

being restricted from it, the landowners must be compelled to build houses, and live at least a part of the year on their estates; and the stars and decorations, instead of being bestowed for services alike degrading to those who exact, or to those who perform them, must be given to the founders of colonies, or the makers of roads and bridges, or bestowed for the encouragement of agriculture, by the construction of *pantanos* and *acequias*, or breeding of horses, and planting woods, or other improvements.

The intention of this system of detention was of course to separate the nobility from the people, and prevent their making common cause, as in England, against the tyranny of the crown, in emerging from the dark ages. To the honour of the Spanish nobles, it has completely failed. Although one of the chief objects of the framers of the *sistema* was to exclude them from participating in, or taking any part in the government, they made common cause with the people; and so ardently did they enter into it, that in 1830, out of forty who stand at the head of the nobility of Spain, twenty-four were still *impurificados*, or committed so deeply that the government would not absolve them. Of these some were personal friends of the king, who continued a kind of coquetry in private with them.

So entirely are these illustrious persons above the feeling of "caste," that the greater part would cheerfully join in supporting the *sistema*, were it again introduced. Notwithstanding their fallen state, the adverse party dared not meddle with them, and most of them lived unmolested, although known to be entirely hostile to the late ministry. In the time of the constitution, many of these individuals waived their rank, and enrolled themselves in the national guard. In one family the eldest son died from fatigue in the discharge of this duty. There is generally, and probably truly, said to be little intellectual cultivation amongst them, but

the situation in which they are placed is ample excuse, and before condemning them, we should look to the situation of similar classes in other countries, where every human inducement is held out to exertion, and pause before we estimate bodies of men by the individuals who may be found in it. The eloquent writer of a descriptive sketch of the Spanish nobles, might have easily found many who honoured their rank rather more than himself, although they might not possess his poetical talent.

In close connection with the nobility are the great orders of knighthood, which are regular corporations, with large possessions, and ample privileges and immunities. The members of these are chiefly the younger brothers of the higher nobility, and the chiefs of the secondary and inferior houses, who are not rich enough to live on their own properties, and enter the service with a view to obtain the commanderies of these orders, to which stipends are attached. Many of these joined in the constitution, and were subjected to the same ordeal as the rest, by a tyrannical and illegal suspension of their orders until they should be purified. These operations were carried on, by express order, by *secret information*; the knights never knowing by whom or of what they were accused. It happened, as in so many other cases, that the dreadful tyranny of this order made it impossible it could be carried into effect. The stern and stubborn character of the heads of these bodies, who fought against the monkish inquisition attempted to be set over them, with the same obstinacy their ancestors opposed to the moslems, finally triumphed, and an order came out, I think in 1832, after nine years had been consumed in the useless attempt, stating that the plan of secret denunciation was found impracticable, and that the knights must be tried by their usual laws and customs,

for the part they might have taken in the disorders of the constitutional system.*

Nearly the whole industry of Madrid is carried on by strangers, who assemble from every part of Spain. The natives are not only unfit for work of the heavier sorts, like those of all capitals, but in the departments in which they generally excel, those of conducting shops and detail business of all kinds, they are the worst in the world. The dealing with the common tradespeople is a matter of obligation and difficulty, and you are robbed by a set (almost every thing is excessively dear), who believe they are conferring a favor, in condescending to deal with you. Catalonia, Valencia, Aragon, the free provinces, the Montaña of Santander, Asturias, and Galicia, furnish quotas to maintain a population, which declines so rapidly, that the second generation is deteriorated, and the whole would soon dwindle and perish, without the various recruits supplied from these distant sources. The vigorous arms of these hardy races commenced the national opposition to the yoke of Napoleon, which the enfeebled and corrupt natives of the place would never have done.

Every thing is exotic. The strawberries are brought from Aranjuez, thirty miles distant, the apricots from Toledo, fifty miles; peaches are carried on mules from Aragon, and butter from Asturias. Every part of Spain is put in requisition, not for luxuries, which cannot be said to exist, but to supply the necessaries of life to a spot in the middle of a desert, and which would soon revert to its original state of forest, but from the adventitious aid perpetually forced upon it. The different branches of bu-

* The official term in the time of Calomarde, where it was generally alluded to as a period of anarchy and confusion, or as a sort of interregnum.

business are carried on principally by people of the respective provinces who emigrate, retaining correspondents in their native places. Thus oranges and lemons are sold by Valencians, dates by Murcians, and so forth. So strong is local habit, that every man's origin is known, and in the *diario* the usual form is to apply to the Catalan of such a street, the Valencian of another, and so on. The houses of resort, as *posadas*, and *casas de pupilos* (boarding houses), are frequented in a similar manner from local connexions, who congregate in the ancient mode of the rest of Europe.

Several causes appear to combine in forming the peculiar character attributed to the people of Madrid. The *vie casanière* they lead in a place where there is scarcely diversion or occupation, but of the commonest description, and none of the mixture of rural and other amusements which all the capitals of Europe in some degree share; the want of literary and scientific employment, or resources of any kind, but in the frivolity of common life, unaided by those accompaniments; the absolute nullity of character imposed by the government, to forward its particular views, which required the grinding the whole mass down to a level, in which no point should be salient; the habitual course of intrigue and place hunting which is the occupation of a large portion of the population; these reasons must produce their natural effects, and may account for the dislike frequently shown for them by the other Spaniards. It is the seat of corruption of every kind. All the abuses of the monarchy centre here. No cause so bad, no crime so indefensible, but some one may be found to undertake to plead it, in this medley of characters, where the habits of intrigue, and circumventing or supplanting, are mixed up in the dealings of society. Hence the want of sincerity where you are perpetually told

of frankness; hence unmeaning professions, the solidity of which is soon discovered, if put to the test, and hence the little sympathy with the rest of the nation, from whom they are separated, and appear to live as the inhabitants of a Lybian oasis, unheeding the whirlwinds which overwhelm and destroy whole caravans at their gates.

By far the most accessible part of the society to strangers, is that of the people of the provinces, who are brought by necessity or other motives for temporary residence, and retain their natural manners and habits, without acquiring those of the place. Unlike all other countries, the best manners are not in the metropolis, where they are adulterated and mixed with those of foreign importation. The sterling manners of Spain must be sought for in the country, and provincial capitals. The *trato* of a person of either sex who has lived much in Madrid may be detected in a moment. There is little to be seen which cannot be equally well observed, with greater ease, and comfort and facility, in any other great city of Europe. The aim in society is to introduce every thing new in style or manners, and there is little really Spanish in the place, excepting the *prado* and the *plaza de toros*. The most frivolous importations, in dress and manners, are daily taking place, and their assemblies are vapid copies of Paris and London. The system ridiculed by Addison of bringing puppets dressed in the fashion of the day from France, is even outdone here, the modern discovery of lithography having superseded the more cumbrous ancient mode.

In a city constituted as this is, a stranger can have little chance of making way. He has neither lever nor fulcrum to work with, and the accounts of those must be received with caution, who pretend to give an account of society, which it is next to impossible to penetrate. The society is at present confined to domestic or small circles, with

scarcely an exception, and I have heard that being intimate with foreigners was looked upon suspiciously by the late government. There are no literary circles, and the persons from whom information is sought, must be seen in private. At every step, a foreigner meets with vulgar and ignorant prejudice, the natural result of want of intercourse on the part of people, many of whom believe themselves and their desert superior to every other country, and think a stranger honoured by being allowed to exist in it. The unfortunate circumstances of the times aggravate these difficulties; literature and science cannot be said to exist but in a most limited degree, and are in little estimation, where the mass of society is uneducated, and unconscious of the defect.

The individuals who are exceptions to this rule are in too small numbers to affect society, in which they do not move, and those who would naturally wish to favor strangers, and impart or acquire information, are mostly in exile. The same prejudices extend to the diplomatic bodies in a still greater degree, and they live like the Europeans at Pera, forming a caste apart. There is, however, no reluctance on the part of the natives to partake their hospitalities, or solicit their assistance if it can serve them.

So far different are they from the rest of the world, whose manners in this respect are not imported with what is frivolous and useless, that a common answer to applications for the admission of foreigners to spectacles, or other places where permission is required, and where, in all other parts of the world, they are readily permitted and gladly seen, is, "Spaniards have been refused, and if foreigners are admitted, offence will be taken."

So far is this illiberal feeling carried, that I have known instances of refusal, where the being a foreigner

was the sole cause of objection, and no rank or situation of native was any ground of exclusion. Strangers are told these things with the greatest frankness, and the most certain conviction, that they must see the propriety of the distinction.

The royal Museum of Paintings is on the whole, beyond all question, the first in Europe, and contains the greatest number of good with the smallest admixture of bad, of any of these establishments. It is composed of the works of all schools which formed the royal collections, and were dispersed in the various palaces.

The whole of these, which were judged worthy of it, without exception, have been given up to the public curiosity with a regal liberality which reflects the highest honour on the late king, the more so, as he was understood to take great interest in these splendid appendages of the monarchy.

