearly unaltered. It is square, of disproportionate height, with beautiful details. Several other houses contain fragments unchanged, giving an idea of their internal arrangements. Most of the houses no doubt have been built exactly on the foundations of their predecessors. An alteration will be gradually made in the streets, by an edile law, which prescribes the building in straight lines with regular fronts. Every house which is in danger of decay, is obliged to be repaired, and there are excellent regulations for the cleanliness of the palace. Many of the early churches are curiously ornamented on the exterior, with *azulejos*, or tiles of various colours, sometimes with medallions having large

figures and subjects, from designs of good masters copied in the manner of Mosaic. This art is now discontinued. Amongst the best are designs of Murillo on the outside of the chapel of the hospital of St. George.

The Triana, which is a suburb on the opposite side of the Guadalquivir, inhabited chiefly by gypsies, and a mixed population of the same description as that of Trastevere at Rome, has a parish church, where I found some curious old paintings, unnoticed in the descriptions of the books. It possesses a separate market, and the gypsy population has always been a favourite study for the painters. They were very much dreaded by the French during the war.\* The capuchin convent, outside the walls, contains, on the whole, the finest works of Murillo. At the time he lived, these monks appear to have enjoyed the highest favour amongst the artists, for their churches are full of the best paintings, which they could never purchase, but must have been in great part presented to them. The fortune of this great painter was made by his being, owing to his poverty, obliged to accept an order from the convent of St. Francisco, which a very inferior artist refused to do for the sum offered, and he had no alternative but to undertake it. This was the celebrated Claustro Chico, of which the paintings were carried off in the war. This Franciscan convent occupies an immense space in the very heart of the city, in a most valuable situation, immediately adjoining the great *plaza*. The area is of several acres, a strange site, but a very common one, for a set of mendicants. The French commenced the demolition of it, which was facilitated by fire, an operation very common in those times, when the black band, who followed the

\* This suburb was ravaged by the cholera, during its late visit to this city, where it appears to have travelled from Portugal by the lowlands at the mouths of the Guadiana and Guadalquivir.

camp, were in the habit of burning buildings, in order to purchase the wreck at a cheap rate, and then retail the materials. There are extensive traces of their operations in Spain. They are now rebuilding the ruined parts. Another church in the same vicinity was demolished for the purpose of making a *plaza*, but by calling on the faithful to subscribe, they raised sufficient funds to build a few feet, and it is left; the public at present taking little interest in such plans.

The Moorish walls are nearly entire, and are of great extent. The buildings of the artillery foundry leave every thing in Europe behind, in grandeur and solidity. Those at Woolwich are paltry compared to them. Unfortunately they are now quite useless, a shadow of an establishment only is kept up. A couple of guns are cast monthly, in the arsenal of both the worlds, whence the armada was fitted out, and where the immense mortars were cast for the useless attempt to bombard Cadiz.

The market place is large, and admirably suited to the purpose, and is amply supplied. The buildings are arranged in streets, and an open space surrounds the whole, with gates to divide it, and fountains. The edifices are at present bad, but a plan was announced as I left the place, of an intended reconstruction and amelioration, which, if carried into effect, will make it the best in Spain.

The most curious relic of ancient rites, mingling pagan and civil with religious pomp, is assuredly the celebration of the holy week of Seville. The cathedral is magnificently adorned, and the *custodia*, or service of silver plate, of consummate beauty, which contains the host or emblem of the Supper, is deposited under an architectural canopy, of which the splendour, when illuminated, would appear to have been derived from the east. In this ancient city are various *hermandades* and *cofrades*, or unions in the manner of those

of the trades in towns of England, and other parts of Europe who have long taken the obligation of carrying certain images in procession, from their place of deposit in different churches, during fixed days in Passion week. These processions are conducted with pomp, many of them at great expense. Whatever may have been the idea at the time they were formed, now no other is attached to them than as a religious carnival. The figures who assist are dressed in the most fantastic manner, and generally masked, or have the face covered. After the disturbance of Cadiz, in 1831, the government thought it prudent to suspend their issuing forth in this disguise, and ordered them to go unmasked; but they refused to forego the usual forms, denying the right of prescribing the mode of conducting their procession, although they might be prohibited from appearing in the streets. The processions were accordingly suspended, but a serious loss to commerce accrued, and the interference was not persevered in. Some of the finest statues of Montañes, the first sculptor of the Seville school, are seen in these processions.

