

**Aulnoy, Marie-Catherine Le Jumel de Berneville,
Comtesse d', 1650-1705**

**The lady's travels into Spain : or a genuine relation
of the Religion, Laws, Commerce, Customs, and
Manners of that country / written by the countess
D'Aunoy in a series of letters to a friend at Paris.**

London : T. Cadell and W. Davies, 1808.

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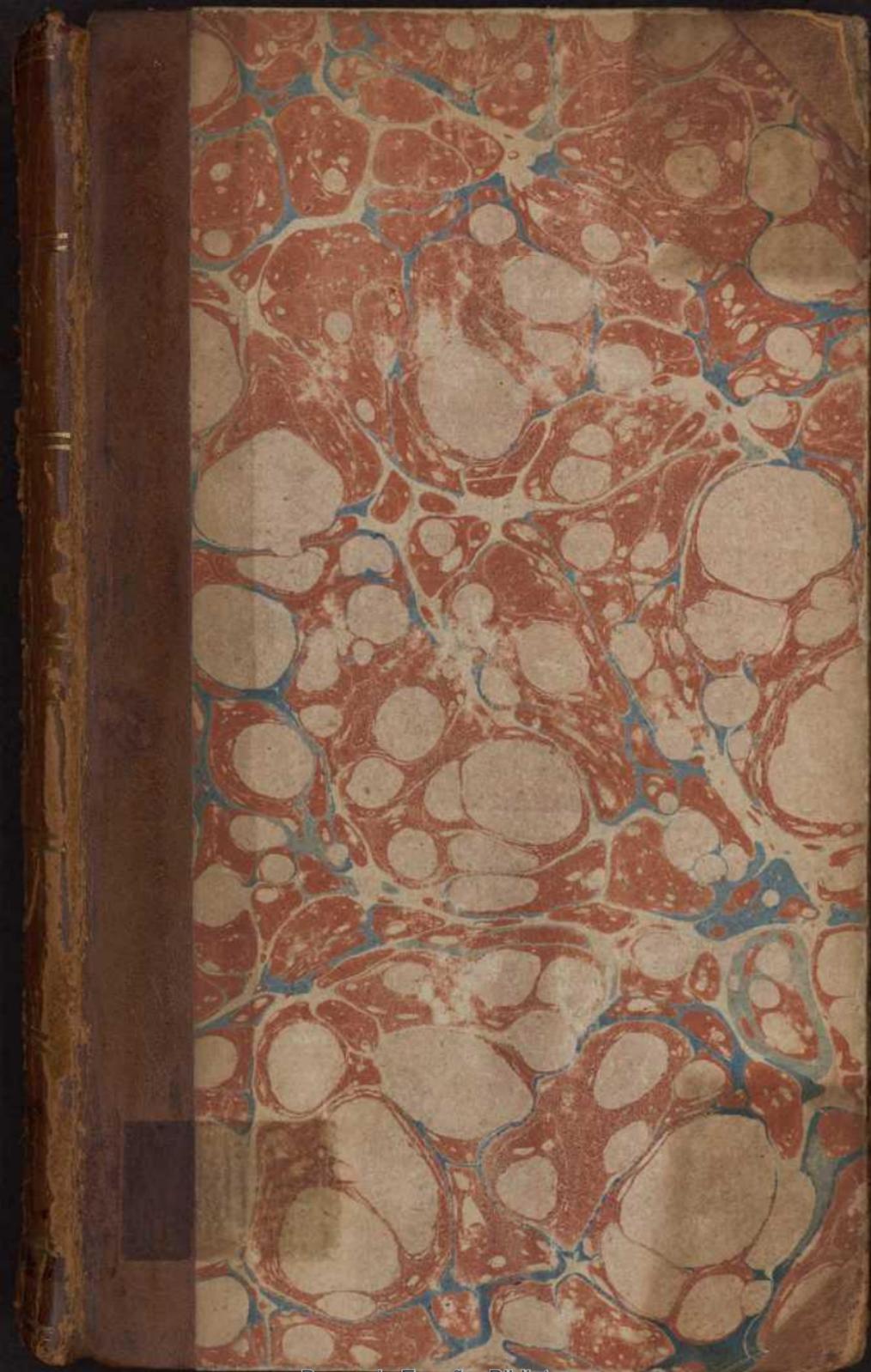
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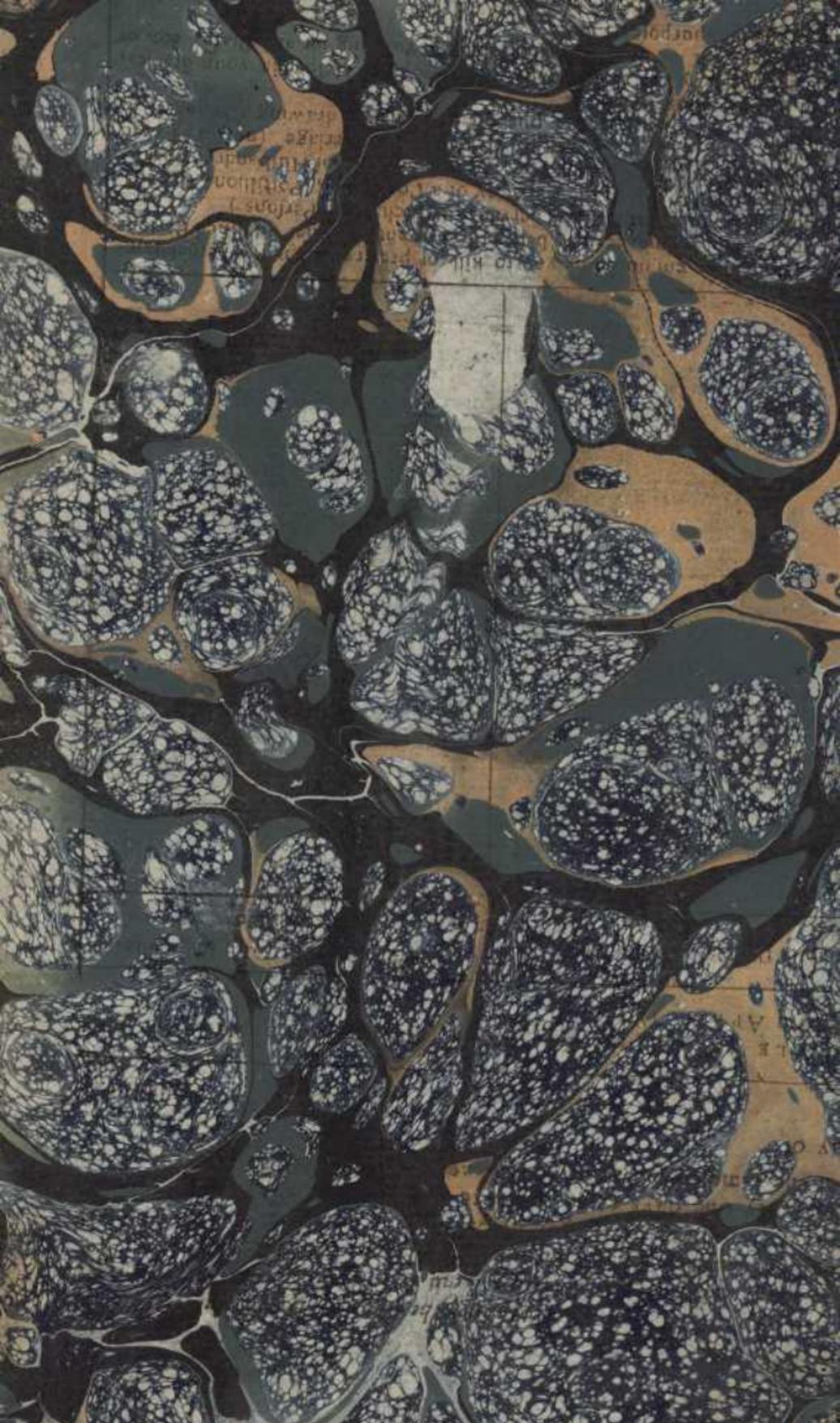
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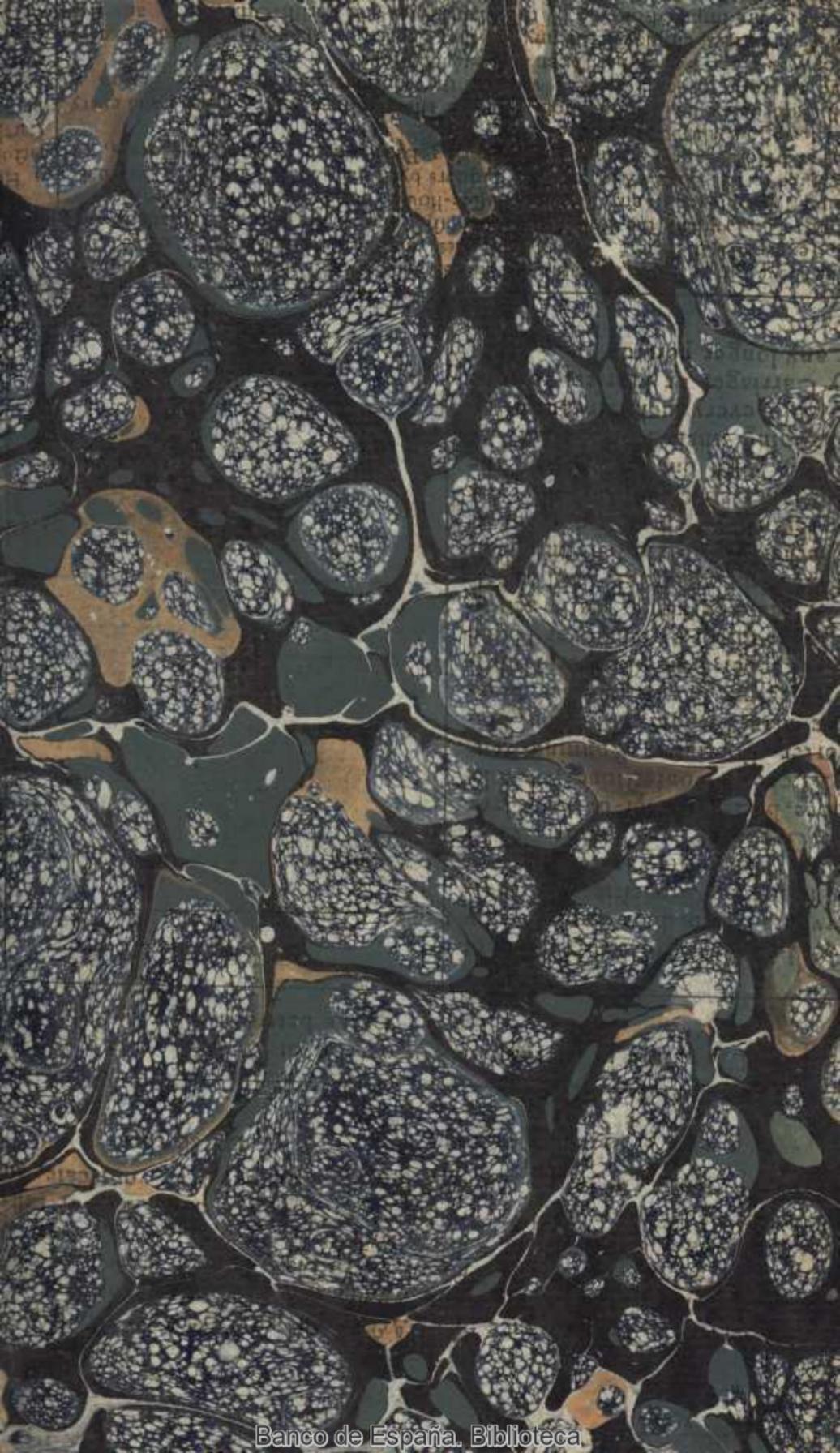
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THE
LADY'S TRAVELS
IN
SPAIN

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SPAIN:

A GENUINE RELATION

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INTO
SPAIN.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. II.

THE ALBUQUERQUE NAVIGATION.

LONDON:

PRINTED BY R. CLAYTON,

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WRITTEN BY

THE COUNTESS D'AUNOY,

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IN TWO VOLUMES.

Vol. II.

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LONDON:

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LETTERS

FROM

S P A I N.

LETTER X.

YOU did me a particular kindness in letting me know that all my letters came to your hands, for I was a little concerned for the two last: and since you still desire it, dear cousin, I shall continue to inform you of every thing that passes, and of all that is worthy of observation in this country.

The royal palace is built upon a hill, which insensibly descends to the very banks of the river called *Mansanares*: it commands a prospect several ways upon the country, which is very pleasant there. You go to it through the *Callemayor*, that is to say, the great street, which, indeed, is both very long and broad, several considerable

houses add to its beauty. There is a large open place before the palace, no person, of what quality soever, is allowed to come with a coach into the court, but they stop under the great arch of the porch, except it be when bonfires are made there, or when there are masquerades, and then coaches go in, a very small number of halbardeers stand at the gate; upon my asking why so great a king had so small a guard, "Why! madam, says a Spaniard to me, Are not we all his guards?" He reigns too absolutely in the hearts of his subjects, either to fear any thing, or distrust them. The palace stands at the end of the city, towards the south; it is built of very white stone, two pavilions complete the front, the rest is not regular. Behind it there are two square courts, each consisting of four sides; the first is adorned with two large terrace-walks, which run quite through, they are raised upon high arches, and are beautified with ballisters and statues: that which I observed very singular, was, that the women's statues had red paint on their cheeks and shoulders; you go through fine porches, which bring you to the staircase, which is extremely large; the apartments are furnished with excellent pictures, admirable tapestry, very fine statues, stately household goods, and, in a word, with every thing suitable to

a royal palace. But there are many of the rooms dark; I saw some which had no window, and received light only when the door opened; those which have windows are not much lighter, because of their smallness; they alledge, that the heat being so excessive, they are willing to hinder the sun from coming in as much as they can. There is also another reason, for glass is very scarce and dear; and as to other houses, there are many which have windows without any glass; and when they would describe a complete house, they will tell you in one word, that it is glazed. This want of glass does not appear without, because of the lattices. The palace is adorned with several gilt balconies, which, indeed, look very fine. All the councils sit there; and when the king has a mind to be present, he passes through certain galleries and small entries unperceived. There are a great many people persuaded, that the castle of Madrid, which Francis I. caused to be built near the wood of Bologne, was afterwards the model of the King of Spain's palace; but it is a mistake, for there is not any likeness. The gardens are not suitable to the dignity of the place; they are neither large enough, nor so well improved as they should be; the ground, as I have observed, reaches to the very brink of Mansanarez; the whole is inclosed with

walls; and if these gardens have any beauty, they owe it purely to nature. They work hard to get the young Queen's apartments ready for her reception; all her servants are named, and the King expects her with the greatest impatience.

The Buen Retiro is a royal house near one of the gates of the city; the Count Duke caused at first a small house to be built there, and called it Galinera; it was for keeping his fine poultry in, which had been presented to him, and as he often went to see them, and the situation of the place was on the descent of a little hill, which commanded a pleasant prospect, so he was invited to undertake a considerable building. Four large apartments and four great pavilions make a perfect square. In the middle there is a flower-pot, well furnished with flowers, and a fountain, whose statue (which throws the water when they have a mind) sprinkles the flowers and the cross-walks, which go from one apartment to another. This building has the fault of being too low, the rooms are large, stately, and adorned with curious paintings. Every thing shines with gold and lively colours, with which the ceilings and floors are beautified. I took notice in the great gallery of the entry of Queen Elizabeth, mother to the late Queen; she is on horseback, with a ruff and far-

thingale; she has a hat trimmed with jewels, and a plume of feathers; she is fat, fair, and pleasing; she has fine eyes, and her looks are sweet and ingenuous. The room for acting plays in is well designed, very large, all well set out with carving and gilding; there may sit fifteen in a box, without inconvenience to each other; they have all lattice windows, and the King's box is richly gilt; there are neither galleries nor amphitheatre, every one sits upon benches on the floor. On the side of the terrace is the statue of Philip II. upon a horse of brass: this piece is of great value; those that are curious please themselves with taking a draught of him. The park is above a good league in compass; there are in it divers separate lodges, very handsome, and which have good accommodation of room; there is a canal which is supplied with water from springs at a vast charge; and another square place, in which the king has small gondolas painted and gilt; thither he goes during the great heats of the summer, the fountains, trees, and meadows making that place more cool and pleasant than any other; there are grottos, cataracts, ponds, shades, and in some parts even something of the wild fields, which displays the simplicity of the country, and is extremely delightful.

The Casa del Campo is for rural enjoyment, it

is not large, but its situation is fine, being upon the bank of Mansanarez; the trees in it are high, and yield a shade at all times. I speak of the trees in this country, because there are but very few of them to be found: there is water in many parts of it, particularly one pond, which is surrounded with large oaks. The statue of Philip IV. is in the garden; this place is a little neglected. Here I saw lions, bears, tigers, and other wild beasts, which live very long in Spain, because the climate is much the same as that from which they come; many people go there to study, and the ladies usually choose this place to walk in, because it is less frequented than others. But to return to Mansanarez: this river does not run up to the city; at certain times it is neither a river nor so much as a brook, though at other times it is so large and rapid that it carries before it all that stands in its way: all the summer, people walk in it; there is so little water in it at this season, that you can hardly wet your foot, and yet in winter, all on a sudden, it overflows the adjacent country; this is caused by the melting of the great quantities of snow which covers the hills, and so descends into the Mansanarez in violent torrents of water. Philip II. caused a bridge to be built over it, which they call the Segovie-bridge; it is very

lofty, and every way as fine as the Pont-Neuf, over the Seine, at Paris. When strangers see it, they fall a laughing; they think it ridiculous to have caused such a bridge to be built where there is no water. Hereupon there was a person said, wittily enough, "He would advise them to sell the bridge, and buy some water."

The Florid is a most pleasant house, and its gardens are infinitely delightful; there are in it great numbers of Italian statues, by the best masters: the water there makes a pretty sort of a murmur, which, with the sweet smell of the flowers (of which they have a collection of the rarest and best scented) is very charming.

From thence we come to the Prado Nuevo, where there are several spouting fountains, and trees there are of a very extraordinary height; this is a walk, which, though it be not even ground, yet is not less agreeable; its descent is so easy, that the unevenness of the place can hardly be perceived.

There is also the Carzuela, which affords not any thing but country delights, and some cool rooms, where the King comes and rests himself after hunting; but it is the prospect which yields the pleasure, and delightful objects might be made there.

That I may tell you of something else besides the King's houses, you must know, dear cousin, that on May-day they resort to a place without the gate of Toledo. This is called El Sotillo, and none excuse themselves from going thither; to be sure, then, I went, but it was more for the sake of seeing than to be seen, though my French dress made me very remarkable, and drew a great many eyes on me. The women of great quality never go abroad to take the air in their whole life, except it be in the first year of their marriage; I mean into public walks and places; and then, too, it is under the very noses of their husbands, the wife at the lower, and the husband at the upper end of the coach; the curtains are all open, and she finely ornamented: but it is a ridiculous thing to see these two creatures sit like statues, looking at each other, and without speaking a word for an hour. There are certain days set apart for walking and taking the air; all Madrid goes abroad then; the King is seldom there; but except the King and a few courtiers, no one fails of going. That which makes it very troublesome, is their long traces, which take up a great compass of ground, and occasions the horses often to entangle. Several ladies who are not of the highest rank resort thither, but with their curtains; they only look

through small glasses which are fastened into the sides of the coach. But at night the ladies of quality come incognito; and when it is dark, they please themselves so far as to walk on foot: they wear white mantles upon their heads; these are a kind of hood, made of woollen stuff, which covers them all over; they embroider them with black silk: these are only the ordinary women, and such as go upon some intrigue, who wear them; yet sometimes, as I have said, certain court-ladies will go in this dress. The cavelleros also alight and walk, and say some odd thing or other to them, but they meet with their match.

The Count de Berka, the German envoy, told me, that, the other night as he was at supper, and his windows (because of the cold) being shut, somebody knocked at the lattice of his hall; he sent to see who it was; they found three women in white mantles, who desired to have the windows open, that they would be more conveniently entertained in the hall: they all came in concealed, and placed themselves in a corner, and so stood all the while he was at table. He intreated them, but in vain, to sit down and eat some sweetmeats; but they would not do either; but after they had said a great many merry things to him, in which they abundantly shewed a strange quickness of wit,

they went away. He discovered that these were the Duchesses de Medina Celi, d'Ossuna, and Ducada, having seen them at their own houses; for ambassadors have the privilege sometimes to go to the great ladies, and give them a visit of audience; but he was willing to have yet a greater certainty, and therefore caused them to be followed: they were seen to go into one of their houses by a private door, at which some of their women waited for them. These little disguises are not always attended with over much innocence.

As to the men, when night comes, they walk on foot to the Prado; they make up to the coaches in which they see women, and leaning upon the boots, they either throw flowers, or sprinkle water upon them; and when they are permitted, they go into the coach to them.