There are four rooms, parallel to each other, and connected by a gallery of about three hundred feet, in the style of the better part of the Louvre, which runs through the centre. The Italian paintings are at present placed in it, but it is said they are to be replaced by those of the national schools, which are at present in two of the side rooms, two others being occupied by those of the Flemish and Dutch masters, which have lately been placed in them. These four rooms are each about one hundred and fifty feet in length, by about thirty-two in breadth, with proportional height, and for the purposes of exhibition, are certainly the best rooms in Europe. As far as proportion and distance are concerned, and the number of paintings occupied by each, they are perfect, and the advantage they possess over the Louvre, or the gallery at Dresden, or any of those in Italy, can scarcely be imagined. They are sufficiently large for the purpose of

grandeur, without the eye being distracted, or the lights clashing and interfering with each other, as it constantly happens in the larger galleries. The only defect in these noble rooms is their being lighted from the ends and sides, instead of the upper part; which proceeds from their not being originally intended for this purpose, but for the Museum of Natural History. It might be easily remedied, by sacrificing an attic, which I believe only contains servants' apartments, and closing the side and end windows, when these rooms would be perfectly unrivalled. The evil is aggravated at present, by their considering the ends of the rooms as posts of honor, and placing the portraits of the Kings and Queens of Spain, which are the finest works of Velasquez, in lights where it is impossible to enjoy them. The general entrance is through a portico into a circular vestibule, with eight noble Ionic columns of granite, and a dome roof, the whole being about sixty-six feet in diameter, of the purest execution and proportions, which may vie with any thing, ancient or modern. The Spanish schools are incomplete in the series, and many important masters are wholly wanting, these collections being almost exclusively formed of the works of artists employed by the court. The principal who are to be found, are Murillo, Velasquez, Juanes, Morales, Cano, Ribalta the elder, Ribera (Spagnoletto), Zurbaran, Roelas, Pereda, Orrente, Juan de Toledo (el Capitan), Cerezo, Mazo, Espinosa, Villavicencio, Valdes the elder, Collantes, Pareja, Palomino, Marc, Pantoja, Caxes, Coello, Sanchez Coello, Escalante, Blas del Prado, Antonio Castillo, Leonardo, Tobar, Arias, Pacheco, Castello, Muñoz, Navarreté, etc.* The negative list is very numerous. Moya, Cespedes, Raxis, Mohedano, the two Rizi, Luis de Vargas, Carreño (of whom there is

* See the names of these artists, who chiefly belong to the school of Castile, and the works of several of them, are only seen here.

nogood specimen), Luis de Tristan, and many others of great eminence in all the schools. The whole of that of Granada, excepting Cano, is wanting, and many of those of Seville, Valencia, and Cordova.

The Italian school contains Raphael, Julio Romano, Titian, the Caracci (principally Annibale), Paolo Veronese, the finest Bassanos in existence, Pordenone, Tintoretto, one of his most curious pictures, giving an inside view of the Sala di Dieci, at Venice, with the council seated, finished like a Dutch painting, all the personages being portraits: Salvator Rosa, the Poussins, Luca Jordano, Guido, Lanfranco, Sacchi (one of his best pictures) and some others. The finest on the whole are the Titians. The equestrian portrait of Charles the Fifth, in armour, on horseback, with his lance, stands in the first rank, and has probably never been equalled. The monarch is aged and care worn, and appears to be ruminating on his past life and future prospects, as he might have done on learning the secession of Maurice, and the final failure of his long-cherished schemes. It has been under the hands of the restorers, and is badly placed, in a site allotted to it as a post of honour.

In the Flemish and Dutch schools are chiefly found the works of Rubens, Vandyck, Teniers (extremely numerous), Snyders, Rembrandt, and some of inferior artists.

Some of the finest works of Rubens and of Titian, and other Italians, are excluded from these rooms, from a fastidious and mawkish delicacy about the subjects, some of which are not at all objectionable. In the *piezas reserbadas*, as they are termed, Rubens may be seen in his glory, with his imagination heated by the recollection of Flemish beauty, which is shown in all its luxuriance, as if he meant to exhibit the contrast with the cleaner, and darker, and more muscular forms of the Spanish fair.

The worst part of this noble institution is a gang of restorers, who are established below, and carry on their processes, which the Spanish writers justly term, *horroroso* and *espantoso*, with a zeal and indefatigable energy worthy a better cause. Every picture in the gallery seems destined to undergo their discipline, and neither age nor school escape their merciless grasp. They appear to view the inestimable productions which are successively doomed to pass through their hands, with the same indifference a school of anatomists have for the "subjects" brought before them.

Their methods seem to injure the Venetian pictures more than any other, and a mode of disturbing the surface, and then glazing and substituting varnishes of their own, completely alter the appearance of them, and would astonish the artists, if they revisited the earth, and saw their productions. There are pictures painted completely over, and the celebrated "glory" of Titian, a large allegorical picture belonging to the Escorial, and one of his finest works, when I left Madrid, was approaching the close of operations which would scarcely leave a touch of the master uncovered.*

A worthy individual, who is the chief in this species of industry, inserts his name on the back of some of the paintings he has manufactured; like another Eratostratus consigning himself to immortality with the artist who is so deeply indebted to him, for disfiguring his works.

* It may be necessary to observe that the collection of the Escorial, which includes the Perla, and Tobit, and Visitation, of Raphael, and some other works of the first order, the whole amounting to sixty, are not included in this list. They are chiefly Italian, and are the gift of the crown to the monks of that place, who have the entire charge and management of them, and although it is a royal residence, they are not in fact the property of the crown, but by the peculiar arrangement of Spain, belong to the corporation of the convent.

Thus in one of his last performances, the *restauracion* of the Jubileo de la Porciuncula, a large painting of Murillo, formerly in the church of the Capuchins at Seville, is inscribed in enormous letters at the back, "This work of the *immortal* Murillo was *restored* in such a year by ——."

If these proceedings be not stopped, these magnificent galleries will exhibit a very different appearance in a few years. Every time I returned to Madrid some favorite had been removed, and the fatal "Esta en la restauracion" was appended in its place.

There is a Gallery of Sculpture, ancient and modern, of which the last is the most interesting. The antique contains few even tolerable specimens, and none pre-eminent. The works of Leoni are the best of the modern school, and the group of Alvarez, an artist lately dead, which represents Hercules and Lychas, a colossal group, the principal figure being nearly in the attitude of the Milo of Lough. The whole school of Spanish sculptors is wanting in this collection, which is quite recently formed, and it is to be hoped means may be taken to exhibit the most beautiful series of national art any country can boast.* A group has lately been placed there of a style neither antique nor modern, nor of any of those described in the sculpture of Spain. You are told it is meant to represent Daoiz and Velarde, the two officers of artillery, who refused to give up their guns to the troops of Murat, and whose murder at their posts was the signal of the commencement of the war of independence. It was executed at Rome, of very bad Carrara marble, and brought here at a vast expence, whilst better marble, and far better sculptors, are to be found in the country; and a large sum was expended in the useless task of celebrating men, whose names will perish

* A beautiful statue, of Leoni, is of course excepted, as he was a foreigner.

only with the records of their country, whilst almost every one who bore a distinguished part in that war, was under proscription, or in exile, or had perished on the scaffold by the acts of those who planned this monument.

The Academy is a separate establishment, with the regular organisation of those bodies as in the rest of Europe. It cannot be said that it has been the means of advancing the art of painting, which has declined regularly since its institution, and is now at its lowest ebb. The sculpture is much better, and several public works, now in hand, are respectably executed; the government very properly expending more on this, which seems a national art, than on the decayed sister branch. The most useful part of this institution is the superintendence of all public works and improvements, in every part of Spain; by which regulation the edifices, both public and private, are much more regular, and have better elevations, than in the epoch previous to its formation, at the commencement of the last century. There are a number of paintings of the old Spanish masters at the academy, besides the usual proportion of copies, studies of admission, &c., amongst which, those of amateurs are allowed, and some names of the first rank in Spain, are found among them. At the head of the ancient school are two semicircular pictures of Murillo, formerly at Seville, and the Santa Isabel belonging to the Caridad in the same city, which was in the gallery of the Louvre. There are other interesting specimens, which ought to be removed to the general gallery. In the list of these masters are Orrente, the elder Rizi, Cabezalero, Zurbaran, Céspedes, Cerezo, Pereda, Carreño, Antonio de Castillo, Herrera the elder, Esteban March, the Polancos, Viladomat, Pacheco, Antolinez, Bocanegra, and some others, most of whom are wanting in the royal museum. One of the most remarkable acts of this academy, was the

refusal to admit, to honorary rank a distinguished foreign artist, who resided some time lately at Madrid. The being inscribed as a Spanish academician could add nothing to the fame of one whose name must descend to posterity in the first rank of those who have adorned this period; but the refusal to grant it, on the ground of inferior claims, reflects little honour on a body who do not enumerate a real painter among them, and it was made the more ridiculous, by the absurd and fulsome compliments lavished daily upon him, by the very persons who refused the nomination.

The many excellent engravers, who lived at the end of the last century, are now reduced to a very small number. Amettler, a Catalan, is living, but is very old. Esteve, who was an élève of Selma, is now the best. He is engraving the Moses striking the rock, by Murillo, which is in the Caridad at Seville. The plate is very large, and nearly finished. If the finishing be equal to the design and the execution of what is already done, it will be one of the finest productions of modern art. It has the invaluable quality of preserving the character of the master most perfectly, and the work is of the more interest as I believe it has never been engraved. The design was made by himself, and he has completely seized the manner of the painter. He is working under an idea too rare in the present day, of leaving a monument of his skill, to after times. He is unfortunately portrait painter to some of the royal family, which occasionally diverts his attention from this interesting work. The reprinting the classic Spanish literature is carried on with some activity, and the academy are understood to be preparing to publish the romances and other works which are out of print. In general, these editions are of inferior execution, and far below those of the last generation, by Ibarra and others. Great numbers are exported to the ancient colonies, otherwise few works

would repay the expense of publishing, in the present state of Spain. A number of translations, of little elementary works on education and science, are made and making, in popular and useful forms. The works of Sir Walter Scott are in progress, and are as popular as in every other part of Europe. They form a prominent feature of the little literary gossip of Madrid.

The royal Library, which is placed in a convent near the palace, is a noble establishment, admirably conducted, like every thing in Spain when they once determine to set about it. Every facility and comfort are afforded to the numerous readers. A revision of the index, which excludes many of the finest productions of general literature is most desirable, and it is lamentably deficient in books of reference for the natural sciences. The absurd jealousy with which books are watched at the frontier, is a serious evil to foreigners, and by far the greatest inconvenience they are subjected to. I had once the greatest difficulty in extricating the few books of reference on natural history which I carried with me. They were detained from the accident of my not accompanying my heavy baggage at the time it entered, and their release was only effected by private interest being made in a very high quarter, which cut the knot without the endless delay of waiting until it was unloosed.

The Armoury contains some of the most beautiful specimens probably in Europe, especially of the *cinque cento*, or the fine time of Benvenuto Cellini. A catalogue raisonné is very much wanted of this princely collection.

The Museum of Natural History remains much in the same state which has made it so long the subject of complaint. There are interesting and even splendid individual specimens, but without connexion or system, and often of

unknown localities. It is just in the state, as to utility for purposes of science, that the British museum was a few years since, from which it is at length slowly emerging. We therefore must not be hasty in censuring the managers of a country so unfortunate in financial means as Spain. At present it serves as a lounging place on certain days for the Madrileños. A chair of mineralogy has been added, which promises to be the best and most useful part of the establishment. Lectures on the theory and practice of mechanics, are given in another place, by an able and well known professor, and on chemistry applied to the arts.