The country around Seville is nearly uncultivated, with the exception of a few gardens immediately at the gates, and some beautifully situated convents, with extensive orange groves. On the right of the Guadalquivir is a beautiful line of height, in the manner of Hampstead, affording the most lovely sites for country houses, of which there are very few at present. At a greater distance, on the opposite side of the river, is a tract of the same description, rising above the Guadaira, which flows into the "great river" a little below the city. There are *cortijos* scattered over the plain around, in beautiful situations, but at present they are considered by the people to be uninhabitable, from the attacks of robbers, who render any detached building untenable. To the East there is partial cultivation, in ascending the Guadalquivir, but the nume-

rous villages, which once existed along the banks, are rapidly hastening to decay, from the usual effects of the present system on the agricultural districts, aggravated by the malaria, which is very prevalent on both sides the river. An extensive scheme, impracticable from its enormous expense, has been set on foot for making a canal to Cordova. A part of it, however, is likely to be made, to connect the city with a place higher up, and to supply water for irrigation, which will be of great value for the cultivation of the plain to the east of the city. The river is navigable for merchant vessels of moderate size, and the tide flows beyond Seville; but the system is so bad, and the charges so ruinous, that the wool and other articles are sent to great distances, to the North of Spain, to avoid them, and the navigation is now of little moment, although it ought to command a very extensive trade. The bar or entrance of the river is difficult, and when it blows from the Atlantic, impracticable. The system of navigation, which is regulated by a *junta*, is so oppressive, that it is said very few vessels ever return a second time to encounter it. The women of Seville are celebrated for their beauty, and for the grace they possess in common with all the Andaluzas. There are few public amusements, and at present no general assemblies, or *tertulias*, but there is excellent private society, in which respect it probably excels any town in Spain.

A few families repair to the Sierra Morena during the summer, where the heat is less oppressive, and the air delicious. This plan would be much more general if the roads were better. At present, Cazalla, Constantina, and Aracena, which are the principal places, and are quite in the heart of the Sierra, can only be approached on horseback, and even then with difficulty. The remedy is of extreme facility; no kind of difficulty

existing to the making good roads, to every part of this neglected country. Game is found in prodigious and almost incredible quantities. The malaria extends some distance from the river into the Sierra, but when you approach the centre it ceases. I made excursions to visit the mines of Villa Nueva, and Guadalcanal. Nothing can be more beautiful or more fertile than the country in the heart of the Sierra, which is now in a state of utter neglect and *despoblado*. The soil is a rich mould, capable of producing any thing. The townships have large tracts of common land, which are waste, and unproductive, whilst, from the want of management, the proprietors, who ought to be wealthy without any other possessions, are starving. The people of the Sierra, who are a peculiar race, are mentioned elsewhere.

The trade of Seville was materially affected by the establishment of the free port of Cadiz, and the inland commerce, which formerly centred in it, was carried on directly with the places themselves, to the prejudice of the retail dealers, and revenue of the place. A plan is in agitation, supposed to be a job of some interested persons, for removing the custom-house to St. Lucar, at the entrance of the river, which will be of no advantage to the revenue, and be productive of great inconvenience to the commerce of the place.

Cadiz is rapidly decaying; the temporary stimulus of the establishment of a free port, whilst the sources of commerce in the interior are dried up, and the consumption reduced to nothing, having produced no permanent effect. The bad faith of the government, who after exacting large sums for the privilege, in a short time broke their agreement, and endeavoured to force the payment of the duty on tobacco, and then, using the unfortunate occurrence of 1831, in which the people took no part, as a

pretence, gave a decree to annul the franchise, which could not be carried into effect, as it was in direct violation of positive stipulations and contracts made at the time of the establishment of the port, are the causes of the trade being paralyzed. These reasons concur to cause an arrangement, which promised great advantage to the country, to be of little use to any one, but to a few individuals, and to the amateurs of tobacco. It was definitely fixed that the franchise should be done away, at the end of 1832, and the tyranny of Riera, who is the commercial dictator, was extended over almost every part of the kingdom.

The towns on the bay, which a few years since, during the existence of the Spanish marine, and the trade with America, teemed with opulence, are now in a state of irremediable ruin. Cadiz itself yet retains the neatness for which it has always been celebrated, and the cheerfulness and sociability of the inhabitants, amid all their misfortunes, are yet unchanged. It is the country in Spain where foreigners are received with the greatest pleasure, and have the most facilities for seeing the people, who, in ease and affability of manners, are exceeded by none in the world.