But as to the meeting on May-day, it is certainly a great pleasure to see the citizens and the people how they sit; some upon the young corn, some upon the sides of the Manzanarez, others playing at ombre, and others, either with their wives, children, friends, or mistresses, basking themselves in the sun; some are eating of a sallad with leeks and onions, others hard eggs, and others gammon of bacon,

and even *galinas de loche*, which are sea-hens, and very excellent. They all drink water like ducks, and play either upon the guitar or harp. The king came there with Don John, the Duke de Medina Celi, the Constable de Castile, and the Duke de Prastratie; I only saw his coach of green oil-cloth, drawn by six pyed horses, the finest in the world; and all covered over with spangles of gold, and knots of rose-colored ribbon: the curtains of the coach were of green damask, with a fine gold fringe, but so close drawn, that you could not perceive any thing but through the small glasses on the sides of the coach. It is the custom, when the King passes by, to stand still, and in respect to draw the curtains; but we, according to the French fashion, let ours be open, and were satisfied in making a very low bow. The King took notice of a spaniel I had in my arms, and which the Marchioness d' Alvi, who is a very handsome lady, desired me to carry to the Constable of Colonna's lady; and as I loved it mightily, she sent it to me very often. The King sent the Count de los Arcos, Captain of the Spanish guards, to ask me for it; he came up to the coach side on horseback. I immediately gave it to him, and the creature had the

honour to be made much of by his Majesty, who was mightily pleased with the little bells about her neck, and the buckles upon her ears. He had a dog which he loved extremely, and he sent to ask me if I would be willing that he should keep mine for Daraxa, which was the name of his.

You may easily imagine, dear cousin, what answer I made. He returned me the spaniel, but without either her collar or buckles, and he ordered the Count de los Arcos to give me a gold box full of pastrils, which he had about him, and desired me to keep it. It is but of small value, but coming from such a hand, I mightily esteem it.

It was don John, who is my kinswoman's friend, who obtained this mark of the King's bounty to me; for he knew of my being in Madrid, though I have not had the honour yet to see him.

Two days afterwards, as I was all alone in my apartment, busy in painting a small piece, I saw come in, a man whom I knew not; but one, who by the air of his face, I could easily judge to be of quality; he told me, that not having met with my kinswoman, he was resolved to tarry till she came, for he had letters to give her. After some little discourse, he gave occasion to talk of Don

John, and told me, that he doubted not but that I frequently saw him. I replied, that indeed, since my arrival, this prince came often to visit my kinswoman, but he never asked for me. "The reason of that, perhaps," adds he, "was because you was sick that day." I was not sick, replied I, and I should have been very glad both to have seen and heard him, for I have been told both good and ill of him, and I have a mind to know whether they do him right or wrong. I have signified my desire to my kinswoman, but, she told me, there was no way to gratify me, for he was so devout, that he would speak to no woman. "Is it possible," says he, smiling, "that his devotion should so much disturb his mind? for my part, I am confident he asked for you, and was assured that you was ill of a fever." "Of a fever! cried I, that is very strange! I beseech you, how do you know it?" But just then, my kinswoman came in, she was extremely amazed to find Don John with me, and so was I, for I little thought it was he. He told her several times that he knew not how to pardon her for the idea she had given me of him, that he was no bigot, and that he was persuaded, true devotion did not make a man rude and inhuman.

I think him very handsome, of a noble car-

riage, very well bred, extremely witty, and of great quickness of mind. As my kinswoman has a great share of wit, so she cleared herself well enough from what he taxed her with. But when he was gone, she was ready to eat me for anger, because I denied having had a fever. I desired her to excuse me, because I was ignorant what she had said to him, and that I could not divine: she answered me, "that at court they must be able to divine, or else they would act a very silly part."

She asked the Prince, if it was true, that the Queen-mother had written to the King, and begged that she might see him, and that he had refused her. He agreed it was, and also, that it was the only reason which hindered his Majesty from going to Aranjuez, lest she should come to him there, contrary to the prohibition for her not stirring out of Toledo. What, my lord, said I, will not the King see the Queen his mother? "Say rather," replied he "that it is a state policy which forbids sovereigns to follow their inclinations when they do not suit with the public good. We have a constant maxim in the council of state, always to consult the spirit of Charles V. in all difficult matters; we enquire what he would have done on such an occasion, and that

we endeavour to practice in our turn. For my part, I am of opinion with a great many others, that he ought not to see his mother, since it was fit for him to banish her; and the King himself is so fully persuaded of this, that he answered her, it could not be." But it was not difficult for me to see, that Don John fitted the genius of Charles V. to his own.

The King is gone to Buen Retiro, where I had the honour to see him first, at a play, for he opened the lattice of his box to look at us in ours, because we were dressed in the French manner. The Danish ambassador's lady was dressed after the same fashion, and so handsome, that he told the Prince of Monteleon, he was mightily taken with us, only it was pity that our heads were not trimmed, and our bodies dressed after the Spanish mode; that the more he looked at the clothes of the French ladies, the more they displeased him; that the men's did not so much offend him. The opera of Alcinus was acted before him, but I gave little attention to it, looking so earnestly at the King,* that I might be able to describe him to you. I must tell you then, that his complexion is delicate and fair; he has a broad forehead,

* Charles II.

his eyes are fine, and have a great deal of sweetness in them; his face is very long and narrow; his lips, like those of the house of Austria, are very thick, and his mouth is wide; his nose is very much hawked; his chin is sharp, and turns up; he has a great head of hair, and fair, lank, and put behind his ears; his stature is pretty high, straight and slender; his legs are small, and almost of a thickness: he is naturally very kind and good; he is inclined to clemency, and of the great variety of council he has given him, he takes that which is most for the advantage of his people, for he loves them extremely. He is not of a vindictive spirit, he is sober, liberal, and pious; his inclinations are virtuous; he is of an even temper, and of easy access: he hath not had all that education which is requisite to form the mind, but yet he seems not deficient. I will now note some of his merry humors which have been told me, and though they are of no great importance, yet it may still be pleasant to know them.

It is not long since the Lady Connestable de Collonna, who is in a religious house at St. Domingo, got out of the abbey, from whence she had made several escapes; the nuns, tired with her behaviour, resolved to admit her no more; and

indeed, the last time she endeavoured to get in they plainly told her, that she might either betake herself to the world, or chuse some other place than their house for a retirement. She was extremely offended at this refusal, which by no means suited with a person of her quality and merit. She got some of her friends to apply themselves to the King, and he sent orders to the abbess to receive her in again. The abbess and all the nuns were obstinate in their refusal, saying, "that they would themselves represent their reasons to his Majesty in person." When this answer of the nuns was related to the King, he burst out a laughing, and said, "It will be pretty sport to see this procession of the nuns, who will come along singing, *Libera nos Domine de la Contestabile.*" But yet they did not go, and chose rather to obey, which is always safest.

Some days ago it rained and thundered most terribly. The King, who sometimes pleases himself in playing little tricks with his courtiers, commanded the Marquis d'Astorgas to wait for him upon the terrace-walk in the palace. The good old man said to him, smiling, "Sir, will it be long before you come?" "Why do you ask?" said the King. "That your Majesty," replied he, "may send a coffin to put me in, for there is no like-

lihood that I should be able to contend with such weather as this." "Go, go, Marquis," says the King, "I will come to you." The Marquis went out, and without any scruple, stepped into his coach, and went directly home. Two hours afterwards, the King said, "For certain the good old man is wet to the skin, let him be called in, I have a mind to see him in such a condition." But they told the King that he did not expose himself at all, upon which he said, "that he was not only old, but wise."

There was taken some time ago near the palace, disguised in man's clothes, one of the handsomest misses of Madrid; she had set upon her gallant, of whom she believed she had cause to complain; he knowing her by her voice, and the manner of handling her sword, would not make use of his to defend himself; so far from it, that he opened his waistcoat, and gave her free leave to thrust at him, thinking perhaps, that she either was not angry, or had not courage enough to do it; but he deceived himself, for, with all her strength, she made a pass at him, which made him drop down; she no sooner perceived his blood, but she threw herself upon the ground, and cried out most dreadfully, tore her skin off her face, and pulled her hair off her head: the people which were got about her, plain-

ly perceived by her looks, and her long hair, that she was a woman; the officers of justice seized her; and some lords passing by at that time, seeing her, related to the King what had happened. He had a mind to speak with her; she was brought before him; "Art thou she" said he to her, "that has wounded a man near the palace?" "Yes, Sir," answered she, "I was resolved to be revenged of an ungrateful man: he promised I should have his heart, yet I am assured he gave it since to another." "But why art thou so afflicted," replied he, "since thou hast got thy revenge?" "Ah, Sir," continued she, "in seeking my revenge, I have punished myself, I am now upon the brink of despair; I beseech your Majesty to command them to put me to death, for I have deserved the severest torment." The king took pity on her, and turning to those about him, "Well, really," said he, "I can hardly believe that there is in the world so miserable a state, as to love and not to be beloved. Go," said he, "thou hast more love than reason, but endeavour to be wiser for the future, and do not abuse that liberty I restore to thee." And thus she withdrew without being carried to the place where they keep miserable wretches that have led bad lives.

(All this that I have told you of the King has

carried me from the opera of Alcimus; the first time I saw it was with so much wandering of mind, that when I saw it again, it appeared quite new to me; there was never seen more sorry machines; they made the gods come down on horseback upon a beam, which reached from one end of the theatre to the other; the sun shone by the help of a dozen of oiled paper lanthorns, in each of which there was a lamp. When Alcimus practised her enchantments, and invoked the demons, they came conveniently out of hell by ladders: *Le Gratoso*, that is to say, the jack-pudding, said a thousand impertinences; the singers had indifferent good voices, only they sung too much in the throat. Heretofore there was a liberty for several sorts of people to come into the great room; but this custom is changed, and now there is only suffered to come in, the great lords, and at the most, *titulados*, and the knights of the three military orders. This room is certainly a very fair one, it is all painted and gilt; the boxes, as I have already told you, are always barred with lattices, like those we have at the opera; but they reach from top to bottom, and look as if they were chambers; that side where the king sits is magnificent. As to the rest, the finest comedy in the world (I mean those that are acted in the city)

very often receives its fate from the weak fancy of some ignorant wretch or other. But there is one in particular, and a shoemaker, who decides the matter, and who hath gained such an absolute authority so to do, that when the poets have written their plays, they go to him, and as it were, sue for his approbation; they read to him their plays, the shoemaker, with grave looks thereupon, utters abundance of nonsense, which nevertheless the poor poet is obliged to put up with; after all, if he happens to be at the first acting of it, every body has their eyes upon the behaviour of this pitiful fellow; the young people, of what quality soever, imitate him. If he yawns, they yawn, if he laugh, so do they. In a word, sometimes he grows angry or weary, and then takes a little whistle and falls a whistling; at the same time you shall hear a hundred whistles, which makes so shrill a noise, that it is enough to confound the heads of the spectators. By this time our poor poet is quite ruined; all his study and pains having been at the mercy of a blockhead, according as he was in a good or bad humour.

In this play-house, there is a certain part of it, which is called *La Casuela*; it is like the amphitheatre; all the women that are not over-virtuous; sit there, and thither the great lords

go to talk with them; sometimes they make such a noise that they would outdo the thunder, and they say things so very pleasant, that they would make one die with laughing; for their wit is free from all restraint of decency. Besides, they are informed of all things which happen in the town; and if they had a merry jest to break upon their Majesties, they had rather be half hanged than lose it.

It may be said, that the women players are adored in this court; there is hardly any that is not the mistress of some great person, and for whom several duels have been fought, and a great many people killed. I do not know how charming their discourse may be, but I am sure their persons are the ugliest in the world; they are extravagantly expensive, and sooner must a whole family perish with hunger and thirst, than one of those beggarly players should want the least superfluity.

We are now in a season that is troublesome enough, for it is the custom here to put their mules to grass, and almost every body walks on foot. At this time you can see nothing but grass brought from all parts, and the greatest lord hardly keeps two mules to draw him, for this reason they often go on horseback.

Those horses which have been at the bull-baitings, and are good for these sort of sports, are dear, and much in request. The King had a mind to divert himself, and ordered a bull-feast to be on the twenty-second day of this month. I was very glad of it, for though I had heard much talk of them, I never saw any yet; and the young Count de Conismark, who is a Swede, would taurise, or bait the bull for a young lady of my acquaintance, so that I was the more eager to go to the Placea-major, where my kinswoman, as she was a titulado of Castille, had her balcony set up with a canopy, a carpet, and cushion of state. To give you a particular account of all that passes at these feasts, I must tell you, that after the King has appointed one of them, there are some cows, which they call mandarines, led into the forests and mountains of Andalusia, it is known that the most furious bulls are in those places, and as they are trained up for this purpose, so they run into the wood; the bulls spy them out and eagerly court them, those fly and these pursue them, and so are decoyed into certain palisadeos, set on purpose along the way, which is sometimes thirty or forty leagues in length, several men are armed with half-pikes, and well mounted, who hunt these bulls, and hinder them

from coming back; but it is not seldom that they are forced to fight them within these pales, and frequently they are killed or wounded.

There are people placed all along the road, who bring advice when the bulls will arrive at Madrid, and there also they set pallisadoes in the street to prevent any mischief.

The mandarines, who are real traitors, go constantly before, and the poor bulls quietly follow after into the very place designed for baiting them, where there are large stables built on purpose, with shutters, contrived to keep them in; there are sometimes thirty, forty, or fifty together; this stable has two doors, the mandarines go in at one, and escape at the other; and when the bulls think to follow them still, they are hindered by a trap, in which they are caught.

After they have rested a few hours, they are one after another led out of the stable into the great square, where there are a great many young, lusty, strong peasants, some of whom take the bull by the horns, and others by the tail, and because they mark him upon the buttock with a hot iron, and slit his ears, they call them heradores. This is not so easily done, for there are frequently divers persons killed, and this is the beginning of the shew, which always mightily delights the peo-

ple, whether it be upon the account that blood is shed, or else, that they love to see something extraordinary, and at first sight surprizing, and which afterwards furnishes them with matter for many reflexions; but though unlucky accidents do happen at these feasts, yet it does not appear that they take any warning from them, for they are still forward to expose themselves at every baiting that is made.

The bulls are fed, and the best of them are picked out for the baiting; they can even distinguish those that are either sons or brothers of those bulls which made a great slaughter in former feasts; they tie to their horns a long ribbon, and by the colour of that every body knows them again, and recites the history of their ancestors; that the grandsire or great grandsire of these bulls bravely killed such and such-a-one, and they expect no less from those that then appear.

When they have sufficiently rested, the Placamayor is covered with sand, and round it are placed bars equal to a man's height, upon which are painted the arms of the King and his kingdoms. I fancy this place to be larger than the Palace-royal at Paris, it is longer than it is broad, and about it are houses built upon pillars and arches like towers, five stories high, and to each

there is a row of balconies, into which there are large glass-doors. The King's stands more forward than the rest, is more spacious, and all gilt. It is in the middle of one of the sides, with a canopy over it; over against it are the ambassadors balconies, who have a place when the King goes to chapel; that is, the nuncio, the Emperor's ambassadors, that of France, of Poland, the Venetian, and that of Savoy; those of England, Holland, Sweden, Denmark, and other protestant Princes, have none there. The councils of Castille, Arragon, the Inquisition, Italy, Flanders, the Indies, the Orders, War, the Croisado, and of the Finances, are on the right hand of the King: they are distinguished by their arms upon their crimson velvet carpets, which are all embroidered with gold. After these, are placed the city companies, the judges, the grandees and titulados, according to their several degrees, and at the King's charge, or else at the city's, who hire these balconies of private persons that dwell there.

For all those I have now named the King makes a collation; and it is given in very neat baskets, to the women as well as the men; it consists of dried fruits, sweat-meats, and water cooled with ice; besides presents of gloves, ribbons, fans, pastiles,

silk stockings, and garters, insomuch that these feasts always cost above a hundred thousand crowns; and this expence is defrayed out of the fines and forfeitures adjudged to the King, or to the city; this is a fund which must not be meddled with, though it were to save the kingdom from the greatest danger; the doing of it might cause a sedition. So bewitched are the people with this kind of pleasure.

From the level of the pavement to the first balcony, there are scaffolds made for the rest of the people; they give from fifteen to twenty pistoles for a balcony; and there is not any but what are let, and adorned with rich carpets, and fine canopies. The people are not seated under the King's balcony, that place is filled with his guards; there are only three gates open into it, through which persons of quality pass in their richest coaches, and particularly the ambassadors; and they make several turns round it, a little before the King comes. The cavaliers salute the ladies who stand in the balconies, without being covered with their mantles or vails, they are decked out with all their jewels, and whatever they have that is finest. One can see nothing but extreme rich stuffs, with tapestry, cushions and carpets, all of raised work in gold. I never saw any thing more glorious; the

King's balcony is hung round with green and gold curtains, which he draws when he will not be seen.

The King came about four o'clock, and immediately all the coaches went out of the square. Generally the ambassador of France is the most taken notice of, because he and all his train are dressed after the French mode; and he is the only ambassador that has this privilege here, for the others are in the Spanish dress. There are five or six coaches that go before the King's in which are the officers, and the gentlemen and pages of his chamber. The coach of honour, in which there is no person, marches immediately before his Majesty's own, whose coachman and postillion are always bareheaded, a footman carrying their hats; the coach is surrounded with footguards. Those whom they call the life-guards have partisans, and march very near the coach; and next the boots walk a great many of the King's pages, cloathed in black, and without swords, which is the only mark to know them from other pages. As the ladies that are designed to be about the young Queen, are already named, so they all came under the conduct of the Duchess of Terra Nova, in the King's coaches; they march by the men's boots of the highest quality,

some on foot, that they might be nearer, and others mounted on the finest horses in the world, trained up for that purpose, and which they call horses of motion. That they may perform this piece of gallantry, they must have leave from their mistresses, otherwise it is a great blemish to their reputation, and what may engage the lady's kindred in trouble, for they take their honor to be concerned in this liberty: but when she approves of it, they may practise all the pleasant humors for which these sort of feasts minister occasion. But though they need fear nothing from the ladies they serve, nor their relations, yet they are not freed from all uneasiness, for the duennas, or women of honor, of which there is too great a provision in each coach, and the guard ladies who go on horseback, are troublesome observers; hardly can one begin to discourse, but these old hags will draw the curtain, and will tell you, that that love which is fullest of respect is the most discreet; so that very often one must be content to let the eyes speak, and to sigh so loud, that one may be heard at a distance.

All things being thus disposed, the captain of the guards, and the other officers, mounted upon very fine horses, enter the square, at the head of the Spanish, German, and Burgundian guards;

they are cloathed in yellow velvet or sattin, which is the livery of the King, trimmed with tufted crimson galoon, mixed with gold and silver. The yeomen of the guard, which I call the life-guard, wears only a short cloak of the same livery, over black cloaths. The Spaniards wear breeches tucked up after the old way. The Germans, who are called Tedesques, wear them like the Switzers; they stand in ranks near the King's balcony, while the two captains, and the two lieutenants, who carry each of them a staff of command in their hands, and are followed by a great many liveries; march all four in a rank at the head of the guards, several times round the place, to give the necessary orders, and to salute the ladies of their acquaintance; their horses curvet and bound continually; they are covered with knots of ribbons, and embroidered housings: they are called pissadoyes for distinction. Upon this day every one of these lords affect to wear that colour which their mistresses love most.

When the people are come without the bars, and are seated upon their scaffolds, the place is watered with forty or fifty tuns of water, which is brought thither in little carts. Then the captains of the guards come back, and take their posts under the King's balcony; where all the guards

are likewise placed, and make a sort of a fence, standing very close together; and although the bulls are sometimes ready to kill them, yet they must not go back, nor stir from their place; they only present to them the point of their halberds, and so with a great deal of hazard defend themselves.

I do assure you that this strange number of people (for every place is full, even the tops of the houses as well as the rest) in the balconies so richly set out, with so many beautiful women in them, this great court, the guards, and in a word, the whole place, makes on of the finest shews that ever I saw.

As soon as the guards are possessed of the quarter where the King is, six alguazils, or city doorkeepers, enter the square, each holding a white rod: their horses are excellent, harnessed after the Morisco fashion, and covered with little bells. Their habit is white; they wear plumes of feathers, and put the best looks on they can, in so much danger as they are in; for they are not allowed to stir out of the lists: and it is their business to escort the knights that are to fight.