At present the administration of mines is decidedly the best organised of any of their institutions, and promises the greatest advantages to the country. They have an excellent laboratory, and every facility is given to try the productions of the districts which contain these precious deposits. An opinion prevails, however, that in the atmosphere of Madrid no establishment can flourish permanently. Like the canker in certain soils, which destroys every tree, there are processes, said to be in constant operation, capable of ruining and destroying every foundation. It is to be hoped this may prove to be an exception.

There was an establishment connected with the cabinet of natural history, which, if persevered in or revived, might be of great use to the neglected study of natural science. It was for the purpose of preserving animals of all kinds, in which there were some promising scholars, directed by a respectable Frenchman, an emigré of the first revolution. Unfortunately the funds have been diverted to the conservatory of music, or some such purpose, and the works are wholly suspended. The few people who are about the museum are fully employed in preserving the remains of the departed animals of a menagerie in

which the King was understood to take great delight, and no progress whatever is made in other branches.

Unluckily all the most eminent men in Spain quitted their avocations, and embarked in politics, during the *sistema*, which has caused their being banished, and the evils are thus still more aggravated.

The liberality with which all their institutions are opened to strangers is highly laudable, and any one who has occasion to address the individuals who direct them, will find politeness and facility, not exceeded in any part of Europe. One establishment, that of the mines, not being generally open to the public, I conceived it necessary to make private interest to be enabled to visit it. I had addressed several persons, and met with the usual professions which are the current coin of the place, but not one step towards verifying them; at last being wearied by the same repetitions, I went without any letter or introduction, and in an instant obtained all the information I required.

The want of potable water during the summer is severely felt, and various plans, all practicable, excepting that the money cannot be found, have been proposed to remedy this serious inconvenience, where the consumption is so enormous, as in Spain. The same want is seriously felt in the cleanliness of the place, which is far behind that of the Moorish towns in the south.

The canal to connect with the Tagus, is likely to remain unfinished. There are large building speculations, in which the principal investments of capital seem now to be made, and the city will in a few years be very much improved in architectural effect, as every elevation is obliged to be made according to the rules of correct design.

A great mortality takes place in some winters from the endemic, the *pulmonia*, or pneumonia; inflammation of the

lungs, which is often fatal in a few hours. In the winter of 1829-30, it was said that thirty thousand people died; no doubt a great exaggeration. The government denied the number, which they said was overrated, but they did not state the real amount. The air, during the prevalence of the winds which produce this disease, is piercing beyond any thing to be imagined. In an unusually cold period of the spring of 1830, when the air was perfectly clear, and the ground covered with snow, I could distinctly feel the cold of the air in the cavity of the lungs; a sensation I never experienced elsewhere. No doubt the evil is increased by the habit of sitting over the *braseros*, or pans of charcoal, which relax the system, and predispose it for the effect of the external atmosphere. Notwithstanding the piercing cold of winter, and that the reservoirs of the Retiro freeze sufficiently to allow skating, many plants resist the climate uninjured, which could scarcely be expected to do so. The Chinese mulberry, *morus papyfera*, grows to a large size, and the *melia azaderach* thrives perfectly in the botanical garden. There is an instance of the palm growing in a sheltered situation. These trees owe their preservation to the heat of summer and autumn, which enables the wood to be perfectly hardened before they are assailed by the winter frost. The situation of the public garden, which in the spring is a delicious promenade, will prevent it ever being of much use as a botanical repository. The site is badly chosen for the purpose, and the natural soil indifferent; but it was made at a vast expence, and is an ornament to the metropolis. It serves for the purpose of giving botanical and agricultural lectures. The plan of Charles the Third was magnificent in making this garden, which was intended to be combined with the formation of noble cabinets of natural history, worthy the capital of Spain and

the Indies, and were to occupy a range of buildings along the Prado, of which those now used for picture galleries were the commencement.

An improvement of the French has been partly followed up, of clearing the approach to the palace, and making a line of street to connect it with the *Puerta del Sol*, which may represent Charing-cross to London. A new theatre is now erecting on the esplanade of the palace, which is much wanted, but it is too small, and besides an enormous and unnecessary expenditure in the solidity of the walls, is most inconveniently situated for many quarters of the city.

The common building material is grey granite, of good quality, which they work with great facility. This in general forms the foundation, and some ornamental parts; the mass being brick, sometimes covered with stucco. There is no good classic architecture of the best time; none of the great Spanish architects having been employed here. All the good edifices date from the last century, and are chiefly by Rodriguez, Villanueva, and Sabbatini.*

There were an incredible number of paintings in the churches, which disappeared almost entirely during the occupation of the French, but there is still sculpture remaining in many of them. One of the finest paintings of Rubens is in an obscure chapel of the Flemish hospital, where it was allowed to remain. It is a large picture, representing Saint Andrew, exactly in the style of the St. Peter at Cologne. It is dirty, but appeared to me perfectly untouched and uninjured. One of the finest pictures of Cano still remains in a chapel of the church of St. Gines, and a few others may be found in the convents, by different masters, chiefly of the school of Castile.

* See the chapter on Architecture.

The women of all the provinces are seen to the greatest advantage in this general mart, whither they are brought by the various motives of pleasure or amusement, of promoting suits, forwarding petitions, and seeking places, or in the still more difficult task of soliciting pardon for political offences, a constant employment at the time these observations were made. In these various occupations of *pretendientes*, the Andaluzas have long borne away the palm from all competitors, and so established is their reputation in this respect, that the moment the Moorish accent is heard in the antechamber, the suit is considered as half gained. So formidable have they proved in the more serious rivalries of the *sala*, that it is understood a tacit agreement exists in society to exclude them or prevent their exercising those fascinations, which the Castilians, if they boast purer descent, cannot pretend to contend against.

The important office of nurse to the more opulent families, which can not be performed by the inhabitants of the place, and without which their sickly offspring could not be reared, is chiefly supplied by natives of the free provinces, and the Montaña of Santander. They are regularly advertised in the *Diario*, and as they parade their charges in the Prado, their brilliant complexions and luxuriant forms, with the magnificent *trensa*,* attest their fitness for the office, without the necessity of "Personas que la abonen," the usual form of advertisement.

The office of censor over married persons in the upper ranks of society is exercised by the royal person, and complaints of infidelity on either part are listened to with complacency, and, as far as possible, redressed; the offenders

* *Trensa*, the plaited hair hanging down the back, as worn by the women of the north.

being generally ordered, at short notice, into convents, or banished to distant cities. A grandee of Spain was very lately confined in a monastery of the Guadarrama, on the complaint of his wife, for an illicit connexion with an Italian vocalist, who was banished the kingdom, to the great annoyance of the musical amateurs, for bringing scandal on the illustrious blood of a great house. It is said; however, that these complaints are rarely made, and that the usual revenge is retaliation, without having recourse to the supreme court of morality.

There are two principal theatres, which are worked by the same administration, under the Ayuntamiento. There are alternately Italian operas and Spanish plays, with a proportion of the works of the ancient dramatists, which are occasionally brought forward, and afford the only opportunity of seeing any thing national. The *sainetes* are well given, and represent pure and unadulterated pictures of natural common life; the whole scene and actors being produced with a truth and spirit unknown on any other stage.

The cafés are numerous, and are much frequented by the idle portion of the community, who pass hours in them, without the necessity of spending any thing. So regular are the habits in this respect, that if a stranger enter these places, in the day time, he has frequently difficulty in procuring attendance. Before I left Madrid, a miserable *quinquette*, in the worst style of a tea-garden, was opened outside the gate of Alcalá, in the most unfortunate situation which could be selected, as there was not a tree or shrub in the vicinity. Half the city went to see the opening, and all ranks were seen crowding to this novel display of rural gaiety, which commences a new era for the capital. The country on the side of the Manzanares is much better

than the other parts, and shows what might be effected by planting and irrigation.

In the spring the scene is varied by visits to Aranjuez, and the number of vehicles in employment sufficiently shows the taste for enjoying that delicious place to be on the increase. The magnificent grounds and gardens, resembling, on an infinitely greater scale, the academic walks of Cambridge, with the eternal verdure, produced by using the waters of the Tagus, would constitute beauty any where, but it is vastly enhanced by the white and dismal country around this oasis. Unfortunately, the profuse irrigation soon produces malaria, and after the solstice it is no longer habitable.

The other *sitios* are also visited, but the Escorial offers little inducement beyond a short visit, and St. Ildefonso is too distant to be within reach of every one. These places, whilst the royal family are resident, are subject to special police regulations, often causing great and useless inconvenience and vexation to individuals, who are refused permission to go there on the most frivolous pretexts. The prohibition of visiting them is also a mode of punishment for minor offences, and it is often inserted in the royal edicts, "under pain of banishment from Madrid and the *sitios reales*."

With the partial exception of Aranjuez which is a thoroughfare, during the period that the royal family are absent from the *sitios*, the buildings are shut up, and the greater part of the population emigrates, in the manner practised in some of the German watering places.

The breaking up, in order to move to the next place, is a curious exhibition, especially at the Escorial, which is the last autumnal residence, and is succeeded by that of Madrid. It is generally known about what time the move is to be

made, but the etiquette is to give very little previous notice, when all is confusion; the road is covered with vehicles of all kinds, and the most motley assemblage of travellers, on horseback and on foot, and in every contrivance circumstances admit. The scene would supply a good pendant to the march to Finchley.



JUNTA DE ANDALUCÍA

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

CHAPTER IX.

Bull fights.

IN despite of moralists, economists, Papal injunctions and recommendations, for I believe they have not dared openly to prohibit them; the national sport is continued with a zeal and energy, which increase rather than diminish. It is almost the only sport left to the people; the jealousy of the government or the misfortunes of the times having invaded every other. The only check on their extension is the misery of many cities, which cannot afford the expence, or can only do it at long intervals. The cost of these spectacles is considerable, from the numbers of people who are brought from all parts of Spain, to assist; and the high wages paid to the principal fighters on foot and horseback.