There are now scarcely any objects of art, excepting some paintings of Murillo at the Capuchin convent. The pressure of living, owing to the increase of price of the necessaries of life, by the municipal duties laid on to raise the subsidy paid to government for the privilege of the free port, was severely felt, and to many of the inhabitants more than compensated for the advantage of purchasing some articles at a cheaper rate than they are to be obtained in the interior. There does not appear the slightest probability of this interesting place recovering any portion of its former prosperity, which, under the system followed, and



from the situation Spain is in, is quite impossible without a total change of system, and the revival of commerce. The *feet*, for which this place has always been celebrated, are only seen generally in the city and towns on the bay, seldom beyond that radius, although the women in every part of Spain are admirably shaped. The peculiar foot of Cadiz is short and round in the ancle, with a high instep, the ligaments being apparently compressed so as to give the springiness of step so admirable in their walk, but which the loss of the *basquiña* threatens to neutralize by introducing a slouching or careless gait. The real Moorish or Arab eyes may be also seen there, although pairs of them are to be met with in all parts of Andalusia. These are large and very full, expanding if excited, and placed in a very large orbit. Their origin is unquestionable, and they exactly answer the description of those so celebrated by the Arab poets. The Moorish countenance is not confined to the lower or middle ranks, but is found in every station throughout Andalusia; notwithstanding the pride of pure blood, the mixture may be detected in the best families.

#### SEVILLE TO MADRID, BY ESTREMADURA.

I LEFT Seville in April, 1831, soon after the establishment of a diligence to Badajos, which was then commencing operations, and every thing connected with it was in a rude state of transition. There had been previously no beds on the route, but they were already provided, and we fared tolerably. It was less actively followed up, as the success of the experiment was doubtful, and it was a separate undertaking from that of the royal association at Madrid. The country is uninteresting in the extreme, affording only bleak

and dreary plains. The Sierra Morena itself, in this part, has none of the features which generally characterize such a range. We met vast numbers of rude cars, drawn each by two miserable bullocks, travelling to Seville. They came, I understood, from the neighbourhood of Ciudad Rodrigo, and were laden with sacks of corn, which is carried at this season periodically, and exchanged for salt and other articles. They occupy six weeks in the journey, and return in good condition, although at this time they were far from it. The period is regulated by the pasturage, as they encamp by the road sides, and feed in the place of their halt. They seldom or never enter the villages, travelling in company, and bivouacking with fires lighted, in the manner of gypsies. We passed over the field of Albuera, which, like so many others, little exhibits the character naturally expected to mark such a scene.

Badajos is stricken with decay, and is dwindled to a provincial town of the fourth class, instead of the capital of this magnificent province, which it represents. This part of Spain, I have understood, partially recovered the consequences of the war, by the enormous gains of those possessed of cattle and mules for hire; but since the last change that temporary prosperity is entirely gone, and it will probably never again resume its former appearance. There are still a few of the paintings of Morales, who was a native of the place, and which by some accident have been allowed to remain. The country to Merida is open, and only partially cultivated, although of the greatest natural fertility. It lies along the banks of the Guadiana, with abundant means of irrigation, and is gently broken into undulating hills and vales.

The Roman ruins of Merida include a Circus, which appeared to me equal to that of the Circus Maximus at Rome; a theatre; an amphitheatre, which has conveniences for

admitting water, whence they term it the *naumachia*; two bridges, one of enormous length over the Guadiana, partly modern, having been repaired on the original design; a building at the end of it, which appears to have been the citadel, and is the work of different ages. In the centre of it is a curious double descent by long ramps to the Guadiana, apparently for the purpose of carrying water, but of magnificent work, and one of the finest Roman remains in Europe. The part near the river, which washes one side of this edifice, appears to be entirely Roman. The lower part is a bold projecting basement, and it is flanked by small towers at very short distances. The inland parts appear to be principally Moorish work, but are constructed of the original materials. On one side a projecting tower has been thrown out, detached from the body, and connected by a bridge, a rude attempt at the first construction of out-works. Near the Guadiana is seen a Roman gateway, of granite, and over it a marble tablet, with a beautiful Arabic inscription, placed no doubt in grateful remembrance of the prophet at the time of the capture. The double passage in the centre, which led down to the bed of the river, could have served no other purpose than to supply water. The masonry is beautiful, and marble is mixed with the granite. At present the communication of the lower part with the river is interrupted, as the water was clear and the river quite otherwise, being highly flooded; but the accumulation of rubbish prevented it being seen whether a spring existed on the spot, or the water was supplied by infiltration. The citadel was materially injured, and a spacious convent built in part of it, blown up in the war of independence. A temple yet exists, encased in a private house, a sufficient quantity of it remaining to show the plan. It appears to have been peripteral, with six columns in the front, and seven in the flanks, of the Corinthian order. The columns