I should tell you, before I proceed any further in this short description, that there are certain laws established for this sort of bull-baiting, which

are called *duelo*, that is, duel, because one knight assaults the bull, and fights him in single combat. These are some of the things which are observed: one must be a gentleman born, and known for such, that he may fight on horseback. It is not allowed to draw the sword upon the bull, unless he has insulted over you; they call it insulting when the bull breaks or forces the garrochion or lance out of the hand, or if he make your hat fall off, or your cloak, or has wounded you or your horse, or any of your company. In this case the knight is obliged to push his horse directly upon the bull; for this is an *empenno*, that is to say, an affront, that engages one to be revenged, or to die; and he must give him *Una Cuchilada*, or a back stroke upon his head or neck. But if the horse, on which the cavellero rides, refuses to go up to the bull, then immediately he alights, and courageously marches on foot to this fierce animal. The sword is very short, and about three fingers broad. The other knights which are there to fight, are all obliged to alight off their horses, and accompany him that is under the *empenno*; but they do not second him, so as to assist him in the least against his enemy. If they all march up in this manner towards the bull, and he flies to the other end of the square, instead of tarrying for

them, or meeting them, after they have pursued him some time, they have satisfied the laws of duelling.

If there be in the town any horses that have been at a baiting, and are dexterous at it, though they do not know the owners, yet they will borrow them; nay, though they do not desire to sell them, nor the others in a condition to buy them, yet they never refuse them. If by mischance the horse is killed, and they offer to pay for him, it is not accepted, because, to receive money upon such an occasion would not be agreeable to the Spanish generosity. Nevertheless, it would vex a man to have a horse that he had taken pains to breed up, without any more ado taken from him by the first stranger, and through his means killed. This sort of combat is reckoned so dangerous, that indulgences are exposed in several churches for those days, because of the great massacre that is then made. Several popes would have quite abolished such barbarous sights, but the Spaniards begged the court of Rome so earnestly to let them continue, that their humor has been complied with, and to this day they are tolerated.

The first day I was there, the alguazils came to the gate, which is at the end of the list, to escort the six knights, (of whom the Count de Conings-

mark was one) who offered themselves to combat. Their horses are handsome to admiration, and most richly harnessed; besides those they ride on, they had each of them a dozen led by grooms, with as many mules loaded with *rejonés* or *garrochions*, which are, as I have said, lances made of very dry fir, about four or five foot long, painted and gilt, and the iron-work very well polished; and the mules were covered with velvet cloths of the same colour as those of the combatants, with their arms embroidered in gold: this is not practised at all feasts: when the city orders one, there is far less magnificence; but as the King commanded this, and it was upon his marriage, nothing was omitted.

The cavalleros were dressed in black, embroidered either with gold and silver, silk or bugles; they had white plumes of feathers, spotted with several colours, and a rich knot of diamonds, with a hat-band of the same. They had scarfs, some white, and others crimson, blue and yellow, embroidered with gold. Some wore them round their waist, others over their shoulders like a belt, and others about their arm; these last were narrow and short; without doubt their mistresses presented them, for commonly they run to please them, and to shew that there is no danger to which

they would not expose themselves for their diversion. They had also a black cloak which wrapped about them. But the ends being thrown behind them, it did not hinder their arms: they wore little white buskins, with long gilt spurs, which have only one sharp point after the fashion of the Moors; they also sit a horse like them, which is called *Cavalgas a la gineta*.

The cavalleros were handsomely mounted, and looked gracefully enough for this country; they were nobly born, and every one had forty footmen, some cloathed in gold mohair trimmed with lace; others in carnation-coloured brocade, striped with gold and silver, and the rest in some other fashion. Every one of them was dressed like a stranger, such as Turk, Hungarian, Moor, Indian, or wild people. Several of the footmen carried a bundle of these garrochions I before mentioned, and this looked very well: thus with all their train they crossed the Placa-mayor, conducted by the six alguazils, and the trumpets sounding. They came before the King's balcony, and made a profound reverence to him, and desired leave of him to fight the bulls, which he granted them, and wished them victory. Then the trumpets every where began to sound again, and this was done, as it were, in defiance of the bulls. All the people fell to shout-

ing, and repeating *Viva, viva los bravos Cavalleros*: after this they separated, and saluted the ladies of their acquaintance. All the footmen went out of the list, except two for each knight, which are left to carry their *rejones*; these keep close to their masters, and it is very seldom they forsake them.

Several young men entered into the square, there are many come a great way off to fight on these days: these I now speak of are on foot, and not being nobly born, they use no ceremonies with them. While one cavellero is fighting, the rest withdraw, but not out of the bars; and they do not assault that bull which another has undertaken to fight, unless he makes at them. The first to whom the bull makes at when they are altogether, is he that fights him. Whenever he wounds a knight, they cry out *Filino es empenno*, that is to say, it is an obligation upon such an one to revenge the affront he has received from the bull; and indeed honor engages him, either on horseback or on foot, to attack the bull, and give him a cut with his sword, as I have before observed, either upon his head or throat, without striking him in any other part. Afterwards he may fight him as he will, and strike him where he can; but in doing this his life is a thousand times in danger. When

this blow is given, if the knights are on foot, they may mount their horses.

When the King thought it was time to begin the baiting, two alguazils came under his balcony, and he then gave to Don John the keys of the stable where the bulls are secured; for the King keeps the key, and when they must be thrown, he delivers them into the hands of a privado, or chief minister, as a favor. Immediately the trumpets sound, the timbrels and the drums, the flutes and bagpipes make a noise round the place, one after another; and the alguazils, who are naturally great cowards, go trembling to open the doors where the bulls are kept. There was a man hid behind the door, who shut it as fast as he could, and then by a ladder climbed up to the top of the stable; for it is usual with the bull, in coming out, to look behind the door, and to begin his expedition by killing, if he can, the man that stands there: after that he sets to running with all his might after the alguazils, who spur their horses to save themselves, for they are not allowed to stand upon their defence, and their best play is to run away. Those men who are on foot, throw at him arrows and very sharp darts, which are trimmed with cut-paper; these darts stick in him in such a manuer, and the pain causing him

to stir much, makes the iron enter deeper; besides, when he runs, the paper makes a noise, and he being on fire, it vexes him extremely; his breath looks like a thick mist about him, his eyes and his nostrils are like fire, he runs swifter than a race-horse, and holds it much longer; in fact he strikes terror. The knight who is to fight him comes near him, takes a rejone, holds it like a poniard, the bull makes up to him, he declines his blow, and thrusts his garrochion at him; the bull so thrusts it back, that the wood being weak, it breaks; immediately his footmen, in number ten or twelve dozen, present him with another, which the cavellero thrusts also into his body; the bull then falls a bellowing, grows angry, runs, leaps, and woe be to them that stand in his way. And if at any time he is ready to run at a man, a cloak or hat is thrown at him, and this stops him; or else, the man must fall down to the ground, and the bull in running, passes over him. They have also great figures made of pasteboards, with which they deceive him. That which helps them further, is, the bull always shuts his eyes just before he pushes with his horns, and they are so quick in that moment as to avoid the blow; yet this is not so certain, but that a great many perish.

I saw a black, with a short poniard, go directly

to the bull, when he was in the height of his fury, and between his horns thrust it into the very seam of his skull, which is a place very soft and easy to be pierced, but withal very small to hit. This was one of the boldest and most dexterous blows that can be imagined. The bull fell down dead upon the spot; and presently the drums sounded, and several Spaniards ran with their swords in their hands, to cut in pieces the beast that was no longer able to hurt them. When a bull is killed, four alguazils go out to fetch four mules, which some grooms, cloathed in yellow and carnation-coloured sattin, lead in. They are covered with feathers and little silver bells; they have silken traces, with which they tie the bull, and so draw him away; then the trumpets and the people make a prodigious noise.

There were twenty baited the first day; among them a furious one came out, which very dangerously wounded Count Coningsmark in his leg, and yet the force of the blow did not light upon him, but upon his horse, whom it burst; he quickly got off him, and though he is no Spaniard, yet he would not be excused from any of the laws: it would have drawn pity from any body, to see one of the finest horses in the world in such a condition; he ran violently about the place, and

killed a man with a blow upon his head and breast: the great rail was opened for him, and he went out. As for the count, as soon as he was wounded, a very fine Spanish lady, who believed that he fought for her sake, stood forward in her balcony, and with her handkerchief made several signs, in all probability to encourage him, but he did not seem to need being animated; and though he had lost abundance of blood, and was forced to lean upon one of his footmen, who held him up, yet with great fierceness he advanced with his sword in his hand, made a shift to give a very great wound to the bull on his head; and then presently turning himself towards the side where this young lady, for whom he fought, was, he kissed his sword, and suffered himself to be carried away by his people half dead.

But you must not think that these kind of accidents interrupt the feasts; it is said that it never ends but by the King's order; so that when any knight is wounded, the others accompany him to the bars, and immediately they return to fight. There was a Biscanier so bold, as to throw himself off his horse upon the back of the bull, held him by his horns, and in spite of all the endeavours of the animal to throw him off, yet the Biscanier set upon him for above a quarter of an

hour, and broke one of his horns. If the bulls defend themselves too long, then the King will have others come out, (for fresh ones afford more delight, because every one has a particular manner of fighting) they turn loose some English dogs; these are not so large as is generally seen there, but it is a breed something like those the Spaniards carried into the Indies when they conquered them; they are small and low, but so strong, that when they once seize the throat, you may sooner cut them in pieces than make them let go their hold. They are very frequently killed, the bull takes them upon his horns, and tosses them up in the air like footballs; sometimes they hamstring the bull with certain irons made cross-ways, which they put at the end of a long pole, and this they call *Jaretar al toro*.

There was another cavellero under the *empenno*, because in fighting his hat fell off; he did not alight, but drew his sword, and pushing his horse upon the bull which expected him, gave him a wound in the neck; but as it was a slight one, it served only to enrage him the more: he tore up the earth with his feet, he roared, and leaped about like a stag. I cannot well describe to you this combat, nor the acclamations of every body, the clapping of hands, and the

multitude of handkerchiefs which were thrown up in the air, for an expression of admiration, some crying out, *Victor! Victor! Ha Toro! Ha Toro!* the more to excite the bull's fury. Neither can I tell you my particular feelings, and how my heart failed me every time I saw these terrible creatures ready to kill these brave cavalleroes: these things are equally impossible to me.

There was a Toledian, both young and handsome, who could not avoid being wounded by the horns of a bull, who tossed him up very high, and he immediately died; there were two others mortally wounded, and four horses either killed or desperately hurt, and yet every body said it had not been a fine baiting, because there was so little blood shed; and to have been such, there should have been at least ten men killed upon the spot. It is hard to describe the dexterity of the cavalleroes in fighting, and that of the horses in avoiding the bull. They will turn sometimes an hour about him, and though they be not a foot distant from him, yet he is not able to touch them, but when he does hit them he wounds them cruelly. The King threw fifteen pistoles to the black that killed the bull with his poniard, and he gave as much to one that had subdued another, and said he would remember the knights that had fought.

I observed a Castillian, who knew not how to defend himself, jump upon a bull as nimble as a bird. These feasts are fine, great, and magnificent; it is a noble sight, and costs an abundance of money. It is impossible to give a just description, it must be seen to be well understood. But I assure you that all this did not please me; do but think if a man that is very dear to you, should be so rash as to go and expose himself against a furious beast, and that for your sake (for generally that is the motive) you see him brought back weltering in his blood, and half dead, is it possible I say, for you or any one to approve of such actions and customs? Nay, suppose a person had no particular concern, would they desire to be present at such sports, that cost the lives of so many men? For my part, I wonder that in a kingdom, where their King bears the name of Catholic, there should be such barbarous diversions permitted. I am satisfied that it is very ancient, because they derive it from the Moors; but yet methinks this, as well as divers other customs they have from those infidels, ought to be entirely abolished.

Don Fernand observing me much disturbed and uneasy during the baiting, and taking notice that I was sometimes as pale as death, I was so much

frighted to see some of those killed who fought, said to me smiling, "What would you have done, madam, if you had seen this diversion some years ago? A cavellero of birth, passionately loved a young woman, who was only a jeweller's daughter, but a perfect beauty, and heiress to a great estate. This cavellero having understood that the most furious bulls of the mountains were taken, and thinking it would be a glorious action to vanquish them, resolved to taurize, as they call it, and for that purpose desired leave of his mistress. She was so surprised at the bare proposal only which he made, that she swooned away, and by all that power which he had given her over himself, she charged him not to think of it as he valued his life. But in spite of this charge, he believed he could not give a more ample proof of his love, and therefore privately caused all things necessary to be got ready. But as industrious as he was to hide his design from his mistress, she was informed of it, and used all means to dissuade him from it. In fine, the day of the feast being come, he conjured her to be there, and told her that her very presence would be sufficient to make him conquer, and to acquire a glory which would render him yet more worthy of her. "Your love, said she, is more ambitious than it is kind, and mine

is more kind than it is ambitious. Go where you think glory calls you, you have a mind I should be there, you will fight before me; well, I do assure you that I will be there, but yet perhaps my presence will afford you more matter of trouble than emulation." However he left her, and went to the Placa-mayor where there was already a vast assembly; but scarce had he began to defend himself against the fierce bull which assaulted him, when a country youth threw a dart at this terrible creature, which pierced him so deep, that it put him to a great deal of pain. He immediately left the cavellero that was fighting him, and roaring, ran directly after him that wounded him; this youth thus frightened would have saved himself, when his cap which covered his head fell off, and then the loveliest and the longest hair which could be seen appeared upon his shoulders, and this discovered the combatant to be a maid of about fifteen or sixteen years of age. Fear had put her in such a trembling, that she could neither run, nor any way avoid the bull. He gave her a desperate push on the side, at the same instant her lover knew that it was she, and was running to assist her. Good God! what a grief it was for him to see his dear mistress in this sad condition! Passion transported him, he no longer valued his

life, and grew more furious than the bull, and performed things almost incredible. He was mortally wounded in divers places. On this day, certainly the people thought the baiting fine, they carried these unfortunate lovers to her unhappy father's house, they both desired to be in the same chamber, and though they had but a short time to live, yet begged the favour they might be married; accordingly they were married, and since they could not live together, yet at least they were buried together, in one and the same grave." This story has greatly increased the aversion I had already conceived against these sort of feasts, and I told Don Fernand so, after I had thanked him for his trouble in relating it to me.

Hitherto I have said nothing to you concerning the Spanish Language, in which I am endeavouring to make some progress. It pleases me extremely, it is expressive, noble, and grave, love finds it commodious for its operations, and can play the fool prettily enough in it. The courtiers speak more concisely than others, they make use of such abstracted comparisons and metaphors, that unless a person is used to hear them, half their meaning is lost. I have learned several languages, or at least understand the first rudiments

of them, and in my mind, it is only our own which exceeds the Spanish.

I come just now from seeing ten gallies which are arrived, this is somewhat strange in a city that is eighty leagues from the sea, but these are land-gallies; for if there be sea-horses and dogs, why not land gallies? They are shaped like a chariot, but four times longer, they have six wheels, three on a side, and do not go much slower than a chariot, the upper part is round, and is much like a galley, they are covered with canvass, and will contain forty persons; there you may sleep, dress victuals, &c. indeed it is a moving house; they put eighteen or twenty horses to draw it, the machine is so long that it cannot be turned but in a field; they come usually from Galicia and Manca, the country of the brave Don Quixot, they set out eight, ten, or twelve in a company, to assist one another in case of need; for when one overturns, it makes a great havock, and none can escape having a broken arm or leg; there must be above a hundred to raise it up again. In it are carried all sorts of provisions, for the country through which they pass is so very barren, that on mountains which are fourscore leagues broad, the largest tree one meets with is a little wild thyme; there is in it neither inn nor inn keeper,

you sleep in the galley, and it is a miserable country for travellers.

Monsieur Mollini, the pope's nuncio, consecrated the patriarch of the Indies on Trinity-Sunday, and the King was there. I saw him come in, he had a black suit, and a gold coloured silk belt on, with little pearls set round the flowers, his hat was so broad, which they never cock here, that the brims laid upon his shoulders, and looked very disagreeable. I observed, that during the ceremony he eat of something which was held to him in a paper, they told me it was either leeks or shallots, of which he eats very often. I was too far off to see him well, he did not return to Buenretiro, because of Corpus-Christi day, at which ceremony he would assist. In coming out of the church, I knew a French gentleman, whose name is Juncas, he is of Bourdeaux, where I saw him. I asked him how long he had been here, he told me but a little while, and that his first business would have been to have seen me, had he not been engaged at Bayon, not to lose a minute's time, in the search of a very wicked fellow, who was supposed to be secreted at Madrid; that it was not the curiosity to see the Patriarch of the Indies consecrated, which drew him to the Hieronimites, (otherwise the

Daughters of the Conception) but that having desired to speak with one of the nuns, he was told that he could not see her till the King was gone. He added, that this was one of the most beautiful women in the world, and hath been the cause of a great unhappiness in the family of Monsieur de Lande. I remember to have seen her as I have gone by, and intreated him to tell me the matter. "It is," says he, "too long and melancholy a mischance to relate presently, but if you will see the young nun I speak of, I am persuaded she will not be unpleasant to you." I willingly accepted this offer, because I have so often been told, that they have so much more wit in monasteries, than in any other place in the world. We went into a parlour, which had three such terrible iron doors with spikes, as greatly surprized me. How is this? said I, it has been told me, that the nuns in this country are very amorous, but I cannot be persuaded that love is bold enough to venture over these long spikes, and through these little holes, where a person must undoubtedly perish. "You are deceived, madam," cried Juncas, "at the appearances of things; if the lady who is coming, can spare me so much time, I will soon tell you what I learned of a friend of mine, a Spaniard, the first journey

I made hither." At this very instant Donna Isadora came into the parlour. I found her much handsomer, than I had fancied her in my own mind to be. Monsieur de Juncas told her that I was a French lady, who had a great desire to be acquainted with her upon his report of her merits. She thanked me in a very modest manner, and afterwards told us, "That it was very true, that the wretch after whom enquiry was made, had been lately at Madrid; but that she was certain he was not now there, and that he had even had the impudence to send her a letter by the hands of a man where he lodged; that the letter was brought to her after his departure, and that she would not receive it." It seems to me, said I, interrupting her, that he could not be taken, supposing he were yet here. "Sometimes," says Donna Isidora, "permission is obtained from the King. There are certain crimes for which there is no sanctuary, and his is one of them." She fell a weeping, notwithstanding all her endeavours to hinder her tears, and added, "That thanks to heaven, she could not reproach herself with any thing in the late business, but yet she could not forbear grieving extremely that she had been the cause of it." We talked together a good while longer, and I was as much charmed with her wit as with her beauty.

Afterwards I withdrew. I am absolutely yours, most dear cousin, be thoroughly persuaded of it.

From Madrid,

May 29.

LETTER XI.

I MUST love you as mightily as I do, dear cousin, to resolve to write to you in a season when the weather is so excessive hot. Whatever has been told me, and whatever I could imagine of it, is nothing in comparison to what I now find. To defend myself from the heat, I leave my windows open all night, without fearing the Gallic winds, which are apt to cripple a body. I sleep bare-headed, and put my hands and feet in snow, enough to kill me; but I think it as well to die, as to be smothered with heat as we are here. It is midnight before we feel the least breath of air from the western breezes.

In going to take air, you are sufficiently puzzled; for if the glasses are open, you are choaked with dust, of which the streets are so full that you can

hardly see, and although the windows of the houses are shut, the dust finds a way through and spoils all household goods; so that what with the disagreeable smell in the winter, and the dust in the summer, all things of silver, and every thing else is so tarnished and spoiled, that little can be kept handsome any considerable time. Notwithstanding all care at present, our faces will be covered with sweat and dust, like those wrestlers which are represented to us in a ring.

I should now tell you that I have seen the ceremony on Corpus-Christi day, which is very solemnly kept here. There is a general procession of all the parishes and monasteries, which are very numerous; the streets through which the holy sacrament is to pass, are hung with the richest tapestry in the world; for I do not only speak of that which belongs to the crown that is there, but also of that which belongs to a thousand particular persons who have most admirable tapestry. All the balconies are then without their lattices, adorned with carpets, rich cushions, and canopies: they hang ticking across the streets to hinder the sun from being troublesome, and they throw water upon it, to make the air cooler. All the streets are spread with sand, well watered, and filled with so great a quantity of flowers, that you can hardly tread upon any thing else.

The repositories are extraordinarily large, and adorned with the greatest splendor.

No women go in the procession: the King was there in a black lutestring taffeta suit, a shoulder-belt of blue silk, edged with white, his sleeves were of white taffeta, embroidered with silk and bugles; they were very long and open before: he had small sleeves hanging down to his waist; his cloak was wrapped about his arm, and he had on his collar of gold and precious stones, at which there hung a little sheep in diamonds; he had also diamond buckles at his shoes and garters, and a great hat-band of the same, which shined like the sun; he had likewise a knot which buttoned up his hat, and at the bottom of that a pearl, which they call the peregrine; it is as big as the russet pearl, and of the same shape; it is pretended to be the finest in Europe, and that both its colour and kind is in perfection.

The whole court, without exception, followed the holy sacrament, the councils walked after it, without any order or precedency, just as they happened to be, holding white wax candles in their hands; the King had one, and went foremost, next the tabernacle where the sacrament was. It is certainly one of the finest ceremonies that can be seen. I observed that all the

gentlemen of the bed-chamber had each a great gold key by his side, which opens the Kings chamber, into which they can go when they will; it is as large as a cellar-door key. I there saw several knights of Malta, who wore every one a cross of Malta, made of holland, and embroidered upon their cloaks; it was near two o'clock, and the procession was not yet gone in; when it passed by the palace, they fired several rockets, and other inventions.