It would appear, at first sight, that the breeding animals, to roam for four or five years in wastes, and to which, so far from approaching the state of domestic utility that constitutes the value of their species, it should be the highest recommendation that they should never have seen the face of man, excepting the *ranchero*, who is nearly as wild as themselves, must be bad economy. Theory would suggest that these noble animals, instead of being immolated in a sport against which a powerful party in every part of Spain has long been arrayed, would be better employed in agri-

cultural labour. The writers accordingly declaimed, and the government, yielding to the clamour, suspended these spectacles for some years. The moral result did not appear, but the calculations of the economists were found most erroneous. So far from oxen becoming more plentiful, and at a more reasonable price, the reverse occurred, and the scarcity of cattle was becoming a serious evil. The reason was this. The breeding of cattle in Spain is a business of great extent, and requires large capital. In these establishments, the calves are sold for one purpose, the cows for another; the bulls are tried, and those which pass as *novillos* in the trial made for the purpose, are reserved for the glory of the *plaza*, whilst those which refuse the lance are consigned to the inglorious office of husbandry. The proportions bred, of course, may be taken at an equal rate of males and females. Of the males, probably, not above one half at the most would stand proof. These were reserved, and, if of good breeds, were sold at high prices, which indemnified the breeder for small gains or losses on the others. The price of a bull of five years old, of the best breeds, is from three to four thousand reals; from thirty to forty pounds. This large sum enabled the breeder to dispose of the oxen at a moderate price, and many found it impossible to live, without the gain resulting in this way, so that the supply of oxen was sensibly diminished, by the loss of the breeding stocks. The consequence was, that in a country where losses are positive and there is no elasticity in the machine, and that where a speculator loses upon one calculation, it is next to impossible he should regain upon another, it was found prejudicial to alter the system; and the advice of those who had always been averse to the innovation, and predicted the bad consequences, prevailed, and the fights were reestablished.

The only parts where the amusement is really kept

up, are Madrid, Pamplona, and the large towns of Andalusia, which country, is in fact, the head quarters of the sport, and almost exclusively supplies the *toreros*. The breeds of bulls are extremely varied, and occasionally rise or fall in value, in the manner of the races of horses, even where the utmost care is taken to preserve them pure and maintain their reputation. The jealousy of mixture is such, that when a bull of the fine breeds is sold to the *impresarios* of the *plaza*, not only a promise is exacted that he shall not be used for any other purpose, but it is usual to return the skin, in order that the owner may be quite satisfied, by the marks which distinguish each herd, that the agreement has been fulfilled, and that the animal has not been changed.

Andalusia is generally considered to produce the best animals, but there are some old breeds in La Mancha which equal, or perhaps excel, the finest of Utrera or Medina Sidonia. There are two or three breeds which are now seldom seen; small, active, compact and *true*, which is a requisite in a good bull. The races which are most esteemed at Madrid are those of Gaviria, rather a small kind and of a deep red with black. The common *manchegos* are a compact, well made animal, with long and very sharp horns, and generally of a brown red. One kind is now extremely rare, which is small, and deep red, but of prodigious activity and vigour. I only once saw this sort exhibited. They are considered to be of the original Spanish breeds.

In Andalusia, there are a great number of kinds. Some resemble the antique bull, with large crest, and fore end, whilst others are compact and clean made like the *manchegos*. One of the best sorts now used, is quite modern, called that of the *barbero*, from the original occupation of the breeder, at Seville; a successor of Figaro, who is making

a large fortune by this strange change from his original profession. The Andalusian bulls have less reputation at Madrid, where all are exhibited, than the breeds of Castile. The amateurs justly remark, that few of the former will stand the pike, or face the horsemen, which is the finest part of the sport. This is caused by the *rancheros*, or herdsmen, in Andalusia being mounted, and in the constant use of the lance, with which they can, by wheeling, and taking him in the flank, throw over the wildest bull instantaneously, in the height of his career. The consequence of this discipline is, they are frequently terrified at the sight of the lance, and seldom face it, whilst the others, being tended by foot men, and rarely seeing a man on horseback, are undaunted in the arena, and fearlessly attack the *pica-dores*. The prejudice in ancient times was in favour of the breeds of Castile, if a Moorish romance be credited, where a bull, on whom every description was lavished, and who was at last killed on the first onset by a Moorish knight at Granada, is stated to be from the banks of the Jarama. The famous race of Gaviria, perhaps the best in Spain at present, are bred in the same district, although they are born in La Mancha. The tending and transporting these animals from one part of the kingdom to another, furnishes employment for a great number of people. There are inconveniences and interruptions in this, like every other occupation. When I was last at Madrid, the bulls which were on the road from Andalusia, were feeding in a miserable pasture, used for the purpose from time immemorial, in a village of La Mancha, when the alcalde appeared at the head of a posse of the elders of the place, and declared they had no right there, and that he would impound or shoot them, if they were not immediately withdrawn. It was a difficult case, and the bulls would have died long before a decision could have been obtained, so that they

were obliged to submit and continue their march. The fact of the bulls being on the way to a royal *fiesta* was of no weight with these authorities, although it was probably pleaded. The tenacity of the *alcalde* to his pasture, was very similar to the feeling of the *posadero* at Sacedon towards the gypsies, for assuredly none but a Spanish bull, accustomed to live through the summer in their *dehesas* could have found food in the common lands of Castile.

The other provinces furnish very few additions to the breeds already enumerated. In Valencia, Murcia, Catalonia, are none of reputation. In Aragon a breed was utterly exterminated in the war of independence, which was reputed to be one of the best in Spain. Those of Navarre are celebrated by the people, who consider them the best in the world. They are full of life and spirit, and bound like deer over the barriers, but their onsets are like the attacks of the smaller breeds of cocks, and do not afford the display of strength of either the *manchegos* or Andaluces, having neither the size nor strength of their larger compeers. They afford variety, however, and are always well received at Madrid. The only kind I know in old Castile, are those of Salamanca, which are powerful, red, heavy animals, but are considered unsafe and dangerous to the *toreros*, and are seldom seen but in their own district. In Estremadura, and in the other provinces not enumerated, there are none that I am aware of, reared for the *plaza*.

The greatest requisite of these animals is activity, which they possess to a degree unequalled in Europe, and only to be found in the open wastes of the southern regions, where they are bred. The leaps they take are extraordinary. They very frequently clear a barrier of near six feet high, with little apparent effort, and without running up to it. I have seen one fly upon the *picador* in the

manner of a lion, and with his bended knees crush horse and rider to the ground underneath his weight, without making any use of his horns. I have observed a bull stand perfectly still for a short time, looking steadfastly at his opponent, then going coolly in, place one horn under the chest and the other behind the horse, lifting him with the rider quite up to the extended length of his neck, and hold them for a short time suspended. The horse came down quite dead, being pierced through the heart; the man fell underneath him, but escaped unhurt.

These animals seldom follow up a successful onset, but frequently appear surprised at the result of their prowess, and turn in another direction. To this circumstance, and that the rider generally falls on the opposite side to the bull, are owing many of their escapes. I have seen a bull transfix the horse behind the saddle girths, producing instant death, and then bear him out on the horn, with the *picador* firmly and coolly seated, into the middle of the arena, a considerable distance; and shaking him off, leave them both. Few bulls are acquainted with the real use of their horns, and of the necessity of turning the head on one side in order to avail themselves of them. The greater part of the escapes of the *picadores* and others are owing to this cause. In most instances, when the man and horse are thrown, the bull merely uses his nose, turning them over, instead of goring them with the points. Some, however, use them with fearful precision. I have seen a bull enter the breast of a horse with the point of his horn, run him backwards against the barrier, and never cease until he fell, dead. They ascertain by smelling, or applying the nose, whether a horse be dead, and seldom touch him afterwards. The profession of bull fighting must be considered a perilous one, yet it is doubtful whether the mortality be greater than in some other hazardous modes of

life. The number killed annually is very small. In a great number of fights I witnessed, in one instance only was a man killed. The safety of the other fighters depends in great part on the chief or leader, and the commanding the bull, or power of drawing his attention to another quarter, is one of the essential and most difficult parts of the profession. This is called *Llamar*, or calling the bull, and by some is exercised in a manner very extraordinary, the wild and furious animal obeying his voice as if instinctively. Their voices seem particularly suited to this purpose. I have often noticed the mode of calling, which is similar to that of addressing the mules, by their name, which has an equally powerful effect on these animals. The voice is condensed or concentrated in a peculiar manner, and seems to proceed from the chest, not being audible at a distance; but, as it were, pitched directly to the animal to which it is addressed. It was said to be next to impossible that any one should be killed whilst Romero was in the ring; from his talent in this respect. The instance mentioned as having happened at Pamplona, where Montes, the matador, gave the bull a violent blow, was a departure from regular custom, only justified by the imminent danger the picador was in, who owed his life to the extraordinary quickness and presence of mind of his leader.

So far from being discouraged, the art is apparently rising in favour, for the late government, who were not over favourably disposed to universities or seminaries, allowed the establishment, for the first time, of a regular college, where the art of tauromachia is taught by rule. It is at Seville, whence most of the corps are produced, and the chief professor is Romero, a man now said to be eighty years of age, and to have killed six thousand bulls, without ever receiving a wound. He is a slight made man, still quite active, with the face of a thorough Gitano,

or gypsy, of which race he is, being a native of the Triana. It is evident that the suddenly suspending these amusements would be productive of great inconvenience and loss to numbers of individuals in all parts of Spain. In the metropolis they answer a double purpose. The money received is paid to the funds of the hospitals, whilst the hospitals receive a large portion of patients from disorders caught at these same representations. Thus a double circulation of money is caused, to the emolument of the possessors of lands in various provinces; the *ganaderos* or attendants on them; the contractors or farmers of the plaza; the bull fighters and numerous assistants, of all ranks, down to the sweepers and waterers of the arena; the sellers of infirm and worn out horses, which have a different end in London and Paris. Finally it helps to maintain various vendors of drugs, of sellers of wax tapers and other funereal apparatus, of grave diggers and chaunters of masses for the departed.