are granite, with the unusual circumstance of the capitals having been wrought of the same material. The shell of a magnificent triumphal arch remains, but all the architectural ornaments have disappeared. The theatre has been used in modern times as a *plaza de toros*. The aqueducts are of mixed brick and granite; but, with a trifling exception, every edifice in the place is of the latter rock, which is easily procured in the vicinity, whilst marble must be brought from great distances. The place is rapidly declining, owing to the decay of the merino trade, of which it is a principal depot, and the unhealthiness of the atmosphere in summer, the whole country being subject to malaria. This year very heavy rains, of most unusual duration, fell late in the spring, and being succeeded by a cold summer, the sickness and mortality were extraordinary. After an exceeding depression, the wool trade had improved, and the markets had recovered from their torpor. Heavy complaints are still made of the ruin caused to these fertile lands by the *mesta*; but it appears the tribunals begin to yield, and that the decisions in litigated cases lean more to the side of their opponents than in former times.

From Merida I took the diligence, passing through a most uninteresting country, but of great natural riches, to Truxillo. We slept at Jaraicejo, which stands in the defiles which conduct to the high grounds on the left of the Tagus. There is a terrace, whence is a most magnificent view of great extent over hill and dale, towards the Sierra Morena. The next day we passed the Puerto de Miravete, a bold pass and defile above the Tagus, whence there is a splendid view over the vale of the river to the magnificent range of the Sierra de Gata, and Sierra de Gredos, extending to the neighbourhood of Placentia. Descending by this pass, we came to the Puente de Almaraz, so celebrated in the war of independence, which has never been repaired. The

Tagus being much swollen, the coaches were stopped, and the passengers were obliged to cross on a rude sort of raft, at considerable risk of being floated down the river. We slept at a *posada*, a few miles further on, and the next day reached Talavera, which we should have done on the preceding day, but from the ordinary course of the diligence being interrupted by the want of a good ferry-boat at Almaraz.

In beauty of situation Talavera is excelled by few cities in Spain, and it certainly exceeds every thing in Castile. It was once a royal residence, and from hence started the Christian Knights to rescue the Queen of Granada, which, whether it be historically true or not, is one of the most beautiful tales in the world.\*

The place is now rapidly following the fate of nearly all the towns of the interior, in proceeding to decay. The same night we arrived at Madrid, without accident; but we were ordered to be ready, and the escort stood to their arms, in passing a *cuesta*, at a short distance only from the gates, as robbers frequently select it for a place of operations.

#### TOLEDO.

In this celebrated place, the admirer of architecture will find specimens of all ages, and of almost every style, Roman, Moorish, middle age, Jewish, Gothic, classic, and modern. The lover of painting, of which there is ample store; of sculpture in all its branches, in which it is yet richer; the speculator in the decay and ruins of ancient grandeur, and its causes; the amateur of the picturesque in

\* See the Moorish tales of the wars of Granada.

art and nature combined : all these tastes may be gratified in this renowned seat of art and former grandeur.

A promontory of the Tagus, where its ample waters are compressed into a narrow bed, and circle around a bold headland, is covered by picturesque and varied masses of buildings, grouped in the Moorish manner. The streets are too narrow and steep to admit of carriages in the greater part of the city. The cathedral is placed near the centre. The *alcazar*, or royal palace, of the time of Charles the Fifth, which succeeded the Moorish castle, occupies the highest summit of the promontory, and proudly overlooks every object around it. The beautiful Gothic church of the Reyes Nuevos ranks next to the cathedral. Various small churches, formerly mosques, retain their form nearly unaltered. The convents are numerous, but have severely suffered, and their treasures of art are chiefly gone. Some of these buildings, whose vast extent formed the flanks of the town, and projected their masses over the plain, were destroyed or injured, to make the place less tenable in the war of independence. The Moorish mosques which have been converted to the churches now dedicated to St. Ramon, Cristo de la Luz, Santa Maria La Blanca, are of different styles, but of small dimensions. The Transitu, which was a Jewish synagogue, has been turned into a military magazine. Their forms, yet almost unaltered, recall the times when tolerance permitted these religions to be freely exercised, as in the better days of Toledo. The treasures in art of the cathedral are inestimable. The notices of the sculptors and painters of the school of Castile, must be examined to avoid repetition. The principal who figure in it are Berruguete, Villalpando, Felipe and Gregorio Vignary, Domingo de Cespedes, Pardo, Copin de Olanda, Pedro de Mena (an Andalusian), Xamete, and many others. The painters are less numerous than the pro-

fessors of the sister art, but the works of some of the best of the school of Castile, are now only to be found there: Blas del Prado, Theotocupuli, Velasco, Borgoña, Orrente (a Valencian), and some others. The *alhajas*, or ornaments of the treasury, used in the great festivals, are of immense value. The robe of the Virgin, which is covered with precious stones, is so valuable, that on an enemy invading, it is immediately removed for security, and, I believe, in the war of independence, remained some time at Cadiz. The *alcazar*, the limited extent of the site of which was one reason given for its never being completed, has undergone various destinations. It was burnt in the war of the succession, repaired, and converted into manufactories and a work-house; it was again ruined more recently, and is now quite untenanted.