The King went to meet the procession at St. Mary's, which is a church near the palace. Upon this all the ladies begin to wear their summer-garments, they make their balconies very fine, in which they have either several baskets of flowers, or bottles filled with sweet water, which they throw about whilst the procession passes by; commonly the three companies who guard the King, are new cloathed. As soon as the holy sacrament is gone back to the church, every body goes home to eat, that they may be at the *autos*, which are certain kinds of tragedies upon religious subjects, and are oddly enough contrived and managed: they are acted either in the court or street of each president of a council, to whom it is due. The King goes there, and all the persons of quality receive tickets overnight to go

there; so that we were invited, and I was amazed to see them light up abundance of flambeaux, whilst the sun beat full upon the comedians heads, and melted the wax like butter; they acted the most impertinent piece that ever I saw in my days. This is the subject of it:

The knights of St. James are assembled, and Our Lord comes and desires them to receive him into their order; there are present divers of them that are agreeable to it, but the seniors represent to the others, the wrong they should do themselves, if they should admit into their society a person of ignoble birth; that St. Joseph, his father, was a poor carpenter, and that the Holy Virgin wrought at her needle. Our Lord with great impatience expects their resolution; at last they determine, with some unwillingness, to refuse him; but at the same time propose an expedient, which is to be instituted on purpose for him, the Order de Christo, and with this every body is satisfied.

This is the order that is in Portugal, but yet these things are not done with any wicked design; no, they had rather die than in the least to fail of the respect due to religion. These *autos* last for a month; I am so weary of going to them, that I excuse myself as often as I can; they use sweet-

meats, and water cooled in ice very much, and they have need of them, for the heat and dust is enough to kill them.

I was ravished with joy to meet Don Augustin Pacheco, and his wife (of whom I have formerly told you) at the president d'Hazienda's house; they come thither because they are related to the president: we were placed near one another, and when the ceremony was over, we went to take the air in the Prado, after the French mode, that is, men and women together in the same coach. Don Frederic de Cardonna was one; our curtains were close drawn while there were a great many folks about us, because of our beautiful and young Spanish woman; but as we tarried later than others, the nuncio, and Frederic Cornaro, the Venetian ambassador, caused their coaches to drive up to ours, and talked with us; when all on a sudden we saw a great illumination all along the walk, and at the same time appeared sixty cardinals upon mules, in their habits and red caps; after them followed the pope; he was carried upon a machine all covered with a foot carpet; he sat under a canopy in a great chair, and St. Peter's keys laid upon a cushion, with a vessel full of holy water of orange-flowers, with which he sprinkled every body. The shew marched on

gravely; and when they were come to the end of the Prado, the cardinals began to play a thousand cunning tricks to make his holiness merry; some threw their hats upon the trees, and standing directly under, they fell upon their heads again; and others stood upright upon the saddles of their mules, and made them run as fast they could. There was a vast number of people followed them; we asked the pope's nuncio what this meant, and he assured us he understood not any thing of it, and that he did not like this sort of mirth. He sent to enquire from whence the Holy College came in that manner; and we understood it was the baker's holy-day, and that every year they make this fine shew. The nuncio had a great mind to have disturbed them with a volley of cudgels, and had already commanded his attendants to begin the fray, but we interceded in the behalf of these poor people, who had no other intention than to celebrate the festival of their saint. In the mean time, some that had overheard the orders which were given, and were disturbers of the public peace, gave information thereof to the pope and cardinals; this was enough to put all in confusion; every one escaped as well as he could, and their fear made our pleasure short-lived. In France such masquerades

would not be suffered; but perhaps there are many things innocent in one country which would not be so in another.

My kinswoman knowing how very civilly I had been received by Don Augustin Pacheco, invited him to supper at her house; I desired him to remember his promise of giving me a relation of what he knew of the Indies. Immediately I will tell you, says he, concerning those they call the West-Indies, in which a part of America is comprised.

“In the reign of Ferdinand, King of Castille and Arragon, Christopher Columbus, a Genoese, discovered this part of the world, in the year 1492. As the Spaniards were the first that found this fortunate country, unknown to the Europeans, so King Ferdinand and Queen Isabel, had the property of it bestowed on them by a bull from pope Alexander VI. He established them and their successors perpetual vicars of the holy see, over this vast country; so that the Kings of Spain are both spiritual and temporal lords, and nominate bishops and other ecclesiastics, and receive tenths from them. Their power there is of a larger extent than in Spain; for you must know, that America alone is one of the four parts of the world, and that we possess more land there than

all other nations together besides. The council of the Indies, which is established at Madrid, is one of the most considerable of the kingdom, and there being so great a necessity of holding a very frequent correspondence between Spain and the Indies, to send orders to maintain the court authority, they were obliged to establish beside a particular chamber, which is composed of the eldest counsellors of the council of the Indies, and they are to take cognizance of all things concerning the revenues and cause expeditions by the secretaries of the council.

“ Besides this chamber at Madrid, there is another at Seville, called the house of contraction; it is composed of several counsellors, both of the robe and the sword, with other necessary officers. Those of the sword take cognizance of the things which concern the fleet and the galleons. The other counsellors take care of matters of justice. Appeals from this tribunal are made to the council of the Indies at Madrid. There are registers kept in the house of contraction at Seville, in which are written all the merchandize that are sent to the Indies, and all that come from thence, that so the King may not be cheated of his customs; but this signifies little, the merchants are so cunning, and those who keep

the accounts are so easily drawn in to share with them, that the King is not a whit the better for them, and the duty to him, which is only the fifth part, is so ill paid, that he does not receive the fourth part of what is due to him.

“ It is the council of Madrid which proposes subjects to the King to fill up the vacant viceroalties of Spain and Peru; they are granted for five years, and so are all other places, of which the most considerable are the following, viz. The governor and captain-general, and president of the royal chancellory of St. Domingo in the Spanish islands; the governor and captain-general of the city of St. Christopher’s of the Havanna; the governor and captain of war of the city of St. James of Cuba; the governor and captain-general of the city of St. John of Puerto Rico; the governor and captain-general of the city of St. Augustine, in the province of Florida; the governor of the city of Ascension of the island of Marguaretta; the governor and captains-general of the city of Cumana, capital of New Andalusia; the viceroy, governor and captain-general of New Spain; a president of the royal audience who resides in the city of Mexico; the governor and captain-general of the city of Merida, capital of the province of Yucatan; the president and governor of

the royal audience and chancellory, which resides in the city of Gaudalaxara, capital of the kingdom of Galatia; the governor and captain-general of the city of Guadiana, capital of the city of New Biscay; the governor, captain-general, and president of the chancellory, which resides in the city of Santiago, of the province of Guatemela; the governor of the province of Locnusco, in the strait of Guatemela; the governor and captain-general of the city of Cornagua, of the province of Honduras; the governor of the city of St. James of Lyon, capital of the province of Nicaragua; the governor and captain-general of the city of Carthagena, capital of the province of Costa Riga; the governor, captain-general, and president of the royal chancellory, who resides in the city of Manila, in the Phillipine islands; the governor and lieutenants of the fortresses De Ternate, and governor and general of the militia in the same country; the viceroy, governor, captain-general, and president of the audit of the city of Lima, also, eight counsellors, four alcades, two accusators, a protector of the Indies, four reporters, three porters, and a chaplain, in the same city; a governor of Chucuito, one of Zico, one of Ica, one of Delos Collegos, one of Guamanga, one of Santiago de Misafleres de Zara,

one of St. Marco, one of Arequipo, one of Truxillo; a viceroy of Castra; a viceroy of Michel y Puerto de Plata; a master of the camp of the strait of Puerto dell Callao; the president De la Plata hath under him six counsellors, an accuser, two reporters, and two porters; the governor of the province of Tucumanan; the governor of the province of St. Croix; the governor and captain-general of the province of De la Plata; the governor of Paraguay; the governor of the citadel of the imperial city De la Plata de Potosy; the governor of St. Philip of Autrich, and of the gold mines; the governor of the city of Paix; the chief governor of the mines of Potosy; the governor, captain-general, and president of the city of St. Foy; the governor and captain-general of the province of Castenaga, has under him a lieutenant, a captain, and a marechal de campe; the governor and lieutenant of the castle of St. Matthias; the governor and captain-general of the province of St. Martha; the governor of the citadel of St. Martha; the governor of the province of Æntoja; the governor of the province of Popayan; the governor De los Musos y Colinos; the governor of the province of Merida; the governor of the city of Tunja; the governor of the city of Tona Emalbague, and the people of the

Burning Land; the governor of Quixos Zomoco Ecanela; the governor of the city of Jane; the governor of the city of Santiago de Quagaquil; the governor of the city of Loja Zonnora, and of the mines of Comura; the president, governor, and captain-general of the city of Panama; the governor of Veragua, has under him a captain-general, a lieutenant-general, a captain of the companies of the infantry, and a captain of the artillery; the governor and captain of the castle of St. Philips, in the city of Puerto Velo; the chief governor of Puerto Velo; the governor and captain-general of the province of St. Martha on the river of Hacha; and the governor of the great Caxamarca.

“ I do not here mention the places of judicature, nor the benefices, which are very numerous. But it must be observed, that all the employments I have spoken of are given either from three to three years, or from five to five years, so that one man alone may not grow rich, whilst there are so many others that stand in need to partake likewise of the King's kindness.

“ In those places where there is no viceroy, he that is president is also governor; and when a viceroy dies, the president of the viceroyalty, for the time being, takes the government upon him,

till another viceroy is sent from Spain. It is his Catholic Majesty which gives those great posts and the most considerable governments. The viceroys fill up the lesser, and these viceroys, make a shift, very easily, in five years time, to bring home two millions of crowns, and all charges paid; the governors of the principal places, get in the same compass of time, about five or six hundred thousand crowns; none goes thither but what grows rich, and this is so certain, that even the friars which are sent thither to preach the faith, and convert the Indians, make such a profitable mission, that they bring home every one of them, thirty or forty thousand crowns. The King disposes of divers pensions paid by the villages of the Indies, and from these they draw from two to six thousand crowns per annum, and this is another way the King has to gratify his subjects.

“The Phillipine islands, which lie near the kingdom of China, depend upon the King of Spain; the trade there is in silk. These places cost him more to keep than they bring him in.

“The Castellians had their reasons why they would not let any sort of manufactures be set up in the Indies, nor any stuffs made there, nor any of those things which are indispensably necessary.

This policy causes every thing to go from Europe, and makes the Indians, who passionately love all the commodities and ornaments which come from thence, freely to sacrifice their silver to their satisfaction. By this means they are put out of a capacity to grow rich, because they are forced, at very dear rates, to buy the least trifle they want, and with which they amuse them.

“The flota consists of divers vessels loaden with rich merchandizes which are sent to the Indies; and there are other great ships of war which are called galleons, which the King sends to convoy them. These men of war ought not to carry any merchant goods, but the lust of gain tempts them against the express prohibition of the King; and sometimes they are so full laden, that if they should happen to be attacked, they could not defend themselves. When these vessels are ready to sail, the dispatch which the merchants obtain from the council of the Indies at Madrid for leave to send them, cost for each of them, from three to six thousand crowns, according to the bigness of the vessel. It is easy to imagine, that since they give so much, they are sure of gaining a great deal more.

“The galleons go no further than Porto Velo, whither they bring all the silver of Peru; the

flota leaves them at this place, and continue their voyage to New Spain. The galleons sail from Sanlucar to Carthagena in six weeks, or two months at most; they tarry there a little while, and in five or six days they come back to Porto Velo. It is a town situated on the coast of America, the air there is very unwholesome, and the weather excessive hot. On the other side of the Isthmus, some ten leagues distance only, is the city of Panama, whither is brought from Peru a vast quantity of silver in bars and wedges, and divers merchandizes, which are conveyed by land carriage to Porto Velo, where the galleons are, and where there is kept one of the greatest fairs in the world, for in less than forty or fifty days there is sold of all sorts of European goods, to the value, at least, of twenty millions of crowns ready money. After the fair is over, the galleons return to Carthagena, at which place there is a considerable trade for Indian goods, and those of the kingdom of St. Foy, as well as for those from Morigenta. After this, they go to the Havanna, to take in necessary provisions for this voyage, and from thence they are commonly two months in sailing to Cadiz. But as to the flota, it stops at Porto Rico to refresh, and arrives at Vera Cruz in five weeks, there they unload their mer-

chandizes, which is afterwards carried by land fourscore leagues beyond, to the great city of Mexico, the sale of them is quickly over, and the flota parts afterwards to go to the Havanna; but this must be past only in the month of April or September, because of the north winds. The galleons are commonly nine months in their voyage to Peru, and the flota is thirteen or fourteen months; some particular persons go thither also at their own charge, after they have obtained leave from the King, and have registered themselves at the contrataction at Seville; these go to the coast of St. Domingo, Honduras, Caracus, and Buenos Ayres.

The money which comes directly for the King from the Indies, must be brought in one galleon: this silver is delivered to one of the masters of the mint, who pays to the King every voyage he makes, six thousand crowns, and he keeps one per cent. of all the silver that goes through his hands, which arises high. As to the silver which belongs to particular persons, that is brought in what vessels they will choose; and it is the captain that is responsible for it.

There is a certain duty which is called *avarie*, and it is taken for all goods registered, and for all the silver which is brought from the Indies.

This duty is so considerable, that it is sufficient to fit out the galleons, and the flota for their voyage, although the charge amounts to nine millions of crowns ; but that of the flota is not so great.

He that the King chooses to be general of the galleons, advances to him fourscore or a hundred thousand crowns, which is repaid him in the Indies with great interest. Every other captain does also advance money to the King, proportionable to the bigness of the vessel they command. There goes moreover with the galleons a patacha, which leaves them in the gulph Delas Yequas ; she goes to the isles of Margueretta, to fish for pearls, of which they pay to the King a fifth part, that is of all the pearl they take, and afterwards she comes to Carthagena.

Within these few years, there has been discovered seventy leagues from Lima, some mines, which yield a vast revenue; those of Peru, and all the others in the West-Indies pay the King the fifth part, as well of the gold as the silver and emeralds. There is at Potosy greater plenty of mines than any where else; the silver they get there is brought to Port de Ariga, and from thence it is sent to Callao. It is one of the ports of Lima, whither the galleons come to escort it. The kingdom of Peru yields every year in gold

and silver to the value of eleven millions of crowns. From New Spain is brought five millions of crowns, besides merchandises, which are commonly emeralds, gold, silver, cochineal, tobacco, wool of Vigogne, Campecha wood, and hides.

“ It was a long while before they would suffer any workmen in New Spain, that wrought in silk or wool; there are some now, and this may do some hurt to the trade of stuffs which are sent from Europe; they are not allowed to plant there any olive trees, or vines, that so the oil and wine which is carried thither may sell the better. The king has the power in the Indies as well as Spain, to sell the bull of the Crusado, which is a licence to eat flesh every Saturday, and to enjoy the benefit of indulgences.

“ The Indian idolaters are not subject to the inquisition in the Indies; that is established only against heretics and Jews. No strangers is suffered to go to the Indies; but if at any time some happen to go, there must be a special permission obtained, which is very rarely granted.

“ How is it possible for me, continued Don Augustin, to express to you the beauty of the city of Mexico; the churches, the palaces, the public places, the riches, the profusion, the magnificence, and the pleasures, a city that is so happily

situated, that in all seasons it enjoys a continual spring, and where the heats are not at all excessive, where they feel not the severity of winter. The country is no less charming, and the flowers and the fruits at all times equally loading the trees. There you gather more than one crop in a year; the lakes and ponds are full of fish, the grounds are well stocked with cattle; and the forests and woods afford excellent fowl and wild beasts; the earth seems to open her bowels on purpose to give up the gold she encloses; there are mines, or rocks of precious stones discovered, and pearl are there taken." Oh! said I, let us all go dwell in that country. This description charms, but as it is a long voyage, it may be convenient, if you please, madam, said I to Donna Theresa, smiling, to get our supper before we go. I immediately took her by the hand, and we came into a parlour, where I had provided the best musicians, who are bad enough, and who in my opinion have nothing to recommend them but their dearness. My cook made us some ragouts after the French manner, which Donna Theresa found so excellent, that she desired I would let her have the receipt how to dress them. Don Augustin intreated me also, to let him have some of my larding-pins, of which,

really one may look all over Spain, and not find so much as one. We tarried very late together, for in this season they sit up till four or five o'clock in the morning, because of the heats, and the best time is in the night.

There are certain days in the year, that every body goes out to take the air upon the bridges which cross the river Mansanarez; for at present all coaches are laid up; the gravel and some little brooks help to make it very cool and pleasant. The horses endure a great deal in these walks, for nothing can be more prejudicial to their feet than the flints upon which they continually tread. In certain places of this river they make a stand, and there remain till two or three o'clock in the morning; there is very often a thousand coaches: some particular people bring victuals to eat there, and others sing and play upon several instruments; all this is very pleasant in a fine night; there are some persons who wash or bathe themselves, but indeed it is after an ugly manner. The Danish ambassador's lady did it lately; her people go a little before her, and dig a great hole in the gravel, which presently fills itself with water, into which the lady comes and thrusts herself; you may imagine how pleasant such a bath is, and yet this is

the only way that can be made use of in this river.

You will not be sorry, perhaps, to know, that in making out a person's nobility here, it must be proved, that they are descended both by father and mother from *Viejos Christianos*, that is, from ancient Christians. The blemish which they ought to fear is, their being allied to any Jewish or Moorish family.

As the people of Biscay and Navarre were defended from the invasion of the barbarians, by the height and ruggedness of their mountains, so they esteem themselves all cavalleros, even to the meanest water bearer; for in Spain, the children sometimes take their mother's name, if she is of a better family than the father. It is certain, that there are few families entire, and whose name and nobility have not been borne by an only daughter, and mixed with another family: that of Velasco is not of this number, for they reckon up ten connestables of Castile successively from father to son. Here is one thing very singular, and that which is not allowed in any other country, and that is, that foundlings, or children found by chance, are reckoned noble, and bear the title of *Hidalgos*, and enjoy all the privileges annexed to the nobility; but to this end, they

must prove, that they were foundlings, and were maintained and bred in the hospital where such children are kept.

There are in Spain some great families, which hold almost all their estates by the title of *Mayorga*; and when it happens that all of the name are dead, and that the next a-kin is a male, though he be a natural son, yet he shall inherit; and for want of such, the eldest domestic shall take the name and the arms of his master, and inherit his estate. And this is one reason why the younger brothers of other houses, as noble and illustrious, do not scorn to be servants to these, and their hopes are pretty well grounded; for it often happens that families are extinct, because the Spanish women have fewer children than the women of other countries.

There lately happened a very great misfortune to a young woman of quality, called *Donna Clara*; she could not preserve her heart against the charms of *Count de Castrillo*, a man of the court, very witty and handsome; the cavellero had the secret to please her without designing it; he was ignorant of the inclinations she had for him, and so did not improve his happiness. And though the father of this amiable creature was absent, yet she did not enjoy the more liberty,

because her brother, whose name was Don Henrique, to whose care her father had recommended her, continually watched over her actions and behaviour; she durst not speak to him she loved; and this was a double martyrdom, not to be able to make her complaint, and to divide her grief with him that caused it. But at last she resolved to write to him, and to find out some way that the letter should come to his hands; but as this was a business of the highest consequence to her, so she was at a stand about the choice of a confidant; and here she stopped for some time, till at last she bethought herself of a friend of her's who had always testified abundance of kindness for her, and so without farther consideration, she wrote a very moving letter to the Count de Castriльо, and was going to her friend to intreat him to get it delivered to this cavellero, when she saw him pass close by her chair; this sight of him increased her desires to let him know her mind; and immediately taking this opportunity for herself, threw the letter she had in her hand to him, at the same time feigning, that this was a letter which he had given to her as he went by; "Know, my lord," says she aloud, with an angry look, "that it is not to me you ought to address yourself upon such a design as your's. Here, take the letter,

which I will not so much as open." The Count had too much wit not to apprehend presently the favourable intention of this fair one. "You need not complain, madam," says he to her, "that I have not made use of your advice." Then he quickly withdrew to read a letter which must give him abundance of pleasure. By this means he was informed of Donna Clara's intentions, and what he must do to see her. He omitted nothing, he became desperately in love, and thought himself, as he had reason, one of the happiest cavaleros in Spain. They impatiently expected the return of her father, in order that they might propose the marriage to him, which in all likelihood must have been very acceptable to him.

But notwithstanding all the precautions that these young lovers took, both certainly to fix and continue a conversation, which was the joy of their life; yet the suspicious and watchful Henriques discovered their intrigue. He believed her criminal, and in the excess of his rage, without signifying or making the least shew, he one night went into the chamber of the unfortunate Donna Clara, and as she was in a deep sleep, he strangled her in the most barbarous manner imaginable.