The arguments of the tendency to harden the mind, of these exhibitions, seem more difficult to answer, but it is very doubtful whether they have that effect. Certainly, if it be taken in the mass, no people are more humane than the Spaniards, or more compassionate and kind in their feelings to others. They probably excel other nations, rather than fall below them in this respect. The provinces in which the worst populace is to be found are those where no bull fights are seen, which is the case of the greater part of the Tierra Caliente. At Seville the greatest *aficion* or attachment is found amongst the people, but it is shared in nearly an equal degree in all the towns where it is practised. The famous *encierro* or shutting in of the bulls at Seville, which was formerly practised at dawn of day, and was one of the most curious sights of the whole, now takes place at night, and is no longer permitted to be seen publicly, on account of some disturbance between the populace and the

military on duty, which alarmed the government, the most timid, when the public were concerned, that ever ruled any country. It is a fearful operation for the leader, whose life depends on his keeping his horse ahead of the bulls, which are following at their utmost speed, in a state of the most furious excitement, from the novelty of the scene, and the cries of the rabble around. I have understood the ox which heads the herd is strapped to the saddle of the *ranchero*, and thus forced to keep up with the fleet horse, on which his life depends.

Notwithstanding the prejudice against this amusement, both amongst natives and foreigners, it will always have attractions for a number of amateurs. The antique and now peculiar beauty of a well filled *plaza*, the enthusiasm which excites the audience, where the Spanish gravity is for a time laid aside; the sight of the women who are there in the glory of the national costume, which is still held sacred, in a sanctuary no bonnet or foreign innovation has yet dared to invade; the picturesque variety of the costumes of the *toreros*, and the ancient style of the *alguaziles*, who clear the *plaza*, and assert the superiority of civil to martial law; the inimitable grace and serious gravity with which the salutes are given, and the solemnity with which the whole is conducted, form an *ensemble* which retains its charm long after the novelty has ceased, and separate from the mere object of witnessing the destruction of a few animals, and the disagreeable sights which are constantly displayed in these spectacles.

The arrangements were very different in early times, when there were seldom or never regular amphitheatres; but the Plaza of the town was barricaded for the purpose, and the spectators attended in their windows, as is still practised in many parts of the country, especially in Andalusia. In those times it was the custom for the knights to enter

the Plaza on their own horses, showing their skill and knowledge by attacking the furious animal in the mode best suited to their steeds or their own particular management. From the Moorish romances, it may be inferred that bulls were kept in readiness at Granada, whenever they might be required to celebrate any festival.



JUNTA DE ANDALUCIA

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

CHAPTER X.

Government.

THE extraordinary state of government in Spain, cannot justly be charged on the present generation, on whom has devolved a mass of abuses, transmitted by their predecessors, and aggravated by difficulties and disasters, such as no country in modern times has had to encounter. These abuses descend from the earliest periods; some might be traced to the Visigoths. Very many have been derived in right and uninterrupted succession from the Arabs, whose system is implanted even more strongly than the Norman usages are in England, and are seen woven into the web of society in parts where the prejudice is strongest, and they believe themselves pure and uninfected by them. By far the greatest proportion, however, date from the *Escorialense*, who bestowed the time his father was unable to spare from his other occupations, in reducing the most independent people in Europe to the yoke of the most absolute government. Jovellanos ludicrously compared his mania of governing by one hand, to the management of the mules in a coach by a single driver; and the monarchy, as he bequeathed it, certainly bears no inconsiderable resemblance to the old fashioned vehicles which are exhibited occasionally in the Prado, decked out with gaudy trappings, and other paraphernalia, a century behind the rest of the world.

Many of the curious anomalies in this country have been produced by the endeavour to adjust the yoke to the neck of a people naturally extremely impatient of it, who may very easily be led, but are by no means willing to be driven. From these combinations, a sort of compromise has often been made, and whilst they were allowed to enjoy certain degrees of liberty, progress was made in destroying the rest. Thus it happened that until the invasion of the French, no people in Europe enjoyed, in many respects, a greater degree of practical liberty than the Spaniards, and none depended less, as far as direct interference went, on the government. The taxes were not heavy in general, at least they were not felt, the expences being paid in great part by the money from America, which was circulated, and kept the machine in movement. Each provincial capital was the centre of a system, revolving round its own axis, and borrowing little heat from the general focus at Madrid, with which its connexion was little more than nominal. The subordinate parts of the system partook of the same character, and every alcalde was, as he still in a great measure is, a sort of separate and independent authority, hardly acknowledging any jurisdiction but his own, and with difficulty brought to obey any orders. The same spirit of independence acts in another manner. Where open resistance is impracticable, or unavoidable, a sure and certain mode is devised of effecting it indirectly, by evading orders, procrastinating, and fighting in detail; a guerilla of bureau, consuming interminable periods in replies and rejoinders, and finally wearying out the superior power, or turning its attention to other objects. This is the favourite and almost universal habit of the country. Perhaps from a natural disposition for it, added to habit and experience, few men who have been employed in office are without a talent, which in some cases is very extraor-

dinary. So complete is the system in this respect, and so perfect the organisation, by mutually assisting and conniving at the game of each other, that it is needless for those who have business to transact, to gain merely the chief. They must have the consent of every one, down to the porter of the office, otherwise some obstacle will occur, and their object in all probability be finally defeated. It is one of the besetting sins of Spanish administration. The parties who act thus apparently in harmony and concert are very often the bitterest and most implacable enemies, seeking to undermine and destroy each other; a state of things quite oriental.

As the superiors were not at all disposed to surrender the power which was certain to escape from their hands by employing single delegates, a strange mode has been practised; of neutralising it, by appointing parallel authorities; employing, instead of unity, division to maintain their ascendancy. This secret consists in setting dignitaries of directly opposite qualities to counterbalance each other, and extends to every branch of administration. A bold and intrepid officer is yoked with a cowardly imbecile; a process analagous to the uniting dead and living bodies. Young and old, corrupt and pure, the fiery and intrepid with the slow and timid, are seen in constant contact. All these jarring elements are so poised and adjusted, that nearly the whole force of the machine is consumed in friction, and the smallest possible excess left available for the public good. These causes will explain in part, many of the strange events of the war of independence, and clear questions which are otherwise difficult to resolve. You hear in Spain that this independence of authorities is favourable to liberty, and that centralisation, which has for some time past been the aim of government, favours tyranny or absolute power. It may be in part true, and certainly the centralisation in

France is one of the most durable monuments of despotism transmitted by Napoleon to his successors, and from which the release will be most difficult; but, as far as the reasoning in Spain goes, it is very clear, the species of liberty resulting from such a state of things, is balanced by much greater evils; and if even the maxim were true, which it is not, the same principle on which all society rests, that of surrendering a part to save the rest, ought to apply to this. Of late years, the general government, owing to the operation of these causes, and the difficulties it was placed in, had no alternative but to concentrate on one or two points, leaving the rest nearly unoccupied. The chief of these was the police, and the next, the army, as will be mentioned afterwards in their places. The management of government thus became, in great part, made up as an affair of convention, or understood formalities, carried on in the offices, and so little heeded by those to whom the royal mandates were addressed, that they seldom took the trouble to read them; and the official gazette, the only one permitted, was actually kept up by a forced circulation, all *empleados* of a certain rank being obliged to subscribe to it. The magnificent language, which professes every quality that can be required for human use in the utmost perfection, is preeminent in this. So malleable and ductile is it, that the public acts, which are drawn up by the common scribes of office, cannot be excelled, or hardly equalled in clearness and beauty. They serve little more than to exercise these persons in composition, and for the employment of a few compositors and paper manufacturers. So weak is the real power of government, that the *soberana voluntad* (the formula of office) may be compared to an African river, which bursts in a full stream from its native mountains, promising fertility to distant lands, but soon meets with

sands and deserts, amongst which it is absorbed, and finally disappears.

The civil administration of the cities is vested in the municipalities, who have powers and privileges of most unequal, and in many instances undefined, extent. In no country are these prescriptive powers so strong. The government cannot contend with them, and the regal power of the *Re neto y absoluto*, as defined by the *realistas*, is as nought compared to that of any *ayuntamiento*. Madrid, although decorated with the title of *muy heroica*, is only a villa or small town in rank, and not a city. The reason of this is, that in the latter case, the power of the corregidor would be too great, and would interfere with the royal attributions, which, on their own ground, it is judged advisable to maintain pure and paramount. Every place, down to the smallest village, has its *alcalde*. I believe they are always appointed by the crown, excepting in the free provinces, where they are elected by the people. The authority and consequence of these functionaries is, of course, extremely varied, from the Corregidores of the large cities to the *alcalde* of Orcera and his coequals. In the country the functions are so varied and extensive, that the recapitulation, or reference to them alone, forms a small volume. This complication of statutes, often contradictory, is addressed to people, some of whom can hardly read. The consequence is obvious. The onus is thrown on them, but the real power is in the *escribanos*, or legal advisers, who very often ruin the simple *alcaldes* by their machinations or ignorance. One peculiarity in these offices is, the power given to the *alcaldes* of villages, to settle disputes in matters not exceeding one thousand *reals*, about ten pounds, equal to twenty pounds in England. This is done, I believe, without appeal, and saves a vast

deal of litigation and expence to the parties, whilst it tends still more to keep up local attachments, and the feeling of independence in the community. Some of these people have exhibited, in our days, the spirit of ancient times. In the *patio de los naranjos*, the Moorish court of the cathedral at Seville, is a marble tablet, recording the names of two *alcaldes* of villages in the neighbourhood, who were shot by the French army in the war of Napoleon. These men voluntarily and deliberately submitted to death, rather than give up the names of the parties implicated in an intercepted correspondence, and known to them, respecting an intended rise against their invaders. Yet these are specimens of a province where, by their own countrymen, the people are accused of lightness of character and unsteadiness, and, by foreigners, of fanaticism or ignorance! Many similar instances occurred, but are consigned to oblivion, and it is gratifying to find a similar monument in a place so worthy of containing it.

The *Escribanos*, who figure so much in the economy of Spain, are the representatives of the lowest class of attornies, supposing that a still lower class existed, and had official appointments in the villages in England. In a country, and in a state of society like that we are delineating, it is clear they must play a considerable part. In fact, nothing can be done without them, and they are, not unfrequently, almost the sole authority in a place, capable of reading and writing. Notwithstanding the miserable state of the rural districts, they contrive to make money, and many of them rise from this humble office to much higher places in the state. Their wretched appointments are consequently objects of competition. I witnessed the execution of one at Seville, by accidentally entering the *plaza*, when the capuchins were bawling out the last words for his repitition, announcing to the crowd that they had done

their duty, and that he died in the true faith. He had been superseded in some village in the vicinity, and assassinated his rival.