An inscription has been put in modern times on the site of the house of Padilla, which was demolished, as if to perpetuate the name of the Spanish Sidney, whilst the narrow-minded projectors imagined they were consigning it to infamy. It might well be added, "Si monumentum quæris, circumspice!" The mouldering ruins of this former seat of industry, her arts, manufactures, and commerce extinct, the villages and towns, of which forty are said to have disappeared in modern times, and their territory been converted into *despoblados*, are silent witnesses to the real nature of the triumph over the liberties of Castile. His heroic wife, who, after his execution, defended the *alcazar*, until compelled by famine to evacuate it, is included in this anathema of priests and admirers of monarchic principles, which have produced such bitter fruits in their temporary triumph.

In its present state the city could have only been made a part of the metropolis, like the old town of Edinburgh, to which it bears some resemblance, but the territory allowed

ample means for extending the buildings on every side, with all the advantages of beauty and convenience. The climate is healthy. The summer is hot, as in all Castile; but the winter mild in comparison with Madrid, and the soil fertile. A defect, which has exercised the ingenuity of many engineers, admits of simple remedy by modern science; water requires to be raised from the Tagus to supply the town, which a force-pump would effect with the greatest ease. The plan mentioned at Seville of using *toldos*, or canvas coverings for the *patios*, is practised here in the summer. The communications with Madrid were almost interrupted from the rains and the breaking down of a trifling bridge. Between these cities we traversed open fields, with constant danger of being overturned.

#### VALENCIA.

IN the spring of 1830, owing to continued storms of snow, the Puerto de Almanza, and the passage of the Xucar, near St. Felipe, in the plain of Valencia, were impracticable for several days, and the communication with Madrid was quite suspended. At the end of that period I set out. The road through La Mancha had been completely cut into deep furrows, during long rains and snow storms, and a burning sun having immediately succeeded, it was so hard, that the wheels were with difficulty dragged through the indurated ridges. A bridge was commenced over the important pass of the Xucar at this point, but, it is said, owing to some miscalculation, a very unusual circumstance with the Spanish engineers, the foundation is unequal to bear the finishing of the upper works, and it seems now quite given up. It is to be regretted the route had ever been



taken in this direction, instead of passing by the direct lines of Tarancon and Cuenca. Valencia is a close and compact town, not of great circumference, but containing a large and dense population; in a solidly built mass of houses, almost unbroken, and without gardens or open spaces, so common in other parts of the south. This gives the place the dull and cheerless aspect so often remarked. The streets are narrow, the houses of the richer part of the community of enormous solidity, and well suited to resist the burning heats of summer. The walls are almost entire, as in the time of the Moors, but some parts have been rebuilt, and some noble Gothic towers added, which give an extremely picturesque effect to parts of them. The outside of the ditch is nearly clear, and it is not commanded, the country all around being flat. In this situation, with a determined population, who had the gates shut, and were ready for defence, it was judged imprudent to attack it in the war of Napoleon, who gave orders himself to that effect, and the surer mode of famine was adopted to reduce it. Unfortunately, the public library was destroyed by the bombardment, and a curious tower of the Dominican convent. The place was dreadfully injured by that war, and almost every family was reduced by it. The activity and industry of the people are gradually repairing these disasters. The agricultural population have the entire command of the streets, which are unpaved, from the right they claim of removing the surface for manure, and bringing in fresh quantities of loose sandy gravel, to substitute for it. The consequence is, the streets are covered with dust and filth, for which there is no remedy. The same process is carried on with the roads in the neighbourhood, which are periodically made, and the old materials carried away. The cathedral is a dark and ill-proportioned edifice, but contains some good works of Juanes, and Orrente, and of Napoli