Nevertheless, though it was known that he was

the author of so wicked an action, yet he was not prosecuted, for he had too much credit and interest; and besides, this poor gentlewoman had no kindred but what was his, and they were unwilling to encrease the misfortunes of the family, which were already but too great.

After this wicked fact, Henriques feigned a great fit of devotion; he appeared no more in public, and had mass said at his house, and saw very few people; for he was very apprehensive that Count Castrillo (who had not dissembled his grief, but had let it visibly appear) would at last be revenged for his mistress, for indeed he most carefully sought all opportunities. At length, after having attempted all imaginable ways, he found out one which succeeded.

He disguised himself like an *aguador*, that is, a water-bearer; these sort of people load an ass with several great pitchers, and so carry them about the city; they wear thick coarse cloth, their legs are naked, and their shoes are either cut or slashed, or else they have soles made fast with strings. Our lover thus disguised, waited all day long, leaning upon the side of a spring-well, whose water he increased by his tears; for this well was just against the house where he had so often seen his dear and fair Clara, and there it

was also where the inhuman Henriques dwelt. As the count kept his eyes continually upon this house, he perceived one of the casements half open, and at the same time his enemy to draw near it; he had a looking glass in his hand, in which he was looking at himself. Immediately the cunning aguador threw some cherry-stones at him in a jesting way, and some of them having hit his face, Don Henriques affronted at the insolence of a man, which appeared to him to be only a poor aguador, came down alone to chastise him: but he was hardly in the street, when the count discovered himself, and drawing his sword, which for his purpose he had hid, cried out, "Traitor that thou art, think of defending thy life." The surprize and the fright had so amazed Don Henriques, that he was only able to ask quarter; but he could not obtain it from this enraged lover, who came to revenge the death of his mistress upon him that had so cruelly murdered her. The count would have found it very hard to have escaped, upon his doing such an action, just at the door of a man of note, and that had abundance of servants; but in that very moment that all Don Henriques's people were sallying out upon the count, happily for him, the Duke Du-zeda came by with three of his friends, they imme-

diately came out of their coach and rescued him so seasonably, that he made his escape, and we do not yet hear where he is; I am concerned for him, because I know him, and that he is a very honest man.

It is very common in this country to assassinate one for several causes, and custom even authorises the fact, for every angry difference; for example, if one gives another a box on the ear or strikes him on the face with his hat, his handkerchief, or his glove, or has wronged him, in calling him drunkard, or lets drop any words that reflect on the virtue of his wife, these things, I say, must be no otherwise revenged than by assassination; but they give this reason, that after such affronts, it would not be just for a man to venture his life in single combat upon equal terms, where the offended might perish by the hand of the aggressor. They will keep a revenge twenty years together, if they cannot sooner meet with a fit occasion to execute it: and if they happen to die before they have got satisfaction, they leave their children inheritors of their resentments, as well as of their estates; and the best way for a man that hath given any affront to another, is for ever to forsake his country.

I was lately told of a considerable man, that after he had lived twenty years in the Indies, to

avoid an ill turn from another to whom he had given some offence, and having understood that not only he but his son was dead, believed himself secure. He returns to Madrid, after having taken care to change his name that he might not be known; but all this was not able to save him, for the grandson of him that thought himself injured, though he was but twelve years old, caused this person to be murdered quickly after his return.

The men that commit these horrid actions are commonly hired from Valentia. It is a city in Spain, whose people are wicked to excess; there is not any crime which they will not deliberately commit for money; they wear stiletos, and fire-arms which go off without any noise. There are two sorts of these stiletos; one about the length of a short poniard, but not thicker than a thick needle, and made of excellent steel, square, and sharp edged. This instrument wounds mortally, for entering very deep, and making no bigger an orifice than a needle, no blood comes out, nay, hardly can one perceive the place where it entered, and so being impossible to dress it, they almost constantly die. The other sort is longer, and no thicker than the little finger, but so hard and strong, that I have seen one of them at one blow struck through a thick walnut-tree table. These

sort of arms are forbidden to be carried in Spain, as bayonets are in France; neither is it lawful to carry those pocket pistols which fire without noise; but notwithstanding the prohibition, several persons make use of them.

I have been told, that a person of quality, thinking he had a just cause to destroy one of his enemies, went to a bandolero of Valentia, and gave him a sum of money to murder him, but afterwards he was reconciled to his enemy; and being willing to use a good conscience, he made it his first business to acquaint the bandolero with what had passed, that so he might have a care not to kill this man. The bandolero seeing his service needless, offered to return the money, but he that gave it intreated him to keep it; "Well," says he, "I am a man of honor, I shall keep your money, and I will kill your man." The other earnestly begged him to do nothing, seeing they were now friends. "Look you," says he to him, "all that I can do, is to give you your choice, whether it shall be you or him, for to gain your money honestly, there is a necessity for me to kill one of you." And notwithstanding all the intreaties of this person, he persisted in his design, and executed it. It would have been an easy matter to have seized him, but there was too much danger in it; for

those bandoleros are so numerous and united, that if any one of them should be executed, the death of him is certainly and quickly revenged. These wretches are never without a list of the wicked actions they have committed, and reckon it an honor to them; and when any one would set them on work, they shew their list, and ask whether they desire them quickly dispatched, or to give them a languishing wound. These are the most pernicious people in the universe. Indeed if I were to tell you all the tragical stories which I hear every day, you would grant that this country is the very theatre of the most horrid scenes in the world. Love frequently furnishes the matter, either for its satisfaction or revenge. There is nothing that a Spaniard will not undertake, for there is nothing above either his courage or his passion.

It is said that jealousy is their prevailing passion, yet they do not pretend it so much out of love, as resentment and pride; for they cannot bear to see another preferred before them, and every thing which contributes to affront them, makes them desperate; let these things be how they will, one thing is certainly true, that it is a most furious and barbarous nation in this affair. The women keep not company with men; but yet they very well understand how to write and appoint meetings

when they have a mind; notwithstanding the danger is great for themselves, the lover, and the messenger; but in spite of all that, by their wit and their money, they make a shift to deceive the most cunning Argus.

It is unaccountable that men who put every thing in practice to satisfy their revengeful minds, and who are guilty of such abominable actions, should even be scrupulously religious, at the same time they are going to stab their enemy. And that they may not fail in their enterprize, they must forsooth, perform their nine days' task of devotion for the souls in purgatory, and recommend themselves to the relics they carry about them, which they often kiss. I would not be thought to fix this character upon the whole nation; it may be affirmed that there are as good people in Spain as in any part of the world, and that they are endowed with a wonderful greatness of mind. I will give you some instances of this last, which perhaps you may look upon as follies, for every thing has two handles.

The Connestable de Castille is certainly one of the richest lords of the court in lands; but as he has the same fault as others in high station, which is, to be careless in looking after his interest, so he is badly furnished with money. The pensions

which the king allows him, as he is Doyen, or Chief of the Council of State, Connestable of Castille, and Grand Falconer, are so considerable, as to supply all his wants, but he is so haughty, that he will not receive any thing upon that account. He gives this reason: "That when a subject has estate enough to live upon, he ought not to be chargeable to his prince, but should serve him, and esteem himself happy; that to be paid for what he does is mercenary and slavish."

The Duke d'Arcas, alias d'Averio, hath likewise another obstinate honour; he pretends that the King of Portugal has usurped the crown from his family, and therefore when he speaks of him, he never calls him any thing, but Duke de Bragance; in the mean while, this man has forty thousand crowns a year in Portugal, of which he does not enjoy a farthing, because he will not submit to kiss the King's hand, nor to do him homage.

The King of Portugal hath sent him word, that he will dispense with his coming himself, provided he will send in his stead one of his sons, either the eldest or the youngest, which he pleases, and that he will permit him to receive his rents, and likewise will pay him all the arrears, which amount to an immense sum. The Duke d'Averio

will not so much as hear it mentioned: he says, "That seeing he has lost the crown, it would be a shame for forty thousand crowns a year, to submit to the usurper; that the greater evils take away the sense of the lesser; that the glory the King would receive from his homage, would exceed the profit he gets from his revenue: and that he would have cause to reproach him, for having done an honour to him which was not his due.

The last I reserve for you, is the Prince Destilano; he hath places and commissions to dispose of at the contrataction in Seville, to the value of fourscore thousand livres per annum. He had rather lose them, than so much as set his hand to the necessary dispatches of business, saying, "It is not agreeable to the generosity of such a cavellero as he is, to trouble himself to sign his name for so small a matter;" for you must know that these fourscore thousand livres are not in one article, there may be above thirty; and when his secretary presents to him a dispatch or grant of a place, worth four or five thousand livres, he will refuse to sign it, and alledges his quality, always saying, "*Este es una mineria,*" that is, It is but a trifle. The King, however, is not so nice in the matter, for he fills up the places for him, and receives the profit to himself.

You will say now, that the Spaniards are fools with this their fantastic grandeur; and perhaps you are in the right, but for my part, and I think I know them pretty well, I am not of that opinion; yet nevertheless I will confess, that whatever difference can be found in comparing the Spaniards and the French, it must be to our advantage; but it does not seem fit for me to meddle in determining the matter, for my interest is too much concerned to let me judge impartially; but yet I am persuaded that there are very few rational persons, who would not make the same judgment.

There are fewer strangers that come to Madrid than to any city in the world, and they have reason; for unless they have somebody to procure them lodging in a private house, they will run the hazard of being very badly lodged, and the Spaniards are not very willing to offer their houses to any one, because of their wives, of whom they are extremely jealous. I do not know that in all this city, there are any more than two inns, whereof at one of them, they eat after the French mode; and when these are full (which they are very quickly, being very small) you know not what to do; add to this, that there is no conveniency for passing to and from town, hackney or hired coaches are so very scarce, but you may have as many chairs as

you will; yet it is seldom that men are carried in them, unless they be very old or infirm.

But after all, why should strangers be desirous of coming to Madrid? That which is finest and most amiable, is always hid, I mean the women, there is no conversing with them; those women that may be seen, are such dangerous creatures for a man's health, that it must be a great curiosity indeed, that a man can resolve to satisfy at so great a risque; yet in spite of all this, the only pleasure, and sole enjoyment of the Spaniards, is to contract some league with them: even youths of quality that are rich, begin at the age of twelve or thirteen years to entertain a concubine mistress, which they call *amancebada*, for whom they neglect their studies, and make away with whatever they can catch up in their father's house, but it is not long before those creatures give them cause to repent of their folly.

But that which is terrible is, there are but few persons in this country, of either sex, and even of those whose quality distinguishes them, that are free from that cursed disease; their children either bring it into the world with them from their mother's womb, or suck it from the nurse; a virgin may justly be suspected to have it, and they are with difficulty persuaded to be cured of it, they are so likely

to fall again into the same condition. But doubtless this disease is not so dangerous in Spain as in other countries, for they still preserve there hair very fine, and their teeth very good: at court, and amongst the women of the highest quality, they discourse of it as they do of a fever, or the meagrim, and they all bear the distemper patiently, without so much as troubling themselves one minute about it. As they know not but that the most virtuous women, and the youngest child may have it, so they never let blood in the arm, but always in the foot; they will let a child three weeks old be blooded in the foot, and this is so considerable a custom among them, that unless it be some very able surgeon, they know not how to let blood in the arm. I was indisposed, and was obliged to make use of the French Ambassador's valet de chambre, to let me blood in the arm. By all that I have told you, it is easy to judge, that this is the nuptial present which a Spaniard makes to his wife, and that though they marry, they do not quit their mistresses, be they never so dangerous. Every time these mistresses are let blood, their gallants are obliged to give them a compleat new suit of apparel; and yet you must observe they wear ten or twelve petticoats at a time; so that this causes no ordinary expence. The Marquis de Liche under-

standing that his mistress was just let blood, and so could not tarry till the tailor made her a suit which he intended for her, he sent her one that was just brought home for the marchioness, his lady, who is extremely beautiful. It is a common saying with him, "That to be the happiest man, he would only wish for a mistress as handsome as his wife."

The great lords who return very rich from their governments (where for the most part they go poor enough, and where they pillage and extort all they can, because they are but for five years time) do not lay out their money when they come home, in the purchase of lands; they keep it in their chests, and as long as it lasts, they live at a great rate, for they think it is below them to improve their money. By following this method, it would be very extraordinary if the greatest treasure were not quickly exhausted; but the future disturbs them very little, for every one of them hopes either for a viceroyalty, or some other post, which will effectually repair all their bad husbandry, and restore them to a good condition: and it must be allowed that the King of Spain is capable both to satisfy the ambition of his subjects, and to reward their services; and indeed, many of his subjects fill up the places of divers sovereign princes, which were the most eminent men of their age.

The difference was very remarkable between those sovereigns formerly, and the Spaniards at present; it is less as to their birth, than to their merit; for the families of the great lords are very illustrious; there are many of them that are descended from the Kings of Castille, Navarre, Arragon, and Portugal; but yet this does not hinder several of them (for I make an exception) from contradicting the virtue of their ancestors, but then you must understand how these are educated: they do not study, neither have they any able masters; as soon as they are designed for the sword, no further care is taken to teach them either latin or history; but one would think they should at least be taught what belongs to their station, such as the mathematics, to fence, and ride the horse; but they do not so much as think of these matters: here are no academies, nor masters to teach such things; the young men pass that time which they should employ for their instruction, in a wretched laziness, either in walking about, or courting some lady; and yet in spite of all this, they are persuaded, that there are not any people in the world, which deserve public admiration more than they do. They believe Madrid to be the very center of all glory and happiness, of all arts and sciences, and of all delights and pleasure; in dying, they only wish their children the enjoyment of Pa-

radise, and afterwards that of Madrid; by this means you see they exalt this city above Paradise, with so much satisfaction do they live in it; and it is this which hinders them from visiting other courts, and there acquiring that politeness, which they have not amongst themselves, and to which they are perfect strangers. And it is this also, which makes them so eager to return home to Madrid, let them be where they will, whether they be sent by the King, or let them be there in what rank or station they will; let them be ever so much honoured, and heap up ever so much wealth, yet the love to their country, and the prepossession for that, hath such a power over them, as to make them renounce every thing; and they had rather choose to lead a mean poor life, (so it be not observed) without any train, grandeur, or distinction, provided it be but at Madrid.

It is very seldom that a father lets his son travel abroad, but keeps him at home, and suffers him to take up what custom he pleases; you may easily believe, that generally these are none of the best; for there is a certain age, when youth aims at nothing else, but to gratify their appetite and enjoy their pleasures. One entices and draws another, and that which ought to be severely reprov'd, is authorized by the example of those on whom they depend.

They also make them marry, as one may say, as soon as they are out of their cradles. At the age of sixteen or seventeen years they turn into the world a young man with a wife that is but a child, and this at once makes him less capable of knowing his duty, and renders him more liable to debauchery, because he is his own master under no controul: by this means, he passes his life in a chimney-corner, like a man in his decrepid old age; and because this gentle sluggard is of an illustrious family, he must be chosen to govern a people that must suffer through his ignorance; but that which is still worse, is, that such a man taking himself for some great and knowing person, acts only by his own head, without consulting or advising with any body, and so does every thing aukwardly and absurdly. The wife possibly may not be better stored with wit and parts; her mighty greatness, with which she prides herself, is the only thing that can make her be regarded; and thus persons of the highest capacity, must be subjects to two animals, which are made their superiors.

But on the other hand, let us be just, and render to Cæsar his due. It must be owned, that when heaven hath been so kind to a Spaniard, as to give him a good education, and hath let him travel and see the world, he makes a better improvement

than any other person. Nature has been kinder to them than they are to themselves; they are born with more wit than others; they have a great quickness of mind, joined with great solidity; they speak and deliver their words with ease; they have a very extensive memory; their style is close and concise, and they are quick of apprehension: it is easy to teach them whatever they have a mind to; they are perfect masters in politics, and when there is a necessity for it, they are temperate and laborious. Without question, several great qualities may be found amongst them, such as generosity, secrecy, friendship, bravery, and in a word, all those endowments of mind, which contribute to make a perfect, good, and virtuous man. And here methinks I have a fair opportunity to conclude this letter, and to beget in you an esteem of these people. I should not be sorry if I could procure them this happiness; for their manners do not suit so bad with me as with a great many others, who cry out against them and condemn them, before they have either examined or known them. For my part I must confess, that there are here both good and bad, as there are in all other parts of the world.

From Madrid,

June 27.

LETTER XII.

HERE is a general rejoicing since the arrival of the Marquis de los Balbaces, who brought certain news that the Most Christian King had granted Mademoiselle to the King of Spain. He so impatiently expected these tidings, that there was hardly an hour passed that he did not enquire if the courier was come, and as soon as he knew it, he immediately went to hear *Te Deum* at our Lady d'Atocha's church. As the ladies do not go there, so they are content to dress themselves very fine, and place themselves in their windows. I chose this, and I thought I should have been choaked and blinded, it was so excessive dusty. I saw the King in his coach of green oil-cloth; he had but a small attendance, for about twenty halberdiers, cloathed in yellow, with truss breeches like the pages, made up his guard, marching before and behind him. The courtier's coaches indeed that accompanied him were so numerous, that they could hardly be told; the people every where crowding, even to the tops of the houses, crying out *Viva el Rey Dios*

le Benidiga, and several added, *Viva el Reina nuestra Sennora*. There was not the least house or street without having tables spread; every one had garlic, leeks, and onions in their hands, inso-much that they perfumed the air with them, and they were even debauched with drinking his Majesty's health in water: for, dear cousin, though I have already mentioned it to you, yet I think I may repeat it here, that there never were people so temperate as these, especially in wine; and they have so strange an abhorrence for those that are guilty of intemperance, that by their law a man who can be proved but once to have been drunk, is refused for being a witness in any court of justice where he is produced, and after a sharp reproof is sent away. And if it happen, that one calls another *boracho*, that is, drunkard, this injury is sure to be revenged with murder.

That night the King was at *Antocha*, we illuminated all our houses with great flambeaux of white wax, which they call *hachas*; they are longer than those that are used in Paris, to light the coaches at night, but withal they are a great deal dearer, not only because the wax is brought at great charges from other parts of the world, but also because there is a prodigious quantity of it consumed in Spain. And when they make illu-

minations, they are not contented to set up four or six flambeaux, but they must put two in every balcony, and two at each window, up to the highest story; there are some houses which thus require four or five hundred. Every where there were bonfires made, and we went to the palace to see a masquerade of a hundred and fifty lords, which they said was to be there. I cannot imagine why they call this diversion by that name, for they were not all masked; commonly they chuse the darkest night. All the courtiers were mounted upon their finest horses, every horse was covered with silver gauze and housings, embroidered with gold and pearl. The cavalleros were cloathed in black, with coloured tabby sleeves, embroidered with silk and bugles; they wore small hats buttoned up with diamonds, and in them a plume of feathers; they had rich scarfs, and many jewels; but with all this, their black cloaks, and their ugly collars strangely disfigure them. They ride on horseback like the Turks and Moors, that is, as they call it a *genita*, their stirrups are so short, that their knees are even with and rest upon the tops of the horses shoulders. I cannot yet reconcile my eyes to this fashion; they say, that thus they can better raise and put themselves forth against any that assault them.

But to return to the masquerade, they all met together at an appointed place, which generally is at one of the gates of the city. The streets through which they were to go were all strewed with sand, and on every side there were a kind of chafing-dishes set upon poles, which besides the wax flambeaux, gave a great light; there were also placed several very clear lanthorns in windows, which made a very fine shew. Every cavellero had a great many footmen, which were cloathed in cloth of gold and silver; they went by their master's sides with flambeaux. The cavelleros marched four in a rank very softly, each of them holding a flambeau also; they went all over the city, attended with trumpets, timbrels, bagpipes, and flutes, and when they came to the palace, which was illuminated and the court covered with sand, they took several turns, and ran and pushed against one another with a design to throw each other down with these tricks. Prince Alexander de Parma, who is of a prodigious bigness, fell down, and the fall of him made as great a noise as the tumbling down of a moderate high hill, they had much difficulty to carry him off, for he was grievously bruised with his fall; there were several of them with their great spectacles on, but particularly the Marquis

de Astorgas, who does not only wear them for gravity sake, but for need, as he is old, but yet for all that he is frolicsome, he will be Mayor Domo to the young Queen, and he is a grandee of Spain.

And now I speak of a grandee of Spain, Don Fernand de Toledo told me the other day an affair pleasant enough. His father-in-law, who is the Marquis de Palacois, lives at a horrid profuse rate, for it seems he is one of those professed gallants of the ladies of the palace, and to arrive to that he must both have a great deal of wit and shew abundance of magnificence, I mean a certain peculiar sort of wit, that is neat and refined; he must have choice phrases and expressions, and some ways and modes not common; he must understand to write both in prose and verse, and to be a proficient in it. In a word, he must both talk and perform in this palace gallantry after quite a different manner than that which is used in the city.