Little attention has been paid latterly to the hereditary claims of birth in the disposal of public office. In fact, the contrary practice has been followed, and it would appear to have been almost considered inversely. Very few men of high rank in any of the professions were of high lineage, and the feeling was supposed to actuate the late King so strongly, that it was one cause of his popularity in certain classes of society. Amongst the old Castilians, however, these innovations, and the decreasing respect for pure blood, are considered amongst the bad signs of the times.

The system of what is called police, is of very late introduction, as it dates only from the last invasion of the French, by whom it was introduced, and the whole machinery of mouchards, and other abominations, transplanted from Paris. It is a complete exotic in Spain. Nothing can be more foreign to the national habits and character. In the most tyrannical periods of their history they had never been subjected to it, and they were the last people on the continent, who bent the neck to the most detestable tyranny which has fallen on Europe since the middle ages, from which England alone is now free. It seems to have succeeded the feudal and monkish despotism of the dark ages, as if to show that tyranny was inherent in man. It differs from the feudal domination in being a low and vulgar tyranny. So hostile were the Spaniards to its introduction, that they called out loudly for the inquisition in preference to it. In fact, as far as the public are concerned, it was much the lesser evil, and more victims have been sacrificed, and infinitely more real oppression exercised by it, than the holy tribunal could have effected in these times in a much longer period. The

police is, in fact, a political inquisition, a dreadful and almost irresponsible tribunal, before which every man was liable to be summoned, and no one could retire to his bed, during the time of Calomarde, with the certainty of passing the night unmolested. It has succeeded with the vigour of youth, the decrepit and decaying tribunal of the faith.

The Inquisition, which at one time justly enjoyed its true reputation, had long ceased to be more than a name, as far as the great mass of society were concerned. The conditions of taking the sacrament once a year, of avoiding scandal in morals, and of abstaining from attacking any part of religion, or the privileges of the clergy, were sufficient to keep on good terms with it, and to remain unmolested. The prohibition of certain books was little real evil to the majority of society, and the permitted literature satisfied the greater part. More liberty of writing was allowed, fifty years since, than is in our days, or was in the time of Napoleon.

The office of police is, in many instances, superior and paramount to all others, military, civil, or ecclesiastic; the powers being derived, in the times we speak of, directly from the chief or apostolic branch of the government. In the fortresses and places of war, the duty frequently devolved on the military commandant, who united that with his own and several other functions; but in no instance, that I am aware of, was it given to the Captain general, apparently, because it would have given too great power and unity of action, and would have been a departure from the favorite maxim of Spanish administration, *divide et impera*, over their subordinate officers.* The dreadful history of Torrijos elucidates the manner in which these functions were mixed up. Previously to that, which closed the feeble

* See the chapter on the Army and Captain general.

attempts in the south, there had been another display of it. After the failure of the attempts of Mina and others on the French frontiers, and in Galicia, all appeared quiet, and it was announced in the gazette, that all the Peninsula, Portugal being at this time under the protecting egis of the Apostolic government, and generally mentioned as part and parcel of the whole, enjoyed "*incomparable tranquilidad.*" At this instant all Andalusia was on the point of breaking out in open insurrection. The assassination of the Governor of Cadiz was the first signal which roused the sleeping authorities, on the reports of whom this precious proclamation had been issued and the government believed every thing to be quiet. A show of vigour was then attempted, in order to make up for former supineness and neglect. The Captain general had previously reported what was going on, of which all the particulars were in his possession. The characteristic answer to his report was to require him to give up his authorities, who would have been treated as accomplices. This he peremptorily refused to do, and during the discussion the plan was ripening, and nearly succeeded. They accordingly proceeded to arrest, in the towns near Cadiz, every rank and class of persons. No distinction was made, and the blind god appeared to have presided at the issuing the mandates. All who were thus arrested, were ordered to Seville, and I happened to be lodged in the posada, to which, by the interest of the landlord with the police, they were directed. Successive arrivals took place, of persons who had been taken from their homes, without a shadow of crime being alleged against them, or any steps taken to investigate their cases. They were ordered to banishment, many to Estremadura, and some to Oviedo, a month's journey. Several were people whose families depended on their daily exertions for their support. The quiet, patient, and cheerful de-

meanour of these persons was very striking, and every assistance and sympathy in the power of a humane people, was given by their friends and acquaintances. The Captain general interfered as much as he could do, and softened the fate of many of them. Most fortunately it happened that this dreadful power had been conferred on an individual, who was equally stupid and ignorant, as he was reckless of the liberty of his fellow citizens.

When the cases were examined, it was found, not only that they were innocent, I believe, without exception; but that most of them were tried men, capable of standing the severest ordeal of purification. They were accordingly allowed to return by degrees to their homes, whence they had been thus unjustly torn. It was at the period these transactions were going on, that Jose Maria was robbing in sight of Seville during the whole day, proving, if necessary, that "police" was merely a political machine.* When every thing was restored to tranquillity, it became a question how to dispose of the individual who had caused these excesses to be committed. The allowing him to retain the situation of *subdelegado* at Xeres, in which capacity he might repeat the operation, and endanger the tranquillity of the province, was out of the question, and his forced removal would not have suited the views of the government, to which he had given such proofs of zeal and devotion. The course was accordingly adopted, so well known in Spanish administration. He was appointed to the same situation as he held; at Seville, and as it was a nominal promotion he could not refuse it. It gave him apparently more power; but, in reality, by placing him under the eagle eye and talons of the Captain general, he was rendered powerless, and annihilated. I was at Seville

* See the chapter on Robbers.

when he made his appearance, not at all to the joy of the inhabitants. His fame had preceded him, and I saw some of his official visits paid. I happened to be present when he was invited to dine with the Captain general. This was equivalent to an *order*, which he durst not refuse, but he never tasted any thing during the whole repast, recalling traditional stories of past times in the navy : a strange sight at a *convite* in Spain, and in a very hospitable house, showing very strongly the situation he stood in with the firm and fearless chief of the province. Another instance came under my own observation, of the distribution of these powers. I arrived at Puycerda, in Catalonia, in 1830, intending to enter on that side, in company with my friend Mr. Lyell, to visit the district of Olot. The place is a kind of fortress, with a small garrison, close to the frontier, on the upper Segre. The *alcalde* was a Carlist of tried strength, and had long been the detestation of the whole province, to which he was perfectly known. I soon found there were obstacles about signing my passport. In the interviews I had with him, he gave always as a reason for delay, that he had not received the necessary "orders" to do so. As there was no paramount authority, the military commandant declaring that he could not interfere, it was clear from whom the instructions came. It was from a "comité directeur" of priests, one of whom appeared at the last interview, and questioned me himself. They conceived from my accent differing from that of the rude natives around, that I was not a foreigner, and that I was an emissary of Mina, who was on the other frontier. Their dastardly fears, for their hair stood on end when they spoke of him, were the only excuse for this conduct; and they were so far right, that, if he had succeeded, in all probability the *alcalde* would have been made an example of, as he merited. He fell under the fatal displeasure of the

Captain general of the province, whose passport I had, having been so imprudent as to state, that he was independent of his authority. This miserable *junta* completely prevented my entering Spain at that point, and had I not been cautious to remain on the French side of the frontier, after I obtained information that it was no longer safe to pass it, I should have been arrested.

When these observations were commenced, the system was not universally introduced, and I witnessed the first attempt to do it, in a remote place of upper Aragon, which it was reaching like the "invisible and creeping wind." I was lodged in a private house, and the military commandant of the fort sent to know, who the stranger was. The answer, which I heard given, was firm and respectful, that he had no jurisdiction in the place, and that it only concerned the civil authorities. In a few months, however, an order came, constituting the same person chief of the police of the district. The passports of the military are signed daily by their respective chiefs. It was a great advantage to a traveller, when he could pass under their authority, on account of the greater regularity and celerity of dispatching business; but, latterly, after the revolution of July, it was no longer practicable, peremptory orders being issued that they were, without distinction, to be subordinate to the general police.

The manner in which the police system has taken root is a decisive proof of the aptitude of the Spaniards to second an active government, and the vigour and activity of its administration would astonish any one acquainted with the usual mode of conducting Spanish affairs. From the nature of it, and from the existence of the government depending on it, the more unintelligent, and in fact the refuse of society were those in general entrusted with the exercise of its awful powers. In theory nothing could be more ar-

bitrary than the laws. Every person, without exception, was compelled to take a *carta de seguridad* to prevent being arrested in his own house, and when he travelled ever so short a distance, to take a passport, which must be signed every day, whilst he was moving; the residence in places being accounted for by the dates of arrival and departure. Any deviation from this rule was punished by a heavy fine for every day that was deficient. This was levied by the next office, summarily, and without appeal, and the employment of the clerks was to compare the dates, and search back for any defalcation. I knew an instance of a poor muleteer being fined sixty dollars for accumulated arrears of this kind. It is needless to observe that the whole system of *cartas de seguridad* is borrowed from the French. Every thing, to the miserable extortion of a few sous for a provisory passport, at the frontier, under the pretence of sending the real one to Madrid, is adopted from the same quarter, where the successive changes have had no effect in wiping off this stigma on a country like France. So far is it from being abated, that it increases, whilst, under Charles the Tenth, it had reached its minimum of intensity.