and Aregio, Italians. There is a magnificent sacristy built recently for the use of the archbishop. A Gothic tower of great beauty, and commanding a magnificent view, is attached to it; but the greatest architectural curiosity in the place is the *lonja*, or silk mart, which is a light and most elegant Gothic hall, supported by twisted columns. The principal churches are St. Domingo, which seems the most frequented, and St. Juan del Mercado, a light structure, entirely painted in fresco in the upper parts by Palomino; a rare sight in Spain. The church of the Collegio de Corpus is richly adorned, and seemed the resort of the more devout and abstracted of the population during Lent, the service being performed with great solemnity. Most of the other churches, which contained inestimable treasures of painting, have been laid waste, with more than usual Vandal zeal. Scarcely a scrap remains in most of them; but in those enumerated, and in some others, and in private hands, may yet be seen remnants of a school; one of the first in Spain. Juanes, the two Ribaltas, Espinosa, Ribera (Spagnoletto), Esteban March, and others, illustrated this city, which scarcely yielded even to Seville, in skill and protection of the arts. The women of this city are celebrated for their beauty, and even vie with the Andaluzas, but are considered by the best judges to yield in grace to the western race. Great numbers are fair, proving that the heat of climate is not the cause of the opposite complexion. Assassinations are too common amongst the lower orders. In a road near the city I observed an *azulejo*, or blue tile, with an inscription on it, fixed permanently into the wall, bearing these words: "*Aquí murio — a manos de un hombre que no posecia sus virtudes.*" "Here died, (I have forgotten the name), by the hands of a man, who did not possess his virtues." The usual mode of commemorating these events, especially in the Tierra Caliente, where they are too com-

mon, is the single inscription, "*Aqui mataron,*" or "*aquí murió,*" with the date, without further allusion to the circumstances. This inscription is almost sublime from its laconic simplicity, recording the event, without attempting to excite or continue feelings, which might prolong or again produce similar calamities, when it was too late for remedy. The silk manufactures of this place, which formed the greatest branch of the trade of the mother country with the colonies, fell by the events of the double war which finally separated them; and others having now taken the place of those which were only upheld by monopoly and forced circulation, they have almost entirely gone down. The produce of their looms is so inferior that they cannot stand the competition of the French, who, in an article so portable, and of which the inducement is so great to contraband, pour in supplies without difficulty. Machinery has lately been introduced on the modern plan, and the government have imposed a duty on exportation of the raw material, in order to force the growers of it to retail it to the dealers at home, and to compel the establishment of manufactories, instead of taking means to induce the agriculturists to grow more silk, and enter, as they might do, into the European market, in which they might take a leading part. The same system extends to the other branches of commerce. The raisins of Denia will shortly be supplanted by those of Greece, and of different parts of the Levant, whilst the object of the government seems the destruction rather than the increase of the trade. About thirty English vessels arrive annually, chiefly with fish, which is here a necessary of life, and is eaten as a staple article of food by all ranks, from habit, and not from religious feeling, as the Spanish dominions have a bull of exemption, in consequence of the difficulty of obtaining fish. The agriculture of the plain is on a par with that of any district in Europe, and is a de-

cisive proof, that neither climate nor races of men, nor surrounding examples, nor badness of laws, are certain impediments to the industry of man. In management it resembles the Val d'Arno, and the novel sight, in Spain, is seen of detached houses, which are very small and scattered every where over the plain. It is possible this isolated mode of living may produce, in some degree, the sullen and distrustful manners so much noticed in the peasantry, and so different from the social and frank habits of the inhabitants of other provinces, who live constantly together. The soil is naturally bad, and only kept productive, like the Vega of Granada, by constant forcing and irrigation. The rice grounds are the most lucrative branch, drawing the waters, which convert their districts into pest-houses, principally from the Xucar. If the culture of *arroz secano*, mentioned in the account of Motril, be introduced, it will be of inestimable advantage to the whole of this kingdom. At present the corn is drawn from La Mancha, in exchange for rice, and oil, and other articles. The oil is considered the best in Spain, owing, no doubt, to a little better mode of manufacturing. No good theatre existed, or *plaza de toros*. The former was prevented by the archbishop, from a long continued policy. He has no direct power in such matters, which are the concern of the civil authorities, but his subscription to the public charities is so great, that the threat of withholding it was sufficient to effect the purpose.\* The see is now the richest in Spain, principally owing to the rice grounds. There is a noble establishment of central schools, called *Escuelas Pias*, which is on a very large scale, and appeared admirably conducted. There were about three thousand boys educated gratis, and a corresponding separate establishment for girls on the same plan.

\* When leaving Spain, I heard that this difficulty had been overcome, and that a theatre was building, which has since been finished.