But to return to the Marquis de Palacois. There was a public festival appointed by the King, this marquis wanted money to appear there; he is lord of several towns, it came into his head to go down post to them; as soon as he

arrived, he immediately caused papers to be put up, specifying, that all those of that town which desired to be made grandees, should directly come to him. There was not either justice, burgess, or tradesman, who was not presently filled with vehement ambitious desires for the grandeza, his house was crowded with all sorts of people; he agreed with them every one severally in private, and got as much as he could of them, and afterwards he made them all be covered before him, and gave them patents, in form, just as the King does when he makes any one a grandee. His invention succeeded too well in the first town not to practice it in the rest; he found amongst them the same disposition to give him money, that through his means they might be grandees; with this trick he got a considerable sum, and away he comes, and makes a splendid shew at court, but as a man is seldom without enemies, so there were some persons that had a mind to make use of this pleasant frolic to put him out of the King's favour. His Majesty was told of it, and the marquis justified himself well enough, by saying, all those to whom he had granted permission to be covered before him, being born his vassals, they owed more respect than to dare to take this li-

berty without his leave, and that therefore he had made them grandees, as to himself. And after this the matter was looked upon as a merry jest.

This marquis comes often to see us, and as he belonged to the late court, so yesterday he told me, that a famous astrologer being one day with the late King in the terrace-walk of the palace, the King asked him the height of that place, he gazed up in the air and named a certain height. The King privately ordered them to raise the pavement of the terrace about three or four fingers, and in the night it was done. The next morning he caused the astrologer to come to him, and being upon the terrace with him, says he to him, I spoke last night of the height you told me of this walk, but there were some who maintained you were mistaken. Sir, says he, I dare say, I was not mistaken. But consider it well, says the King, and afterwards we will make him ashamed who boasts himself to be a more knowing man than you. He immediately began again to make his observations; the King saw him change colour and seemed to be at a great loss; but at last he drew nigh the King, and said, what I told your Majesty yesterday was true, but to-day I find that the terrace is raised, or the heavens are sunk down a little lower:

The King smiled, and told him the trick he had put upon him.

That I may give you an account of other matters, I must tell you that the King has in his family three persons, whom by way of eminency are called, the great officers, the Mayor Domo Mayor, the Sumiller of the Body, and the Master of the Horse. These three places are thus distinguished, the Mayor Domo commands in the palace, the business of the Sumiller of the Body, is in the King's chamber, and the Master of the Horse, orders all things in every place, except the palace.

After these come the gentlemen of the King's bed-chamber, they wear at their girdle for a mark of their dignity a golden key. There are three sorts of these keys, the first gives the employment of the gentlemen of the bed-chamber; the second the entrance with the employment; and the third is called *Clavæ Capona*, which only gives entrance into the anti-chamber. The number of these gentlemen are great, there are forty of those for service, who take it in turns every day, and for the most part they are *grandees* of Spain. The Mayor Domo, that is to say, the steward in ordinary, has the same access as the gentleman of the bed-chamber. The persons of the highest quality fill up these

places, for the most part they are the second sons of the grandees, they wait in turns every week, and when the high steward is absent they are invested with his power; these also introduce foreign ministers when they have audience; there are eight of them, sometimes more, but seldom fewer.

The King hath three companies for his guards, but they have not any thing that agrees with one another. The Marquis de Falces commands the Flemish or Burgundian guard; it consists of a hundred halberdiers, and although here they call them the yeomen of the guard, yet they may be called the life-guard; the German guard consists of the same number, Don Pedro de Arragon is captain of it; the Spanish guard is also composed of a hundred halberdiers, and are commanded by the Count de los Arcos. He is likewise captain of another company of one hundred Spaniards called the guards of the Lancilla, and this never appears but at great ceremonies, and at the funerals of Kings. The affairs of the state are managed by a chief minister, whom they call Privado; he hath under him a secretary of state, whose office is in the palace. All business that comes to the King and the minister ought to pass directly through his hands, and as he dispatches

also whatever the King orders, so he is called *secretario del despacho universel*.

The council of state, and divers other councils, examine all matters, and the King, or the chief minister, afterwards determine them, there are a great many counsellors; here follow the names of those which at present compose the council of state, viz. The constable de Castille, of the family of the Valesaco's, is the president; the Duke d'Albe, the Duke de Medina Celi, Don Pedro d'Arragon, the Admiral of Castille, the Marquis de Astorgas, the Prince de Stillano, the Duke de Ossuna, the Count de Chincon, Don Vincent Gorzaga, Prince de Guastallo, Don Lewis Portocarrero, Cardinal Archbishop of Toledo, the Marquis de Liches, the Marquis de los Balbares, Don Diego Sarmituto, Don Melchios Navarra, the Marquis de Losveler, the Marquis de Mansera, and the Duke de Alburquerque.

Besides this council, which is the principal, there is that of the inquisition of war, of the orders of Arragon, of the Indies, of Italy, of Hazienda, of the Croisado, and of Flanders; there is also the chamber of Castille, of the Alcades de Corta, of the Contraduria, De Apuesto, Delas Bosques Reales, De Milliones, and

De Competancias. But do not think, dear cousin, that the salaries and profits of those places are small. For instance, the counsellors of the council of the Indies, make from eighteen to twenty thousand crowns a year of their places. And here it is pertinent to tell you, that it is thought, no places are sold in this country, at least it is not known; in all appearance they are bestowed upon merit or birth, but yet understand, there are such considerable presents made, that to get a viceroyalty they will give five thousand pistoles, and sometimes more. That which would be called buying in another country, at Madrid is termed giving a regalio, that is, making a present, and one is equivalent to the other, with this difference, that a place, or a government which one buys, is your's as long as you live, and sometimes passes by inheritance to your children, either by natural right, or the concession of the prince; but in Spain they enjoy a place which costs them very dear, only three, or five years at most. It is easy to believe that those who advance so much, are very certain to reimburse themselves both principal and interest. From this practice the people are horribly oppressed, they have perpetually upon them, either a new viceroy, or governor, which comes from draining himself of all

the ready money which he could either make of his own and sometimes of his friends, to bribe the court. Thus he comes hungry, and has but a short time to enrich himself; and so the poor people are on all hands pillaged without so much as being able to have their complaints heard. But it is yet quite another thing in the Indies, where gold is so plentiful, and they are so far from the King and his ministers. It is certain they bring from thence immense sums, as I think, I have already intimated to you, even the religious, as they call them, who are sent to preach there, return not without forty or fifty thousand crowns, which they have heaped up in four or five years time. So notwithstanding their vow of poverty, they find out the secret of growing rich, and during their life they are suffered to enjoy the fruit of their mission.

The monasteries here have yet another piece of craft, which commonly succeeds, when a religious person or friar happens to be the only son. If his father is rich, they beg him to leave his estate to the convent, where his son has taken the habit, upon condition that he shall manage and enjoy it whilst he lives, but after his death that the monastery shall inherit it, and put up prayers, and say masses, for the father and the son. By this

means there are professed friars which have ten thousand crowns a year at their disposal. This affluence in a country where reason has but little power over the affections, does not always make them more holy, and if there are any that use it well, there are abundance who abuse it.

It is known that every year there comes from the Indies above five and thirty millions of crowns, but yet not a quarter part of this ever goes into the King of Spain's coffers. These treasures spread themselves over all Europe; the French, English, Dutch, and the Genoese, draw away the best shares of it. Methinks this does not suit with the refined policy of the Spaniards, to waste their own subjects in digging gold out of the mines, to let other nations, with whom they are often at war, reap the profit; but the natural laziness which hinders them from working, and having no manufactures of their own, obliges them to have recourse to those who can furnish their country with the merchandizes they want.

As strangers dare not venture to go there, because it is upon no less penalty than hanging, so they contrive to send their effects in the names of the Spanish merchants, with whom they meet all the fidelity imaginable; and if the King would, he could not hinder strangers from receiving what is

properly theirs; for the Spaniards upon this occasion, had rather lose their lives than any wrong should come to another. There is one thing remarkable, and that is, when the flota comes to an anchor at Cadiz, there are men who make public profession to assist in cheating the King of his customs upon silver and other merchandizes. It is as much their trade and livelihood, as for a banker to deal in money. They call them matadors; and as much knaves as they are towards the King, yet one must do them the right to say, they are not so to the private men who agree with them for a certain reward, securely to lodge their silver in such a place of the city as they shall desire. And this practice is so certain and safe, that one never hears of any that have violated their trust: it were easy to punish these men for the frauds they are guilty of against the King, but there would be inconveniences to the prejudice of trade, perhaps far greater than the punishments would bring advantage; so that the government and magistrates take no notice of what passes. There might also be an easy remedy found out to hinder the King from losing all upon this occasion; and that is, to abate the duties a little, which indeed are very high, and so what is given to these matadors, and somewhat more.

might be paid to the contrataction; for naturally the merchants do not love cheating, and are continually afraid of paying at once, what they have been saving for half a score voyages; but it is the humour of the Spaniards, to have all or nothing, and very often they have nothing.

As to Madrid, it is impossible to find there any greater robbers and cheats than the magistrates and officers themselves; these are the men, that with impunity appropriate to themselves the King's customs, and who cheat him after such a rate, that it is no wonder if he so often wants money: but they are not satisfied with cheating their sovereign, they must also abuse and pillage the people; and although the laws of this nation are not only just, but equitable, yet no body seems to be sensible of them. Those very persons into whose hands they are put, and who are set on purpose to execute them, are the first that break and corrupt them.

If you will but give money to an Alcade, or to and Alguazil, you may have the most innocent persons in the world arrested or seized, and then thrown into some nasty dark hole of a prison, and there perish with hunger, without any proceeding or coming to a trial, and without any order or decree; and when the poor wretch is let out of

prison, he must not so much as think of doing himself right against this wicked officer of justice. This sort of people are generally much favoured every where, but here they are beyond all measure, and righteous judges in this country are more scarce than in any country whatever.

Thieves, murderers, poisoners, and the greatest criminals imaginable, remain safe and quiet at Madrid, provided they are not rich, for if they be, they are sure to be disturbed for the sake of their wealth.

They do not judge criminal matters above twice or thrice a year. It is with the greatest difficulty that they bring themselves to cause any criminal to die, who is, say they, a man like ourselves, their countryman, and one of the King's subjects; they send most either to the mines, or to the galleys, and when any wretch is condemned to be hanged, he is carried upon an ass, with his face towards the tail; he is cloathed in black, and a scaffold is erected for him, that he may make a speech to the people, who are all upon their knees, and in tears, beating themselves upon their breasts: after he has spent what time he will in his harangue, he is dispatched with a great deal of gravity; and as these examples of justice are very rare, so they make a mighty impression upon the spectators.

Notwithstanding the vast riches, and the excessive haughtiness and presumption of the great lords, yet they obey the least order of the King, with that exactness and respect which cannot be sufficiently praised. Upon the first command, they depart, they return, go to prison, or into banishment, without murmuring. It is not possible to find a more perfect submission and obedience, nor a more sincere love, than that of the Spaniards for their King. This name is sacred with them, and to bring them to whatever one has a mind, it is sufficient to say, the King wills it. It is under his name that the poor people of both the Castilles are so horribly oppressed with taxes; the other kingdoms or provinces are not so loaded, but boast themselves for the most part, that they are a free people, and pay what they have a mind to.

I have already hinted to you, dear cousin, that in every thing they exactly follow the politics of Charles V. without considering that the difference of times makes a mighty alteration in the events of things, although they may seem to be alike, and in the same circumstances; and that what without the imputation of rashness, might have been undertaken a hundred and twenty years ago, under a flourishing reign, would be imprudent to practise now under a reign that is far less so: but a vanity

that is natural to them, hinders them from seeing, that Providence sometimes permits empires, as well as particular families, to have their revolutions and periods. The Spaniards believe themselves to be just the same people, and in the same circumstances they ever were; but though I never knew their ancestors, yet I dare say they deceive themselves.

But not to make any farther reflections, which perhaps are too serious and high for me, I will tell you, that here is a general rejoicing at Madrid for the arrival of the flota from the Indies. As it is not their humour here to treasure up wealth, so this prodigious quantity of silver, which comes all in a lump, is spread over all the world. One would think that these immense sums cost nothing, and that it is money which chance sent them. Hereupon the great lords summon their creditors, and pay them with a profuseness, which yet, without exaggerating, has something in it that is both noble and very generous; for there are but few countries where liberality is so natural, as it is in this; and I must also add, that they are patient even to admiration. They have been known to endure most long and toilsome sieges, in which, besides the fatigues of war, they had nothing to support them but bread made of rotten corn, and stinking water for their drink; and yet there are

no men in the world more nice about good water. I say, notwithstanding all this, and that they have been exposed to the severities of the weather, were half naked and had hard lodging, yet in spite of all these things, they have been found more brave and courageous, than when they enjoyed plenty and prosperity. It is true, that that temperance which is so natural to them, is a mighty help to them to endure hunger when they are forced to it; they eat very little, and scarcely will they drink any wine. The custom they have of eating all alone, contributes something to make them so frugal; for indeed, neither their wives, nor their children, ever eat with them. The master has his table to himself, and the mistress with her children sit on the floor upon a carpet, after the Turkish and Moorish manner. They seldom or never invite their friends to feast together, so that they are not guilty of any excess. Upon this account, it is their saying, "that they only eat to live;" whereas there are people, who only live to eat. Nevertheless, there are some rational people, who find this affectation too great; and as they admit of little familiarity in conversation, so they perpetually live at a distance, and as it were in ceremony with one another, without enjoying that freedom which makes that true union, and produces that desirable openness of heart.

This great retirement gives them up to a thousand illusions, which they call philosophy; it makes them singular, dull, fantastic, melancholy, and jealous; whereas, if they governed themselves otherwise, there is nothing they would not be capable of, since they have a wonderful vigour of mind, an excellent memory, good sense, a solid judgment, and great patience; than which, there needs no more to make a man wise, to grow in perfection, to be agreeable in conversation, and to distinguish himself from the most polite nations. But they are so far from being what naturally they might be, though at never so little pains, that they affect a certain indolence which they call greatness of mind; they neglect their most important business, and the advancement of their fortunes. Provision for the future, gives them not the least disturbance; the only matter they are not indifferent in, is jealousy; they improve that to the utmost, the bare suspicion is enough to make them stab a wife or a mistress. Their passion of love is always furious, and yet the women please themselves in it; they say, they would not for all the mischief that may befall them, have them less sensible of their unfaithfulness; that their desperate temper is a certain proof of a true passion, and that they themselves

are not more moderate when they are in love. They leave nothing unattempted to be revenged of those they love, if they forsake them without cause; so that these sort of amorous engagements have commonly a fatal end. For instance, not long since, a woman of quality, who had cause to complain of her gallant, contrived to get him into a house where she commanded, and after she had sufficiently reproached him, against which he did but weakly defend himself, for he was guilty; she presented to him a poniard, and a cup of poisoned chocolate, leaving him only the liberty which sort of death he would chuse: he did not waste one minute to move her pity, he very well saw, that in this place she was the strongest, so that he tamely drank off the chocolate without leaving a drop. After he had drank it, says he to her, "It had been better if you had put a little more sugar in it, for the poison made it very bitter; remember to do so the next time you prepare another." He was immediately seized with convulsions; it was very violent poison, and killed him in an hour's time; and after all, this lady loved him passionately, yet she had the barbarity not to stir from him till he was dead.

The Venetian ambassador, who is a very well

accomplished man, being lately at home, they brought him word, that a lady covered with a mantle desired to speak with him, and that she hid herself so close, they could not possibly see what she was; she had with her two gentlemen-ushers, and a considerable attendance. He invited her to his chamber of audience, and she desired he would cause every body to go out. When she was alone with him, she unveiled herself, and appeared to him extremely handsome. "I am of an illustrious family," said she to him, "my name is Donna Blanca de Gusman; I have despised all the laws of decency, in favour of that passion I have for you; I came to declare to you, my lord, and to tell you, that I must needs remain here this night." From such an impudent speech, the ambassador could not in the least doubt, but that this was some jilt that had borrowed a great name, in order to draw him into some snare; but yet, with abundance of kindness, he told her, that till now he had never thought himself unhappy in the service of the Republic, that he could wish he were not an ambassador, that so he might embrace the favour she offered him; but that being in such a station, there was little likelihood that he could give entertainment to a person of her eminent quality, that

this might bring him into great trouble, and therefore begged her that she would withdraw. Immediately she was like a fury, and after she had reviled and reproached him, she drew out a stiletto, and ran upon him in order to stab him. He easily prevented her, and having called one of his gentlemen, bade him give five or six pistoles to this woman. She so little deserved this generosity, and it so appeased her, that she really told him she was one of those creatures he took her for, and that the reason why she had been so desperate, was, that the gentlemen-ushers who waited for her below, were her gallants, and would have broke her bones if she had made no advantage of the plot they had laid; that besides, she was to pay for the equipage she came in, which was hired on purpose for this design, and that she had much rather have died, than to have endured all those abuses. The ambassador was so taken with her pleasant confession, that he ordered ten pistoles more to be given her; "for," says he to her, "since so many honest folks must share with you, your part will be too small. She succeeded so well here, that she went directly to the French ambassador's; but she was not so courteously received there: for upon the first apprehension of her design, she and her attendants narrowly es-

caped being entertained with the strapado. He gave her not a sous; happy was she that she got out as she came in, for he had an aversion for all these creatures.

This morning we tarried some time in the Placamayor, for an answer to a message my kinswoman had sent to a gentleman who dwelt there. In this place fish is sold, and there was a woman who had some little bits of salmon to sell, which she said was fresh; she made a horrid noise in crying it, and in calling customers to buy it; at last comes a shoemaker, who I knew for such, because she called him Signior Capatero; he asked for a pound of her salmon, (and by the way, you must observe, that every thing here is sold by the pound, even wood and charcoal) says she to him, "You do not enquire after the price, because you think it is cheap, but do not deceive yourself, for I must have a crown for every pound." The shoemaker was vexed that she questioned his abilities, and with an angry tone he said to her, "Had it been very cheap, I would have but one pound, but since it is dear, I will have three." He immediately gave her three crowns, and then thrusting down his little hat, for you must know that the tradesmen wear them as narrow as the people of quality wear them broad, and turning up his mustachos by way of rodomon-

tade, he raised the point of his formidable sword almost to the top of his shoulder, and haughtily looked at us, having well observed that we took notice of him, and overheard his discourse, and were strangers. But the pleasantness of the thing lies here ; perhaps these three crowns were all that ever this vain-glorious fool had in the world ; that this was his whole week's profit, and that to-morrow, himself, his wife and poor children, would have a more severe fast, than with bread and water ; but such is the vain humour of these people here ; nay, there are some of them which will take the legs of a capon, and will let them hang down under their cloaks, that they may look as if they really had a capon, whilst they have nothing but the legs and feet.

You cannot see a joiner, a sadler, or other sort of shopkeeper, without his velvet and sattin suit like the King's, with his long rapier and dagger, and his guittar hanging up in his shop. They work as little as ever they can, for I have more than once told you, that they are naturally lazy. Indeed, nothing but over-ruling necessity drives them to do any thing at all, and then they work upon Sundays and other festivals, without any scruple, as well as upon any other days ; and afterwards they carry their goods abroad. If it is a shoemaker, and he

has two apprentices, he takes them both with him, and each of them carry a shoe; nay, if he has three, they must all go along with him; and it is with much ado that he will stoop to try the shoes he has made. When he has done, he goes and sits down in the sun, (which is called the Spaniard's fire) with a company of such idle fellows as himself, and there with a sovereign authority they determine matters of state, and settle the interest of princes; very often they fall out about them, some one of them that takes himself to be a more able politician than the rest, will have them yield to his judgment; but another, as conceited as himself, will not submit, and so they fall together by the ears without mercy. I went two days ago to see the Danish ambassador's lady, and there was brought in thither a poor wretch, who had just been wounded in the street; he was a coster-monger, and it seems he had maintained, that the Grand Signior would not be reckoned a cunning politician, if he did not cause his brother to be strangled. Another, to whom that young prince was not so displeasing, stood up in his defence, and thereupon these two went to fighting. But after all, to give them their due, all these people talk of government and politics with a great deal of judgment, and give good reasons for what they say.

Here are in this city several houses, which are a sort of academies, where people meet, some to play, and others for conversation. They play there with great honesty; and let them lose what sum they will upon honour, they never fail to pay it in twenty four hours. If there should be any failure, their honour and reputation are for ever lost. No reason whatsoever will be admitted against the necessity of paying in that time. They play there very high and very fair, without noise or shewing the least vexation or concern: if they win, it is the custom to give the *barato*. This, I think, is also used in Italy; that is to say, you give money to those that are present, to some more, to others less, and this whether you know them or not. He to whom you present the *barato* must never refuse it, let him be a hundred times richer, and of better quality than the donor; nay, one may demand it of a gamester that is winning, and he will not refuse to give it. There are people that have no other subsistence than this; but yet this is no good custom, for though a man does win, yet sometimes he hardly carries any thing of his gains away with him; and if he begins to play again, he very often loses his own.