So far from this daily inspection operating against travellers who have nothing to fear, I am satisfied it is an advantage to them. By constant repetition it becomes a mere form. The mode it is frequently exercised in the *posadas* is by a character coming in in the evening, with an inkhorn, who takes his seat in the kitchen, amidst the cooking and other apparatus, going through the ceremony, to which grandee and beggar must alike submit. In places where there is only a single house, the *ventero* signs, and there is even a form prescribed to be followed when the night is unavoidably passed in *despoblados*, and no signature can be obtained, as it happened to me in the Sierra

de Segura. The correctives to the exercise of this engine were, the slowness and stupidity of the organs employed; the strong and invincible repugnance of the people to it; the corruption of it in common with every other branch of administration, and the mutual deference and respect to each other, held by every class of Spaniards, on which the national manners are based. From this last cause, customs which are common in France, would not be tolerated in this country. No *gens d'armes* would for a moment be permitted to go round a table where people were dining, with their hats on, and sabres clanking in the disgusting manner which is increasing rather than diminishing in France. I had more real trouble with the police, in ten days, between Dieppe and Bayonne, than in Spain, during as many months. Strangers are perhaps less troubled with it than the natives, at least those who have no suspicious appearance, or have not by their imprudence committed themselves with the authorities. The rank of a British officer is a powerful recommendation, and I found it infinitely better than travelling *en bourgeois* which I at first tried. I have repeatedly been excused personal attendance where the law was very severe, by merely sending a civil message to the *subdelegado* to say, that I was ready to do so if he required me, but that otherwise I begged to be excused. In the capital, personal attendance is generally indispensable, especially if permission is asked to go to the *sitios*, whilst the royal family are in residence; and much vexation to individuals was caused by impertinent enquiries and delays frequently interposed under frivolous pretexts; but strangers are little subjected to these inconveniences. At the commencement of the system the plan was adopted, borrowed from the French republicans, of appointing chiefs of inspection to towns and districts. A part of their duty was to become per-

sonally acquainted with the parties under their *surveillance*. One of these functionaries, soon after taking command, sent a civil message to a lady of my acquaintance to say, that in the course of duty he must pay her a visit and begged her to fix the time. This was accordingly done and after a very polite interview, he told her that he was quite satisfied, and that to make her entirely easy, he should send her a copy of his report to government, which stated that she was a perfectly good subject, and that nothing should be believed to her prejudice. She was of course highly satisfied, and took every opportunity of lauding the liberality of the party. A few months afterwards he was removed, and the people in the office being changed a friend of hers was appointed to fill a situation in it. By accidental conversation on the subject, this person told her she had been completely deceived, and that the report she had seen was pseudo, and not the real one, of which he gave her a copy. This document set forth, that she was a most dangerous person, capable not only of exciting a city but of setting a whole province in flames, and that no vigilance could be too great in watching her motions. So far he was correct, that she united solid education and knowledge with the grace and fascination of Andalusia, and might if she had chosen to exert her talents, have effected mischief to a cause to which scarcely any Andalusia has any predilection; but this oriental mode of dealing reflects little honour on the individual. This transaction might be supposed to be drawn from the archives of the empire, so exactly does it resemble some of the proceedings of that period. The kind of talent possessed by the individual who conducted this operation was too valuable to be overlooked by Calomarde, and he rose rapidly to one of the highest offices in Spain.

THE ROADS.

MORE has been done in Spain since the peace, considering the means of the government, and the local difficulties, in improving the old and in making new roads, than in any country in Europe. If the present system be persevered in, of which there is every probability, as all parties are equally desirous of doing so, in a few years, every principal place in the country will be made easy of access. The great line of road, between the capital and Bayonne, has been entirely remade, and is now equal to most in Europe. The branch from Burgos to Valladolid might be supposed to be made by Mc Adam. Another branch to Santander is now open, after very great exertion. There is a tolerable road from Vittoria to Bilbao, with a branch from that city directly to the great line of Madrid; another shorter line is also constructing, and there is a communication with Castro, a small town on the coast, between Bilbao and Santander. A coast road, or longitudinal line, to connect the northern provinces, is entirely wanting. At present the lines are all lateral, leading only from the interior to points on the shore; and the numerous estuaries and rivers form strong impediments to the construction of better communications in countries so poor and thinly peopled, and at present, almost without commerce. From Tolosa, on the great road to Madrid, there is a communication with Pamplona, Zaragoza, and Barcelona by diligences and canal, making the line of the Ebro complete. The new road from Vittoria to Pamplona, which has been made at a vast and unnecessary expence, from the profuse manner in which *the metal* is laid on, is at length nearly com-

pleted, and was expected to open for carriages in the autumn of 1832.* The road which connects Barcelona and Madrid by Zaragoza is open, and some details only are wanting to complete it. This is become the favorite communication of the metropolis with the Catalan capital, and is very much frequented. The roads in Catalonia are excellent, and are extending wherever the policy of the military authorities has permitted it; for there are districts where there appear to be reasons for preventing, as much as possible, an invading army from having facilities to penetrate. The roads in Valencia are tolerable, but in the vicinity of the capital, are very much injured by the habits of the peasantry in taking off the surface for manure or compost. The new line to connect that city with Madrid by the shortest and best line of Cuenca, instead of proceeding by La Mancha and the Puerto de Almanza, is slowly proceeding to completion. A road is partly made to connect Xativa, on the plain of Valencia, with Alcoy, Alicante, and Murcia, but was, when I passed it, suspended, from a difficulty about passing through some place, and the government have since offered a premium for the best plan of a new line by the coast. The road from Murcia to Granada is practicable for carriages, but with difficulty in the rainy season, and requires a great deal of improvement. Granada is the centre of an important part of the kingdom, which has hitherto been left in the greatest neglect, the steps which were taken in the times of Charles the Third and Fourth, to improve it, not having been followed up. At present it participates in the general move, and in a few years will be as accessible as most other parts. The line to Madrid, through Jaen, is complete, with the exception of a few miles

* It was finally opened in the spring of 1833.

from the latter place to Baylen, where it meets the great road of Andalusia. It does the highest honor to the engineers, and is as well made as any road in Europe. *Ventas* and *posadas* are still wanted, and escorts will be very useful, when the diligences begin to circulate. The constructor of this road, and of that from Burgos to Valladolid, which equal the best roads in the world, is an officer of engineers, who is at present superintendent of the canal of Castile, whose talents promise to make him of the greatest use to his country. A contract has recently been made, I think by Remisa, to complete this road, and those which connect Granada with Motril, the nearest point on the coast, and Malaga, the route to which is hardly practicable for carriages during the rainy season. A road ought to be made from Velez, along the coast, to Motril, as also from Velez to Granada. Malaga has only two carriage outlets at present; a magnificent road by Antequera, which is the direct Madrid communication, through Ecija; and that to Granada, which is carried through Colmenar. A line is imperiously called for from Malaga, to communicate with Cadiz, Seville, and Lower Andalusia through Ronda, the whole of which valuable country is hardly accessible. Jealousy of the *plaza*, as Gibraltar is emphatically termed in that part of the country, as the fortress "par excellence," may have occasioned there having been no steps taken to open this district. The routes in Estremadura are badly kept; and after the severe floods in the spring of 1831, the communication across the Tagus was cut off for some time, except by boats; the bridge of Almaraz never having been repaired since the war of independence, although magnificent pine-forests are close at hand. I crossed in a kind of raft, at considerable risk, the diligences remaining on their respective sides, and in a *posada*, where we slept, were *galeras* full of passengers, who had passed fourteen

days waiting for an abatement of the flood, which was still increasing.* The roads to Galicia and Asturias are in great part complete, excepting across the lower part of old Castile, which will be a work of great expence, and cannot yet be undertaken. A vast amelioration has taken place in the management of these improvements. They are now executed entirely by contract, by which means government are enabled to provide exactly for the demand, and proportion the quantity of work to the means they have of paying for it. The most minute parcels are thus advertised in the papers, and let to the best bidder. Formerly this was impossible; when a sum was ordered to be expended on a public work, it was assailed by a swarm of pillagers, as the wasps assemble on a sunny day around fruit or honey suddenly exposed, or as vultures wind a carcass lately killed, and assemble from the distant regions of the air, who soon shared it out, leaving only the skeleton to attest the banquet having taken place. This is the chief reason for the country abounding in unfinished monuments; not that the genius soared above its means of completion, as has been supposed, but because the corruption made it impossible to execute any plan, however well imagined.

The progress which is made in these enterprises can only be adequately appreciated by observation of the difficulties attending it from local impediments. The population is so thinly scattered, and so fully employed in most parts of the interior, that it is a matter of extreme difficulty to collect hands to work in the despoblados. The people are unaccustomed to the kind of work, which has not been practised for a long period, and in many parts never at all; and the materials have often to be carried great distances. These difficulties in many parts would be insurmountable,

* I was informed, when leaving Spain, that the bridge of Almaraz had been repaired.

but from the system of employing convicts, which is now very general. They are sent in large bodies, and temporary barracks built in central situations, where the *impresarios* maintain them, according to agreements made with the government, until the work is completed, when they move to another place.

As soon as the lines of road are practicable, diligences are set in motion upon them, a work of no small difficulty at first. Those who have traversed the interior of Spain, and know the *ventas* and *posadas*, will judge of the labour of establishing accommodation for twenty or thirty persons in one of these places. Not only eating, but beds and all other necessaries are to be provided, as it is a standing rule in Spanish diligences to sleep at night. The first thing done is to dispatch a light carriage to try the road, and ascertain the probable time of its being practicable for the heavier vehicles; then *mayor domos* and other persons capable of instructing the *posaderos* in the mode of arranging the rooms, of cooking, and preparing repasts, and of laying out tables, are sent express. All this must be taught to people previously quite unaccustomed to it, and the readiness and quickness with which they adopt what is new, is highly creditable to the country. The system followed in these diligences is exactly opposite to that in France. In the latter country, as one of their own writers long since observed, a traveller is a bale of merchandize, and the administration care nothing more about him, than to receive his fare, and secure themselves from being called on to pay for the loss of his baggage. These evils, instead of diminishing, are increasing every year, and the communications in the cross roads, and in nearly all the others, are a disgrace to a civilized country. In Spain the first consideration is the procuring every accommodation the country will allow, before any one is invited

to travel in their conveyances; every minutia is attended to, and the result is a progress in a short period quite incredible, which is affecting the whole system of internal communications. The system is almost universally the same. The passengers are called at a very early hour, when chocolate, or coffee, or tea, which is becoming very much the fashion, is served, according to the inclination of the parties. A portion of the journey is made, and you halt at ten or eleven, sooner or later, as it may be, to dine, as it is termed. This is a regular *déjeuner à la fourchette*. Two hours are allotted to this halt, when you again start, and generally arrive before dusk, after which supper is served. These repasts being provided entirely for the passengers, every one is obliged to pay a proportion, whether he partake or not, unless he spend money to a similar amount in some other way. Whenever the coach stops, the *mayoral* opens the door, and asks if any one wishes to alight. Every thing in these conveyances is on the same uniform system of polite and respectful attention to the company and to each other. To those who have travelled in French diligences, I need not remark the contrast too generally, especially in the south. In one of the last journies I made, the *conducteur* of a diligence from Bordeaux actually prevented the passengers breakfasting; securing his own selfish meal by stopping the coach on the road, contrary to law.