There is an upper branch for the education of those whose circumstances enable their expences to be paid, who are lodged and separately kept, and prepared for the higher colleges. The academy also has a very numerous attendance of youth, to learn the art of design. Printing has always been carried on upon a comparatively large scale, and I believe it is next to Madrid in this branch of industry. The people are extremely devout, and the religious ceremonies appear more closely followed and attended than in most parts of Spain, a proof that this religion is not incompatible with industry; nor the abundance of monks, who are here in vast numbers, certain signs of the country being ill cultivated, or the exclusive haunt of *holgazanes*, although these individuals may not contribute to the stock, nor be in themselves promoters of labour or activity. The pure Moorish costume is maintained by the peasantry, who wear frequently a red scull-cap, like that of the opposite coast of Barbary, a tight vest on the body, white petticoat trowsers, or kilt, the knees bare, and the legs covered with a loose linen, descending to the ancles, with sandals. A red or red and yellow striped plaid is worn over the shoulders, like a toga. The women now wear universally cotton, generally with a handkerchief tied over the head. The linen, which composes the greater part of the dress of the men, is invariably clean, and beautifully white.

The *paseos*, or public promenades, are magnificent, extending outside the walls to the Grao, or seaport, nearly a league distant, where are small houses on the sea-shore, which are frequented during the summer for the sake of bathing.

I hired a *tartana*, or tilted cart, which are found in incredible numbers in the plain of Valencia, and proceeded to Murviedro, of which the historical recollections make it of interest to every one. But the remains are now con-

fined to the slender fragments of a theatre, which stood outside the town, or at least upon the outskirts. The Moorish fort, which crowns the long and narrow ridge above it, has been kept up, and, with some modern additions, is quite tenable as a place of war, and would be extremely difficult to take, if well defended, from its isolated and commanding situation.

To the east of this the country is flat, forming a low terrace, almost uninterrupted, to the Ebro, having the sea on one side, and the mountains on the other, and is certainly the most beautiful drive on any high road in Spain. The country is irrigated wherever it is possible to do so, and in parts where the bare rock forbids any other culture, the *algarroba* yields an ample produce for the maintenance of their abundant stock, for which herbage is denied by the climate.

Near the Ebro the peasantry have a peculiarly ferocious appearance, and I believe crimes are too common amongst them. At this time the roads were secure, but in the preceding winter, the diligence had been robbed. On entering Catalonia, the costume, bearing, and manner of the people are entirely changed. The cathedral of Tarragona is one of the oldest and most curious of its class, and contains many tombs, but scarcely any paintings or sculpture of note.

Barcelona is now the most active and thriving place in Spain, and is recovering the most quickly from the disasters of wars and insurrections, in which it has been always a principal sufferer. The town is on a flat, at the end of which is the Montjuich, the celebrated height, of which the almost impregnable citadel forms its principal defence. Another citadel commands the town and harbour. The city is surrounded by a line of regular works, but would be defenceless without these citadels. It has the extreme

inconvenience of being confined to a radius, which cannot be passed without interference from the military authorities; and all improvements outside are stopped, and building only permitted at too great a distance for comfort. The gates are rigorously closed at sunset, and the place has all the disadvantages of a regular garrison. A magnificent promenade has been made, by the exertions of the late Captain general,\* outside the town, and the walls and harbour line inside secure ample room for the health of the inhabitants.

The improvement of conveyances, and the establishment of diligences, which is now of such importance in Spain, originated here, and is followed up with increasing activity by local companies, who are independent, and are not concerned with the central establishment at Madrid.

The women are coarse, but well made in general, with full and luxuriant forms, and the men are strong and athletic, eaters of meat, and drinkers of wine. By the industry of the country, in which they excel every province in Spain, they ought, according to some theories, to be free from bigotry and religious prejudice. They are quite the contrary, and the monks have made their strongest stand in this part of the country. The means of education are ample, and probably, according to the official returns, equal those of any other part of Europe. There are eight hundred and thirty-nine schools in the province, which educate forty thousand scholars; seventy of them teaching the latin tongue.

The archives of the kingdom of Aragon are kept here, in a building made bomb proof for the purpose, and are a model of neatness and good arrangement. There is a public library belonging to the see, which, as usual with those esta-

\* Conde de España.

blishments, is rich in theological and monkish lore, but deficient in nearly every other species of literature. The place is now teeming with population : a great misfortune, where there are no means of extending the circumference. It has been increased by political events, which have driven people in from the provincial towns.

I made an excursion to Cardona and Monserrat, by Manresa, a small town beautifully situated on a branch of the Llobregat. It has never recovered the effects of the war of independence; when the inhabitants leaving the place on the approach of the French troops, in their peregrinations in order to raise contributions, it was out of revenge set on fire. Nothing could justify such proceedings. I was sorry to hear the name of Marshal Macdonald, one of the most humane of the French generals, mixed up with these transactions. Although this place is a few miles only from Barcelona, it was found impracticable to keep permanent possession of it, and the mountain fort, or castle of Cardona, only five leagues further, was never even attacked. The situation of this fort is extremely strong, as it occupies the apex of a lofty height. The summit is extremely high, the base of the mountain being completely commanded from the works, and it has the rare advantage of being concentrated, and requiring a very small garrison; whilst the base admits ample room for issuing out, and makes it almost impossible to block it. It is a perfect model of a mountain hold. They are adding to the fortifications, and converting the church, which contains some curious tombs of a noble family it once belonged to, into the depot of provisions.