Further, if a man is found to have cheated, he had as good forsake all company betimes, for no

honest person will have any thing to do with him ; and if he is taken in the fact, he may think himself happy if he comes off with some *cuchillados*, that is, some cuts, but not thrusts with the sword.

As to the conversation in these academies, some of it is very ingenious, and very learned persons there are who frequent them ; for in a word, they are here just as in other places, and there are some that write very fine things. What they call novels, seem to me to be of a stile, and to have an air that charms ; they never advance any thing but what is probable, and the subjects they take are so well managed, and their narration so concise and plain, neither mean nor lofty, that one must needs grant they have a genius, which surpasses all others in these kind of pieces. I will endeavour to get some of them, and will translate, and send them to you, that so you may judge of them yourself. As I have not capacity enough to speak of things which treat of more sublime matters, so I shall say nothing of them till I have been informed by those who are competent judges, and then I shall only pretend to be their echo. But after all, I must needs say, that I think them extravagant in their eulogies, and that in them they keep not near to probability ; their imagination, which is very lively and

active, sometimes runs too fast. I was reading in a book the other day, where speaking of Philip IV. the author said, "That his virtues and great qualities were so many, that there was not paper enough in the world to write them down; that a common pen was not worthy to describe such divine things, and therefore they deserved to be written by the rays of the sun upon the surface of the heavens." You will grant me that this is really losing a man's self in the clouds, and that with endeavouring to exalt his hero, our poor author falls and breaks his own neck. Their books are very badly printed, their paper is not white, and they are very badly bound, being covered with parchment or sheep's-skin leather.

I must not forget to tell you one thing, for it is very material, and that is the policy of the Spaniards, which persuades them rather to be at the charge of a hundred false informations, than to neglect the opportunity of receiving one true advice: neither the distance of the country from whence they come, nor their agents, are suspected by them, they will know every thing, and liberally recompence those that serve them; nay, they will hardly tarry till the service is accepted before they will reward them.

You cannot believe how much advantage this maxim has gained them, they have been sometimes

taken for fools, but that has not discouraged them, and in the end they always had what they intended. It is likewise true, that though they have but very slender ground to beg a favour of the King, yet provided they are not disheartened with repulses, but pursue their first design with perseverance, sooner or later, they obtain what they wished for. The ministers of state think it not suitable to the grandeur of so mighty a monarch, to refuse a small matter; and though there is but little justice in pretending to a favour which one has not deserved by some service, yet if it is sued for without intermission, it is always obtained. I see examples of it every day.

I have not yet told you, dear cousin, that upon my arrival here all the ladies did me the honour to visit me first. It is the custom here to prevent strangers, when once they know they are of quality, and their good behaviour, concerning both which they are very nice. When I returned them their visit, every one made me a present; sometimes in one house I received a dozen, for even the children of four years old will treat you. I was presented with great baskets of gilt silver, adorned with coral, curiously wrought in flowers; these are made at Naples and Milan. I had also amber boxes set with gold, enamelled and full of pastils; divers

presented me with gloves and silk stockings, and garters in abundance; but these gloves are singular, in that they are as short as the men's, for the women wear their sleeves down to their wrists; the fingers are so long, that they look as if they were nothing else, and are ridiculous: the stockings are made of *polo*, that is, raw silk; they are made so short, and so little in the foot, that I have seen several children that they would not fit: the garters are of a broad ribbon, made very light and thin, like those our peasants give at their weddings; they are trimmed at each end with some English thread lace. They presented me also with several cups of mineral earth, and a thousand other things of this kind. If ever I go from hence, and make another journey hither, it will be my turn to make presents. But, alas! any thing pleases them, needles, pins, a little ribbon, but above all, any thing made of their false stones ravishes them with joy; they that have so many that are right and so excellent, yet wear a prodigious quantity of these false ones, which in reality are nothing, but little bits of glass set, and just like those our chimney-sweepers sell to our provincials, who never saw more than their curate and their flock. The ladies of the greatest quality are loaded with these false stones, which they buy at dear rates; and when I asked

them why they were so fond of these counterfeit diamonds, they told me, "It was because they could have them as large as they desired." And indeed they have them in their pendants, as big as an egg, and all these come to them either from France or Italy; for as I have told you, few things are made at Madrid, idleness reigns too much there.

There are no good painters in this city, the greatest part of those that draw, are not of this country; they are either Flemish, Italians, or French, who come and settle here; but yet they do not grow rich, for money does not come and move in the circle of trade. For my part, I must confess, I never saw less stirring. My kinswoman receives pretty considerable sums all in quartos; it is copper money, and as nasty as our doubles; but as bad as it is, yet it comes out of the royal treasury; it is delivered by weight (for how is it possible to count such sorry stuff?) and men bring it upon their backs in large matted baskets; when these sort of payments come, the whole house is employed for eight days together in taking an account of these quartos; in three or four thousand crowns there is not an hundred pistoles, either in gold or silver.

They have here great numbers of slaves, which are bought and sold at great rates; these are Moors and Turks; there are some of them worth

four or five hundred crowns; heretofore they had power of life and death over them; a patron might have killed his slave as he might have killed a dog; but it was thought that these barbarities did not agree with the maxims of the Christian religion, and now that practice is forbid; but yet they beat them till they cripple them, without ever being called to account for it. It is true there are but few masters that are thus severe; and if a man happens to love his female slave, and she grants his desires, she becomes immediately free. As to the other domestics, it would be somewhat dangerous to use them ill; they pretend, for the most part, to be of as good families as the masters they serve; and if they should be abused, they would be in a capacity to revenge themselves, either by treacherously murdering, or poisoning them; there are many examples of this, they say, that a man ought not to insult over them, because they are poor; that though they are reduced to serve, yet they have not renounced their honour; and that they should forfeit it, if they took blows from any body whatever.

The beggars are even proud, and when they ask an alms, it is in an imperious and domineering way; if you refuse them, it must be done civilly, in saying to them, *Cavellero, perdono, usted no*

tengo moneda; that is, Pardon me, cavellero, I have no money. If you give them a rough denial, they will begin to argue with you, and undertake to prove to you, that you do not deserve that estate God has blessed you with, and will never let you alone; but if you speak courteously to them, they seem well enough content and desist.

The Spaniards are naturally gentle and kind; they marry their slaves, and if with other slaves, the children they have are not free, but like their fathers, are subject to the patron; but if these children marry, their issue shall not be slaves. And so it is, if a woman slave marry a free man, their children follow the condition of the father. You are extremely well served by these unhappy wretches; they are far more diligent, laborious, and humble, than other servants; there are few of them that will change their religion. I have one that is not above nine years old: she is as black as jet, and would be reckoned in her own country a wonderful beauty, for her nose is quite flat, her lips prodigiously thick, her eyes of a red and white colour, and her teeth admirable in Europe as well as in Africa. She understands not a word of any other language than her own; her name is Zayde, we have got her baptized. This young Christian has been so used to throw off her mantle, and to

be quite naked, when she was so exposed to sale, that I have had much ado to hinder her from doing so now; and the other day, when we had a great deal of company, I sent for her; and truly Mrs. Zayde was pleased to appear before them all with her little black body as naked as she was born. I am resolved to have her whipt, to make her know that this sort of fashion does not please me, for there is no other way to make her understand. Those that sold her to me, told me she was a girl of quality, and the poor child will come often and fall down on her knees before me, hold her hands together, cry, and point towards her country; I would willingly send her thither, if she could there be a Christian; but this impossibility obliges me to keep her. I would fain understand her, for I believe she is witty, all her actions shew it; she dances after a fashion, and it is so pleasantly, that she affords us much entertainment. I make her wear white patches, with which she is mightily taken. She is dressed as they are at Morocco, that is, with a short gown almost without any plaits, great shift-sleeves of fine cloth, striped with different colours, like those of our Bohemians or gypsies; a pair of stays which are only made of a slip of crimson velvet with a gold ground, and are made fast at the sides with silver buckles and but-

tons, and a mantle of very fine white woollen stuff, very large and long, in which she wraps herself, and with one corner of it covers her head. This dress is very handsome, her short hair, which looks like wool, is cut in several places, on each side like a half-moon, on the crown a circle, and before a heart; she cost me twenty pistoles, my daughter hath made her governess of her marmoset; it is the little monkey which the Archbishop of Burgos presented to her. I do assure you, that Zayde and the marmoset are very well met, and understand one another extremely well.

But to come to other affairs; here is arrived a man, who has been fetched from the farthest part of Galicia, he is such a saint, that he has done many miracles, as it is pretended. The Marchioness de los Velez, formerly governess to the King, was like to die, and she sent to have him come in all haste, but they were so long in their journey, that she was well again before he arrived. It was known what day he would arrive, and while she was then expecting him, Don Fernand de Toledo, who is her nephew, and had not seen her since his return from Flanders, because of her having been sick; knowing that she was then much better, happened to go to her house much about the time the saint of Galicia was to be there.

The Marchioness's people seeing him, and not knowing him at all, (for he had been absent several years) without considering that there were few men of his age and looks so happy as to work miracles, concluded, at first sight, that he was the saint: immediately they threw open the great door, and rung the bell for the signal, as the Marchioness had ordered them; all the duennas and the maids came to receive him with every one a wax candle in her hand; several of them fell upon their knees, and would not let him stir till he had given them his blessing. He thought they made a fool of him, to give him such a reception; he knew not whether he was bewitched, or whether he dreamed; and do what he would, he could not persuade himself that all this was real; it was to no purpose expostulating with them, they paid no attention to him at all, the noise and crowd was so great; they brought their beads to touch him, and those that were far off him, threw them at his head, with a hundred medals fastened to them. The most zealous began to cut his cloak and his cloaths, and now his fear began to be very great, lest through a desire to multiply his relics, they should cut him to pieces. The Marchioness de los Velez, who was carried before them in a great elbow chair, came to meet the holy man;

and truly when she perceived the mistake, and saw it was her nephew, she fell a laughing so loud and so long, that she far exceeded the strength every one thought she had. When he went from her house, he came to see us, all torn, and just as the devout people had left him.

I should tell you, that all is very private and retired in this court; but here is the way and manners according to which some particular persons live: in the morning as soon as they are up, they drink water cooled with ice, and presently after chocolate; when dinner time is come, the master sits down to table, his wife and children, as I have already observed, eat upon the floor near the table; this is not done out of respect, as they tell me, but the lady cannot sit upon a chair, she is not accustomed to it; and there are several ancient Spanish women who never sat upon one in their whole lives; they make a light meal, for they eat little flesh; the best of their food is pigeons, pheasants, and their olios, which are excellent; but the greatest lord has not brought to his table above two pigeons, and some very bad ragout, full of garlic and pepper, and after that some fennel, and a small quantity of fruit: when this little dinner is over, all in the house undress themselves, and lie down upon their beds, upon which they lay Spa-

fish leather skins for coolness; at this time you shall not find a soul in the streets; the shops are shut, all trades are over, and it appears as if every body were dead. At two o'clock in the winter, and at four in the summer, they begin to dress themselves again, then eat sweetmeats, drink either some chocolate, or waters cooled in ice, and afterwards every one goes where they think fit; and indeed they stay out till eleven or twelve o'clock at night, I speak of people that live regularly. Then the husband and wife go to bed, a great table cloth is spread all over the bed, and each fastens it under the chin; the male and female dwarfs serve up supper, which is as frugal as the dinner, for it is either a pheasant hen made into a ragout, or some pastry business, which burns the mouth, it is so excessively peppered. The lady drinks her belly full of water, and the gentleman very sparingly of the wine, and when supper is ended, each go to sleep as well as they can.

The unmarried, or those who observe but few rules with their wives, after they have been taking the air in the Prado, where in the summer they go half naked in their coaches; I mean when it is dark, they get a light supper, mount their horses, and take a footman behind them, they do this that they may not lose him: for going in the darkest night through so many streets very quick, how

should a footman be able to turn and wind, and follow his master? But they are also afraid of being assaulted behind, the footman having no other care than to look about him, is as it were the centinel, and ready to defend his master. There may be some that will do this, but most of them in such cases run away, for they are not stout. This nocturnal ramble is upon the ladies account, they then visit them, and to gain an empire, they would not neglect that opportunity. They talk to them through the lattice of the windows, sometimes they go into their gardens, and when they can into their chambers. Their passion is so violent, that they will look the greatest danger in the face; they will go to the very place where the husband sleeps, and I have been told that they will see one another years together without daring to speak one word, for fear of being heard. They are ignorant in France of what it is to love at the rate these people are said to love. And not to mention the cares, the earnest desires, the nicety, and the devoting of themselves up even to death, (for the husband and relations give no quarters) that which I admire is, their fidelity and secrecy. It is never known that a *cavellero* boasts of having received favours from a lady; they speak of their mistresses with so much respect and value, as if they were their sovereigns. And

on the other hand, these ladies never desire to oblige any other than their gallants, they are entirely taken up with them; and although they cannot see them in the day time, yet they have opportunity to employ several hours about them, either in writing to, or speaking of them with some female friend who is privy to the intrigue; or else in waiting all the day long, and looking through their lattices to see them go by. In a word, from all that I have been told concerning these matters, I am persuaded that love had its birth in Spain.

Whilst the cavalleros are with their mistresses; their footmen look after their horses at some distance from the house; but there are very often unpleasant mischances happen to them, for there being no necessary places in their houses, all night long they throw that out of their windows, which decency hinders me from naming to you; so that the amorous Spaniard who goes silently along the street, is many times in a nasty condition from head to foot; and though at his coming out he was curiously perfumed, yet he is forced to return as fast as he can to change his cloaths.*

* Madrid, which was formerly one of the nastiest places in Europe, has very lately, by command of his present Majesty, Charles V. been rendered one of the cleanest cities in Europe.

This is one of the greatest inconveniences in this city, and which renders it so stinking and filthy, that in the morning you can hardly pass along the streets. I say in the morning, for the air is here so subtile and hot, that all this nastiness is consumed before noon. When a horse, or any animal dies, they throw him into the street where he happens to be, though it were before the palace gate, and the next day you will find him reduced to dust. They are persuaded, that if they did not throw out their filth and carrion in this manner into their streets, Madrid would not be long without the plague, and it never is there.

But besides those ways I have now mentioned, that gallants have to see their mistresses, they have yet others; for the ladies visit one another frequently, and there is nothing more easy for them than to wear a veil, and by the back door go into a chair, and be carried where they will: and this is the more practicable, because all the women agree to keep one another's secrets inviolably, let there be what differences there will amongst them, and let them be ever so angry one against another, yet they never open their lips to make the least discovery; their discretion cannot be sufficiently praised: it is true indeed, the consequences would be more fatal if they did otherwise, since they

make nothing here of murdering upon a bare suspicion. After this manner, the ladies make their visits to one another; you must not go to see your friend when you have a mind, you must stay till you are desired to come, and the lady that has a mind to be visited, writes a letter in the morning, and invites you; you are carried in a chair which is extremely large every way, and that they may be the lighter, they are made only of a thin stuff, hung upon a wooden frame; these staffs are always mixed with gold and silver, and are very rich; they have in them three great glasses, and the top is made of a very thin leather, lined as the rest, and it opens upwards, so that you may go in and out more conveniently; to every chair there are four bearers, who relieve one another, and a footman carries the hat of the foremost; for let it be what weather it will, he must not be covered before his mistress. The lady is set as fast in her chair, as a diamond stone in a ring; she wears not then either mantle or veil, or if she does, it has a black English face set on it, half an ell deep, very fine and dear: this is becoming enough. She has also a coach with four mules, in these long traces I have before mentioned, which follows slowly after the chair, that is commonly filled with

old gentlemen ushers, and five or six pages, for every lady has these, my banker's wife has two.

The ladies never take any of their women with them; and though several of them are going to the same place, yet they each take a chair to themselves, and do not go together in any of their coaches. I happened the other day to be in a stop there was in a street, and there came by me fifty chairs, and as many coaches one after another, they came out of the Duchess de Frias, and went to the Duchess d'Uzeda's house; I will tell you why they went thither, when I have first told you that when the lady is come to her house where she goes to visit, the chairmen carry her as far as the anti-chamber, the stairs are made purposely very wide and low, for the greater ease; as soon as she is set down, she sends away all her people and her coach, and appoints them what hour to come and fetch her home, which is usually between ten and eleven o'clock, for their visits are long enough to tire the greatest patience.

There never come any men where they are met, a jealous husband would have little to do to seek his wife among them; he would be laughed at, and they would not vouchsafe to give you any other satisfaction, than telling him, That she is

where he is not. The good women are cunning enough, and they make use of this liberty, for you must know that every house hath its back doors, by which they can steal out and never be seen. Besides this, every one has a brother at her sister's, a son at her mother's, or a nephew at her aunt's, and this is another pretence they make use of to see their lover.

Love in this country is very ingenious, nothing is neglected to gratify their passion, and the mistress meets with fidelity; there are intrigues that continue many years, and yet there has not been an hour's time lost to accomplish them, all opportunities are improved, and there needs no more after seeing and liking one another.

I was some days ago at the Marchioness d'Alcannizas; she is one of the greatest and most virtuous ladies of the court; discoursing upon these matters, she very freely said to us, I must needs confess, that if a cavellero should be conveniently alone with me half an hour, and did not ask me all that a man could ask, I should resent it so highly, that I should almost be ready to stab him, if I could. "And would you grant him all the favours he might ask you?" (interrupted the Marchioness de Liche, who is young and handsome). That does not follow, replied my Lady d'Alcannizas,

on the contrary, I have reason to believe that I should not grant him any thing at all, but then I could not reproach him with any thing, whereas if he made no attempt upon me I should conclude he despised me. There are few, I believe, but what are of the same opinion in this matter.

There is one thing I find very extraordinary, and does not look well, methinks in a Catholic kingdom, and that is the tolerating of men that keep mistresses so openly without the least disguise; it is very true that they are forbid by the laws, but they value not the laws, and only obey their own inclinations, and yet no one offers to call them to account, or reprove them in the least. These mistresses are called *amancebadas*, though a man is married, yet he must have one of these creatures, and often the natural children are brought up with the legitimate, in the sight of the poor wife, who patiently bears all this without so much as speaking a word. It is very seldom you hear of any disturbances between husband and wife, and yet seldomer that they separate, as in France. Of an infinite number of persons that I know here, I have only seen the Princess Duella Rocca, that does not live with her husband, but in a convent, the courts of justice are not much troubled here with domestic quarrels,

It seems extraordinary to me that a lady who loves, and is beloved by a cavellero, is not jealous of his amancebada, she looks upon her as a second wife, and believes she cannot stand in competition with her, so that a man has his wife, his amancebada, and his mistress, this last is generally a person of quality, it is she that is visited in the night, and for whom they venture their lives.

It happens sometimes that a lady covered with her great plain mantle or vail, and not shewing any more of her face than half an eye, and being ordinarily dressed, because she would not be known, and having no mind to take a chair, walks on foot to the place of rendezvous, either her being little used to walk, or very often, her manner and way distinguishes her: a cavellero follows, and begins to talk to her; uneasy at having such a companion, which it is hard to get rid of, she addresses herself to the first she meets, and without further discovery of herself, "I conjure you," says she to him, "to hinder this importunate man from following me any longer, his curiosity may injure my affairs." This request amounts to a command with a brave Spaniard, he asks him against whom the lady complains, why he will press upon her against her mind? and if he meets with an obstinate person, the sword must be

drawn, and sometimes they kill each other, without knowing for whom they have so exposed themselves. In the mean while the lady makes the best of her way, leaving them fighting together, and goes where she is expected. But the jest is, that very often this proves either to be the husband or the brother that asserts her cause, and by defending her from the pursuit of the inquisitive, gives her an opportunity to enjoy the embraces of her gallant.

Some time ago, a young lady who dearly loved her husband, being informed that he did not live so regularly as he should, disguised herself, put on her vail, and standing in a street he used often to pass through, she espied him, and gave him an opportunity to speak to her. After he had accosted her, she began to *thou* him; and it is commonly in this familiar way that the women in this country make known their inclinations. He made a proposal to her, which she accepted, but upon condition that he should not be desirous either to see or know who she was: he promised he would not, and so led her to a friend of his; at their parting he assured her he thought himself the happiest of men, and that fortune had never been so kind to him before, he then gave her a very fine ring, and begged her to keep it for his

sake. I will keep and love it dearly, and will meet thee here again when thou wilt, says she to him, for I had as good have thy jewels as another. When she had ended these words, she opened her vail, and the husband, seeing it was his wife, was in the greatest confusion at his adventure, but he considered, that since she had so well contrived the matter as to get out of her house to watch him, she might also find a way to play him some other trick less pleasant, and therefore to be secure of her, he appointed two duennas constantly to look after her, and they never left her.