An individual, a retired officer of rank, named Cabanes, has been the principal instrument in founding this system, which has been followed with the most admirable and indefatigable zeal, and with the most complete success. Of the instruments they had to work with in the first instance, scarcely an idea can be formed. One great difficulty was the finding *mayorales*, or persons capable of taking charge of a coach, in a country where they were quite unknown,

and where the *zagales*, helpers, harnessers, and mules, were all equally novices. The escorts were, and in many instances are still, banditti, who were bought off the road and their occupation reversed. Of the sort of people these sometimes are, an idea may be formed, from a circumstance that happened in a coach in which I was travelling. The mules refused to mount a hill, and there was a momentary pause. A lady, who was in the back division, became alarmed, and opening the door, got out. One of the escort, a reclaimed bandit, who was engaged in urging the animals on, said, in my hearing, with an involuntary motion, which might have led to some such consequence, if he had been the director, "If I had my way, I would shoot any one who left the carriage." They are, however, in general, very well conducted, and in case of difficulty are often of great use. In the winter of 1830, which was extremely severe, I was going from Andalusia to Madrid. We had great difficulty to get through La Mancha, the road being quite broken up, and heavy sleet and snow falling. We only succeeded by the indefatigable exertions of the *zagales*, who ran on foot the whole way, nearly knee deep in mud and half melted snow, urging on the mules with their cheerful and unceasing voices. At the last post before Ocaña, there is a long and rather steep rise, which we reached at night fall. They had not taken the precaution of putting on additional mules, and the regular *tiro* refused to mount the *cuesta*. It was found impracticable to force them, and after some time they determined to send back for a reinforcement. The master of the post sent two mules, with orders to the *zagales*, that if they did not immediately succeed, they were to unyoke the whole and return home. A hard frost with Siberian cold had succeeded the sleet, and the animals and men were half frozen

by the time they returned; accordingly, after a short trial, they gave up the attempt, and quietly returned home, leaving the coach full of passengers to pass the night on the *cuesta*. We took the best plan, as there was no *posada* behind us, and sent on one of the escort to Ocaña for a *carro de violino*, a kind of tilted cart, so named from the mules being separated by a pole across the shoulders, which bears some resemblance to the bridge of that instrument. When this arrived we set out, leaving the coach and our baggage in charge of the escort, who followed some hours afterwards. The master of the post certainly ought to have been punished, but no Spaniard will ever stir in such a business, and they bore it with the cheerful patience, which is the national characteristic, and without making any complaint. The *mayoral*, in this instance, was an imbecile; one of the escort who had been a robber, taking charge and directing every thing.

Besides the diligences, the internal communication is kept up, in a great measure, by the *galeras*, or tilted waggons, which communicate with nearly every town in Spain. They have *paradores*, or houses of call, and are advertised in the *Diario*, like the ancient houses yet to be seen in the city of London, and which are still resorted to by the waggons, once the only modes of conveyance. I had frequently occasion to deal with these people, and invariably found them honest and attentive in the highest degree. In one instance, I was going by a circuitous route to Granada, and dispatched my heavy baggage, which was of considerable value, by a *galera*. I gave it, with the key, in charge of a man whom I never saw before or since, taking a receipt, which was written for him, as he was unable to do so himself. On my arrival at Granada, I dispatched a servant to the place where I was directed for

my trunk. An answer came back; "Tell the *caballero* that he must come in person, and see his trunk opened, that he may be satisfied every thing is right, as it was brought here." It is needless to say, I found it so. The man had returned to Madrid in his ordinary avocation, and had left the baggage in charge of the master of a small inn, where he was in the habit of stopping, in the heart of the city.

LAW.

THE administration of the law is universally admitted to be in the worst state it is possible to imagine, by the continuance of a long period of abuses, which are still constantly increasing. The forms resemble, in some respects, those of our own, such as the Exchequer, and Chancery courts, and some minor ones, with the addition of the grossest venality and corruption. There is a prodigious accumulation of laws and ordinances, which would appear contrived to forward the views of those who live by them; and not those of the suitors. The great courts of Granada, Valladolid, Barcelona, and Santiago are admitted to be so corrupt, that in almost all business of importance, the venue, or decision, is referred to the supreme appeal at Madrid. The engaging in those suits entails a banishment of the parties for years from their native place to the scene of law, as nothing can be done without the personal attendance and perseverance of the individual suitor. The only advantage, if it be one, which is very doubtful, is that the courts are in fact independent of government, who cannot succeed in procuring sentences or condemnations. Amongst the evils generated by their slow and corrupt practice, it

has resulted that government in these times have been obliged to try robbers and political offenders by courts martial, thus introducing a great evil, to counteract a still greater, impunity in crimes. The necessity of giving an appearance of influence to the sovereign, where he in reality has none, probably suggested the strange plan, mentioned under the head of the Military, of making the Captain general president of the *audiencia*.

In civil cases, it is usual for a cause to be protracted until both parties are utterly ruined by the expence, and no more money is to be extracted from them. Then the decision is produced, and they are told, by way of consolation, that the sentence is the most beautiful specimen of law in the world, and that such an accumulation of precedents is making that in future it will be a much more simple business. The great difference between these courts and some in other countries which they very strongly resemble, is that instead of suitors being ruined by the solicitors and counsel, the judges share in the plunder. The sums paid are very much smaller than with us, and the fee paid to a leading Counsel for going "special," a few miles out of town, would keep a whole court in Spain, judges and all, for a considerable time. In the criminal law a similar course is followed, and celerity is extremely rare. A shocking murder took place when I was at Granada. A female servant had two lovers, to one of whom she gave the preference; the other killed the unfortunate woman. It caused a great sensation in the city, but the man might have escaped if he had chosen to do so. He, however, went to walk the next day in the Alhambra, where he was known and arrested by the soldiers on duty. The master of the poor servant, who was attached to her, from her fidelity and affection, took immediate steps; and within a month the

murderer was executed. I heard it remarked that it was too speedy a procedure; so slow are the people, from habit, in judging of these matters!

Whilst I was in Spain, the only causes in general that were promptly managed, were those for political crimes, which marched with fearful rapidity.

The lawyers, in society, have the same social habits as the rest of the community. The judges are not the grave persons, at least universally so, that they are in some countries. I have known an instance of a learned judge going in domino to a masquerade, when it was forbidden to appear in such a costume, and he risked being arrested in the streets, and conducted, possibly before his own tribunal.

The difficulty of reforming the courts of law will be greater by far than that of any other department. The whole bar, and the *escribanos*, with the judges, would unite to prevent it, and they were, I have understood, during the *sistema*, reformers in every thing else but those which concerned their own interests. I have heard heavy complaints against them in the Cortes, where, like the popular assemblies of the old monarchies, before the middle class is formed, as in the first states in France, and those in Hungary, they have too great a preponderance. The habit of pleading gave them great advantages over those unaccustomed to speaking, and I have heard they consumed interminable periods in speeches upon points and quibbles or legal sophisms, then voting according to the bribes they received in many instances, transplanting the corrupt practices of the courts into an assembly where there was not a systematic organisation sufficient to oppose them. I believe a great desideratum, were it practicable, is the digesting the ordinances of the last reign, and incorporating such as are good, which is a small proportion, or to use

the expression, *funding* them, with the regular law of the monarchy, with which they are often at variance.

MEDICAL SCIENCE.

THE state of medical science is extremely low, from the want of resources for study, and of the ancient customs being still rigorously adhered to. Only in the capital, and in a few of the large towns, where they have had a little intercourse with foreigners, can any progress be said to have been made.

As it would be impossible to collect fees, the system in the country is to pay the medical attendant by the *commune*, a certain salary in money, and the remainder in corn, *garbanzos*,* and other articles. In addition to this, they receive gifts from their patients, and the follower of Esculapius may be seen returning from his visits, laden with fowls, eggs, wine, oil, or other articles, in the manner of the capuchins. In one place, as before mentioned, I found the only person who sold bread was the doctor, who supplied the wants of stray visitors, from the superabundance of his stores. The vacant places are advertised in the gazette, and the particulars set forth. Sometimes it is mentioned, "con obligacion de barberia;" meaning that he must shave, or provide a deputy, for the public service of the place; the two professions being in the country inseparably connected. I happened once to be under the care of the principal professor in a considerable town. I was shaved by the apprentice, and attended surgically by

* A kind of pulse very much eaten in Spain.

the master. His practice was of the old school. The case was severe, but fortunately nature and patience made skill unnecessary. In the progress of the cure, his custom was every morning to give a kind of lecture to a number of persons, who assembled to see the dressing, and seemed to gather up his words with uncommon avidity. He discoursed of axis and focus of inflammation, of ascending and descending matters proceeding from them, which he seemed inclined to consider rose and fell by their own gravity, and occasionally treated as if they vibrated in the manner of a pendulum. All these he discussed in the style of the ancient schools, recovering himself when he was in danger of being carried away into the depths of science, whither his auditors might not have been able to follow him, and varying his discourse with anecdotes of his adventures. He had been engaged in the retreat of Sir John Moore, of whom he spoke with great respect, and he was quite an object of veneration to the simple people of the place, who considered him a prodigy of learning.

In the south of Spain, an oculist was travelling at the expense of government, performing the operation of the cataract for the public, gratis, with extraordinary skill and success. His name was Plaza, and he was a native of Malaga. He was at Seville whilst I was once there, and it was the fashion to go to see him perform. His arrival was regularly notified, and the people from the villages around were brought to the eye hospital, where he relieved them with a quickness and precision admirable in the highest degree.

Empirics have found their way across the Pyrenees, and no inconsiderable number of panaceas are advertised at Madrid. They are, however, strictly watched by the government, and their progress occasionally regulated by