The reason of the defence of this part, which is so near the frontier, and in a province which they had so long quiet possession of, is the determined character of the people. There are many small hamlets and single houses, covered



with wood, and in situations extremely difficult of access. The tocsin being sounded, the people assembled, and, under their guerilla chiefs, made incursions with such rapidity and success, that no force could keep the field in the interior of the country. Latterly they took the offensive, and made inroads by the upper Segre into France, carrying off flocks, and raising contributions in the French Roussillon.

The enormous mass of rock salt at Cardona has been too often described, to require much notice. It protrudes from the earth to a height of five hundred feet; the depth underneath is yet unascertained. The area seen is about a mile in circumference. It is more particularly mentioned under the head of mines. I returned by Monserrat, of which the convent is partly rebuilt, but the greater part is in hopeless ruin, having been partly destroyed to make it untenable as a military post. This is of little consequence, but the sculpture and paintings, the former especially, which was of great interest, perished in the process of blowing it up, and setting fire to complete the operation. The sanctuaries, or hermitages, which studded the rock, are still untenanted. It was expected some of them would be shortly reoccupied, but the monks seem to prefer the social refectory to these places of absurd and ridiculous penance. I went to Gerona, of which the defence was still more extraordinary and more obstinate than that of Zaragoza, in the war of independence. It stood a close siege of several months, and only surrendered when it was impossible to hold out any longer. The situation is by no means suited to such an obstinate resistance, which no other people but the Spaniards would have made.

This province is the thriving and active seat of manufactories of cotton, woollen, paper, and other articles, which promise to make it the richest part of Spain. The abun-

dant waters of the interior serve to encourage the establishment of these various branches of industry, and the improvement of communications, and a degree of activity in the people, scarcely to be expected, promise to make their towns the Liverpool and Manchester of the Peninsula.



JUNTA DE ANDALUCÍA

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

## CHAPTER VIII.

Madrid.

PHILIP THE SECOND was styled by Jovellanos "El Escorialense," from that durable monument of his gloomy and fanatic mind. The *Matriteuse* would have been a better denomination, for the raising that structure was a harmless amusement compared with the mischief entailed on his successors and the country at large, by the forced appropriation of such a site as that of Madrid for the metropolis, in which he had a principal share.

If the object had been a central position, Toledo, Talavera, or even Guadalaxara, were almost equally so, and combined advantages which are entirely wanting to Madrid, the locality of which, in every respect, is inversely what it ought to be. It has scarcely any good water, no navigation, a very bad climate, and a dreary desert around it. Such is the position chosen for the capital of this magnificent country, which abounded in the finest situations, with splendid cities already built, when this project of converting a mountain of boar and bear\* into a metropolis was conceived, the execution of which may be considered the triumph of despotic power.

The court passes a gloomy period at a season when the

\* *Montaña de puerco y oso*, as termed by the old writers, when it was a royal chase, a short time only before this plan was determined on.

taking the air in particular winds is so dangerous, that few people venture out, unless from necessity, and as the ancient severity of etiquette is kept up, it adds little to the gaiety of the place. The *grandees* of Spain, with few exceptions, are chained to this miserable spot, where they drag on a life of poverty and subjection, in reality less free than the peasants who cultivate their properties. Their vast possessions are in general semi-deserts, where the resident population live independently of the proprietor, whom they never see, and scarcely know by name. For this barbarous system they are mainly indebted to the *Escorialense*, who bequeathed it to his posterity, by whom it has been carefully handed down as a leading maxim of state policy. Their palaces are inhabited by vast trains of menials, who live on for generations, devouring the marrow and substance of their masters, whose state or splendour is in no degree augmented by them. They are scarcely better than the monks, excepting that they propagate, if it be any advantage to continue a race of *holgazanes*, who ruin their employers without adding to the common stock, or increasing the circulation. The lives of most of these *grandees* are spent in a style of simplicity as to personal comforts, not in any respect better than that of a country gentleman of moderate fortune in England.

The jealousy with which the nobles are retained about the seat of government, in the performance of the menial offices transmitted from the dark ages, is such, that not only they are not permitted to reside on their estates, but temporary leave to visit them is procured with the greatest difficulty; and when banished, they are generally ordered to places where they have no interest or connexion.

Before any progress or even a commencement can be made in the political and economical reorganization of the kingdom, this system must be reversed, and in place of