It happens also sometimes, that when a man's house is not near the place, where by chance he meets his mistress, he goes without ceremony into the next he comes at, whether he is acquainted there or no, and civilly intreats the master to let him have a room to himself, because he has then an opportunity to discourse with a lady, which if he loses, he shall not have the like in a long time; this is enough to make the master grant an accommodation to the gallant and his mistress; and sometimes, I assure you, it is the very wife of the fool that is so very comode; in a word, they will venture strangely for an opportunity of seeing each other, though but for a quarter of an hour.

I remember a French lady, discoursing of a certain man to one of her friends, said, "Shew me an amorous man, and I will shew you one ruined." This maxim is verified here more than in any other place of the world; a lover or a gallant has nothing that he can call his own. It is no matter whether she either sees, or has a real occasion for a thing, it is sufficient if she does but barely desire it; they are never denied any thing, and the manner of giving it enhances their liberality. I find them nothing near so amiable as our Frenchmen, but it is said they know how to love at a greater rate. Besides their behaviour is a thousand times more respectful, nay, this extends so far, that when a man, let him be of what quality he will, presents any thing, or gives a letter to a lady, he kneels upon one knee, and he does the same when he receives any thing from her hand.

I said I would tell you why so many ladies went to the Duchess of d'Uzeda's; she is very amiable, and is daughter to the Duke d'Ossuna; her husband has had a quarrel with the Prince de Stillanò, about a lady whom they both love, they drew their swords, which is likely to be of bad consequence. The King has caused them to be arrested, that is, they are not made prisoners, but

he has confined them to their houses, unless they privately go abroad in the night to pursue their usual amorous pleasures. And that which is strange, the poor wife must not set her foot out of door as long as her husband is under these confinements, though it is almost constantly for some piece of infidelity he is guilty of towards her. And it is the same also, if they be banished, or sent to live at some of their own estates in the country, which frequently happens. In all the time of their absence their wives keep house without so much as once going abroad. I have been told that the Duchess of Ossuna was a prisoner after this manner for above two years; this is the custom, but it makes life very dull and tedious.

But it is not only the Spanish ladies who are so tired and uneasy here, the French find but little diversion. We are in a few days to go to Aranjues and Toledo to kiss the Queen-mother's hand; I will write you, dear cousin, the particulars of that small journey, and I wish, with all my soul, I was in a condition of giving you more essential marks of my affection.

From Madrid,

July 25.

LETTER XIII.

BY my last letter, I told you, dear cousin, that we were to kiss the Queen-mother's hand, I have had this honor, but before I conduct you thither, give me leave to tell you of something else.

I would not go from Madrid till I had seen the entry of the Marquis de Villars, he made it on horseback, which is the custom here, and if a man be handsome it is very advantageous for him: when the Venetian ambassador made his, it was happy for him that he was not in his coach; he had one that was worth twelve thousand crowns, which in going from his house was overturned, and as it was in winter, the *marée* (which is that nasty black dirt that stands in great puddles in the streets, and through which a horse goes up to his girths) so spoiled the velvet, with a gold ground, and the rich embroidery it was set off with, that it could never serve again. I thought it strange that for such usual sights as these entries are, the ladies should all be in their balconies, in their rich

apparel, and with the same earnestness as if it was to see the greatest king upon earth; but they have so little liberty, that they are glad to embrace all occasions to shew themselves; and as their lovers and gallants hardly ever speak to them, so they take care to place their coaches as near their mistresses balcony as they can, that they may the easier discourse with them by their eyes and fingers; this is a practice that is very useful to them for the understanding one another's minds, and they do it more readily than with their voice; this silent language seems to me very difficult, unless a person was long used to it; but they are early acquainted with it. About two days since, I saw a girl of about six years old, and a boy of the same age, who understood by this method to tell one another a thousand pretty tales. Don Frederic de Cardonne, who observed them as well as I, but understood them far better, explained to me every thing they said; and if he did not add to the discourse of these two children, I must confess, that in this country, they are born for love and courtship.

The Marchioness de Palacois, the mother of Don Fernand de Toledo, is one of my kinswoman's best friends; she has a fine house called Igarica, upon the banks of Xanama, and though

this lady is now very old, yet she never was there, notwithstanding it is but eight leagues from Madrid. It is not looked upon in this country to act according to their grandeur to visit their lands, except they lie in some principality or city, and then they call them by the name of their state. I chid this lady for her carelessness, and my kinswoman engaged her to make one in the company of her daughter Donna Marguretta, who is a little woman, pale, lusty, and fair; these three qualities are very rare here, and she is admired by every one that sees her; the young Marchioness de la Rosa, would also be of our company; her husband, with Don Fernand de Toledo, Don Sanches, Sarmiento, and Esteve de Carvajal, went on horseback; Don Frederic de Cardonna would not have failed being there too, had not the Archbishop of Burgos wrote to him, desiring him to come to him in all haste: when he told me of it, I begged him to go and see the fair Marchioness de los Rios alas Huelgas. I gave him a letter for her, in which I taxed her with her silence, and desired to know particularly how all things went.

We set forward, in two coaches, on the sixth of August, at ten o'clock at night, in the finest weather that could be; the heats were so excessive

that unless we ventured our lives, it was impossible to travel in the day-time; but the nights are cool, and the coaches are in the summer all open; the sides of the coach were turned up quite round, with fine large Holland curtains, trimmed with fine English bone-lace, and tied with knots of coloured ribbon, and as they often change them, they look very neat. We went so swift, that I was almost dead with fear, least something about our coach should break; for it is certain, that we might have been all killed a hundred times over, before the coachman would have known any thing of the matter; I fancy they run so to make amends for their slow going in Madrid; for even the foot-pace of the mules is too quick there, because of the bad pavement; the holes, the dirt in winter, and the dust in summer, make the streets very disagreeable. The Marchioness de Palacois wore a little hat, trimmed with feathers, according to the mode of the Spanish ladies when they go into the country; and the Marchioness de la Rosa looked very pretty in her short close coat, strait sleeves, and her other ornaments, upon sight of which we cried out, that we thought her *Muy Bizarra*, and *Muy de Gala*, that is, very gallant, and very splendid.

It was very odd, methinks, that these ladies

should oblige us, in three different places upon the road, to alight out of our coach, and hear the Marchioness de la Rosa's two gentlemen play upon the guittar, which it seems they brought on purpose, and it was pretty comical to see these blades gallop with their guittars hanging behind their backs. This ordinary concert of music was nevertheless ravishing to them, and they were extremely charmed with the pleasantness of the country in so fine a night. Indeed, I never saw women so infinitely satisfied.

We arrived at Arranjues about five o'clock in the morning, and I was amazed at its wonderful situation; half a league on this side the Tagus, we passed over a wooden bridge, which is made to shut up; and after that we came into some walks of elm and lime trees, which were so high, green and shady, that the heat of the sun is never felt. It is an extraordinary thing to find so near Madrid, trees so perfect in their kind, for the soil but is very barren, and they will not grow there; yet, near Arranjues, one cannot perceive this defect, for all along the walks, and near the trees, there are little pits and trenches made, into which the water of the Tagus runs and moistens the roots of the trees. These avenues are so long, that when one is in the middle

one cannot see to the end of them. Several alleys come into these, and every way make the perfect figure of a star. People walk on the banks of the Tagus and Xamara, which are two famous rivers that environ the island in which Arranjues stands, and which supplies it with water, and contributes much to its beautifulness. To speak truly, I never saw a more delightful place; I must confess the gardens are too close, and several of the alleys too narrow, but yet it ravishes one to walk there; and at our coming into them, I fancied myself in some enchanted palace. The morning was cool, every where the birds made a sweet melody, and the waters a pleasant murmuring noise: the trees and hedges were loaded with excellent fruit, and the parterres were covered with most odoriferous flowers, and I enjoyed all this in most pleasant company. We had an order from Don John to be lodged in the castle, so that the Alcade received us with great civility, and was very careful to shew us every thing that was the most remarkable. The fountains are in that number, and there are so many of them, that it is impossible to pass through an alley, to go into an arbour, or upon a parterre or terrace, without taking notice of five or six brazen statues and marble basons; the spouts throw up their water to vast a height; they are not fed from

springs, but from the Tagus. Amongst others I will give you an account of the fountain of Diana: it stands upon an ascent, from whence it is seen at a great distance; the goddess is in the middle, environed with bucks, does, and dogs, and every one of them spouts out water. A little lower is a circle of myrrh, cut in several fashions, and little Cupids peeping out half way, and through the water, against those animals, which stand about the fountain. The mountain of Parnassus raises up its head in the midst of a great pond, with Apollo, the Muses, Pegasus's horse, and a fall of water, which represents the river of Helicon. Out of a rock there issues a thousand several spouts of water, some launching out, others winding in and out like a serpent upon the surface of a pond; some gliding gently, and others, either falling like flowers in the air, or else like rain. The fountain of Ganymede is also very pretty; this beautiful child, sitting upon Jupiter's eagle, seems frighted with its flight; the bird sits on the top of a pillar, with his wings spread; he throws out the water with his beak and his talons: the fountain of Mars is near this: that of the Harpies is fine; they are placed upon very high marble pillars; at the four corners they throw out water every way; they seem to have a mind to drown a

little youth, who sits in the middle of the fountain, picking a thorn out of his foot. But the most pleasant of all, is the fountain of Love; this little god seems to rise with his body all full of darts, from every one of which comes out a spout of water. The three Graces sit at the feet of the god of Love; but that which is most extraordinary, is the water which falls from four high trees, like fountains, whose noise is very delightful and surprising, it not being natural for water to come out of trees.

I should be afraid to tire you, did I undertake to tell you the vast number of cataracts, falls, and fountains of water, which I have seen here; I will only in general assure you, that it is a place worthy the curiosity and attention of every body. At eight o'clock the sun began to be too hot, and some went into the house, which comes far short of that beauty it should have, justly to answer all the other things; and when the King goes there, those that attend him are so ill accommodated with lodging, that either he must be contented to go there in all haste, and keep his court a little, or else go as far as Toledo; for there are only two bad inns, and a very few private houses. If we had not taken care before hand for provisions, even to bread, I am confident we had met with none, unless the Alcade

would have given us some of his own. And by the way I will inform you of the difference there is between the Alcade and Alcalde, that so you may not confound them; the first signifies the governor of a castle or place, and the other a serjeant. Although the most curious pictures are at the Escorial, yet I found some excellent ones in the King's apartment at Arranjues; it is furnished according to the season we are now in, that is to say, the walls are all white, having only a matt that is very fine and thin, about three feet deep, with some looking glasses and pictures. In this building there are several little courts, which take from the beauty of it. We eat our breakfast all together, and they persuaded me to eat some of a fruit they call Pimento, which is as long as one's finger, but as hot as pepper; the least bit of which puts one's mouth in a flame; they let it lie steeping in vinegar and salt, to get out the virtue. This fruit is brought into Spain growing upon a plant, and I never saw any of it in other countries where I have been. We had an olio, some ragouts made of cold partridges, with oil, Canary wine, fat pullet, and pigeons, which are excellent here, and also several sorts of fruit, which was extraordinarily fine. When this repast, which was worth a dinner, was ended, we went to bed, and did not walk again until about seven o'clock in the evening. The charms

of this place were as new to me as if I had not seen them in the morning; but in particular, I still admired the situation, which indeed ravishes, on whatsoever side one turns the eyes. The king is there, with half a dozen of his guards, in great safety, because there is no getting at him but over bridges, which are all drawn up; and the Xamara, which in this place swells the waters of Tagus, fortifies Arranjues. After we had walked till ten o'clock at night, we came back into a great hall, paved with marble, and supported with pillars of the same. It was all enlightened with several branched candlesticks, and Don Esteve de Carvajal had privately got thither several musicians, which was a pleasant sort of a surprize to us, at least the Spanish ladies and my kinswoman were mightily delighted with them. For my part I thought they sung too much in the throat, their divisions and shakes were so long, that they were tedious; not but that their voices are good, but their manner of singing is not good; and in general in Spain they do not sing as they do in France or Italy. When supper was done, we went to the great canal, where there is a small galleon, painted and gilt; we went on board her, and tarried till two o'clock in the morning, and then we set forward on our way to Toledo.

I took notice when we came out of Arranjues, that the ground was all heath and ling; and yet the air was perfumed with wild and mother thyme, with which these plains were all covered. They told me there were a great many rabbits, stags, does, and fallow-deer, but it was not then their time to appear. Our conversation was for some time general, and for two leagues together from Arranjues, I did not speak one word to Don Ferdinand, though he sat close by me: but being willing to employ the time in thoroughly informing myself about all the particulars of the cruel Inquisition, with which he had promised to acquaint me, I desired him to let me know something of it.

“The Inquisition,” says he, “has not been known in Europe, but since the beginning of the thirteenth century. Before that time, the bishops and civil magistrates enquired after heretics, and either condemned them to banishment, or to the forfeiture of their goods and estates, or else, to some other penalties, which never almost extended to death: but the vast number of heresies which appeared towards the end of the twelfth age, caused that tribunal to be established. The pope sent several religious persons to the Catholic princes and bishops, to exhort them to take an extraordinary care

in the extirpation of heresies, and to bring obstinate heretics to punishment: and thus things continued till the year 1250.

“ In the year 1251. Innocent IV. authorized the Dominican friars, with the assistance of the Bishops, to take cognizance of this sort of crime: Clement IV. confirmed these tribunals in the year 1265. Afterwards, there were several courts erected in Italy, and in the kingdoms which were dependent of the crown of Arragon, till such time that the Inquisition was established in the kingdoms of Castille, in the reign of Ferdinand and Isabel, and after that in Portugal, by King John III. in the year 1557.

“ To that time the inquisitors had a limited power, and it was often contested by the bishops, to whom the cognizance of heretical crimes belonged. According to the canons, it was contrary to the rules of the church, for priests to sentence any criminals to death, much more for those crimes, which the civil laws often punished, with far less severe penalties: but ancient right yielding to new power, the Dominican friars, by the pope's bulls, have been for these two ages, in possession of this extraordinary jurisdiction; from which the bishops have been excluded; the inquisitors now only wanted the authority of the prince, to enable them

to execute their sentences. Before Isabella of Castille came to the crown, the Dominican, John de Torquemada, her confessor, and afterward cardinal, made her promise him to persecute all infidels and heretics, as soon as it should be in her power to do so. She prevailed over Ferdinand, her husband, to obtain, in the year 1483, bulls from pope Sixtus IV. to constitute an inquisitor general over the kingdoms of Arragon and Valentia, for these two kingdoms were his fee, held in *capite*: and it is to be noted, that Ferdinand disposed of the places in his estates, and Isabel of those that were in her's: but the Queen got this place for Torquemada. Afterwards the pope extended his jurisdiction over all the states and countries of the Catholic Kings, and then Ferdinand and Isabel established a supreme council of the inquisition, of which they made him president. It is composed of an inquisitor general, (who is nominated by the King of Spain, and confirmed by the pope) or five counsellors, whereof one is to be a Dominican, by a privilege granted to this order, in the year 1616, by Philip III. of a procurator, two secretaries of the King's chamber, two secretaries of the council, an Alguazil mayor, a receiver, two reporters, and two qualificators, and consulters. The number of the familiars and small officers is

very great, because all that belong to the inquisition being not subject to, or triable by any other jurisdiction, shelter themselves from the ordinary courts of justice.

“ The supreme council hath a full and sole authority over the other inquisitions, which cannot perform any auto or execution, without leave from the Great and General Inquisitor. The particular Inquisitors are those of Seville, Toledo, Granada, Cordova, Cuenca, Valladolid, Marcia, Derena, Logronno, St. James, Saragossa, Valentia, Barcelona, Majorca, Sardinia, Palermo, the Canaries, Mexico, Carthagena, and Lima.

“ Every one of these Inquisitions are composed of three inquisitors, three secretaries, one alguazil mayor, and of three receivers, qualificators, and consulters.

“ All persons that take any of these employments upon them, are obliged to make out their proofs *De causa Limpia*, that is, that their family is not stained with any thing of Judaism or Heresy, and that they are Catholics from the beginning.

“ The proceedings of this tribunal are very unusual. A man is arrested and lies in prison, without knowing the crime he is accused of, or the witnesses which depose against him. He cannot

come out from thence, unless he will own the fault, of which often he is not guilty, and which the desire of liberty forces him to confess; for they do not put one to death for the first time; but then the family is marked with infamy; and this first judgment makes the persons incapable of any employment.

“ There is no confronting of witnesses, nor any means for a man to defend himself, because this tribunal above all things affects an inviolable secrecy. It proceeds against all Heretics, but chiefly against judaizing Christians, and secret Mahometans, with whom the expulsion of Jews and Moors by Ferdinand and Isabel, has filled all Spain.

“ The severity of this court was so excessive, that the Inquisitor Torquemada tried above an hundred thousand persons, of which six thousand were condemned to be burnt in the compass of fourteen years.

“ It is pretended that the sight of so many criminals condemned to so terrible a death, without any regard either to their sex or quality, confirms and keeps the people in the Romish religion; and that it is the Inquisition alone, that has hindered the most wicked heresies from spreading themselves in Spain, even in that time when all

Europe was infected with them. For this reason, the Kings have given such arbitrary authority to this tribunal, which is called the Tribunal of the Holy Office.

“ The general acts of the Inquisition, which by the greatest part of Europe, are looked upon only as a bare execution of criminals amongst the Spaniards, are esteemed a religious ceremony, by which his Catholic Majesty gives public proofs of his zeal for religion: and therefore, are called by them *Autos de Fe*, Acts of Faith: commonly they are performed either at the accession of the Kings to the crown, or at their coming to age, that so they may be the more authentic. The last was in the year 1632, and there is one now making ready for the King's marriage. As there has not been one for a long time, so there are great preparations making to render this as solemn and as magnificent as it is possible for those sort of ceremonies to be. One of the counsellors of the Inquisition has already drawn a project of it, which he has shewed me. Here are the contents of it.

“ In the great place at Madrid, there shall be a theatre erected fifty feet long; it shall be raised as high as the balcony designed for the King, and no higher.

“ On the right side of the King’s balcony, quite cross the theatre, there shall be raised an amphitheatre, of twenty-five or thirty steps, designed for the council of the Inquisition, and the other councils of Spain; on the uppermost of which shall be placed the chairs under a canopy, for the general Inquisitor, a great deal higher than the King’s balcony. On the left of the theatre and the King’s balcony, there shall be another amphitheatre, as big as the first, upon which the criminals shall be placed.

“ In the middle of the great theatre there shall be raised another very little one, on which shall be made two cages, where the criminals shall be kept while their sentence is reading.

“ There shall be likewise placed upon the great theatre three chairs, for the readers of the judgment, and for the preacher, before whom there shall be an altar erected.

“ The places for their Catholic Majesties shall be so ordered, that the Queen shall be on the left hand of the King, and on the right of the Queen mother. All the Queen’s ladies of honor shall take up the rest of the length, every way of the same balcony: there shall be other balconies prepared for the ambassadors, the lords, and ladies of the court, and scaffolds for the people.

“ The ceremony shall begin by a procession from St. Mary’s church. A hundred charcoal-men, armed with pikes and muskets, shall march before, because they provide the wood which is to burn those who are condemned to the fire. Next them shall follow the Dominicans, with a white cross carried before them: the Duke de Medina Celi shall carry the standard of the Inquisition, according to a privilege that is hereditary to his family. This standard is of red damask; on one side of it is represented a naked sword, in a crown of laurel; and on the other the arms of Spain.

“ After which shall be carried a green cross, wrapped about with black crape; and after it shall march several grandees and other persons of quality of the Inquisition, covered with cloaks, that have black and white crosses upon them, embroidered with gold thread. The march shall be brought up by fifty halberdiers or guards to the Inquisition, cloathed in black and white, and commanded by the Marquis de Pouar hereditary protector of the Inquisition of the kingdom of Toledo.

“ After the procession has in this order passed by the palace, it shall come to the great place; the standard and the green cross shall be fixed

upon the altar, and the Dominicans only shall remain upon the theatre, and spend part of the night in singing psalms; and as soon as day breaks, they shall celebrate several masses upon the altar.

“The King, the Queen, and the Queen-mother, and all the ladies, must be in their balconies about seven o'clock in the morning; at eight, the procession shall begin to march, as it did the day before, by the company of charcoal-men, who shall place themselves on the left-hand of the King's balcony, the right shall be for his guards. Afterwards, several men shall bear certain paste-board effigies as big as life: some of them representing those who died in prison, whose bones shall also be carried in coffers, with flames painted round them, and the rest shall represent those who have escaped, and who have been condemned for contumacy: these figures shall be placed at one end of the theatre. After that, their sentence shall be pronounced, and they shall be executed.

“But I should tell you, added he, that the supreme council of the Inquisition is more absolute than all the others. It is believed that the King himself has not power to release those who shall be accused before it; because this tribunal acknowledges the pope only to be above it; and that there has been a time when upon some occa-

sions, the King's power was found too weak to contend with that of the Inquisition. Don Diego Sarmiento is inquisitor general; he is a very honest and good man, and is about sixty years of age. The King nominates the president of the Inquisition, and his holiness confirms him: but as for the inquisitors, the president proposes them to the King, and after he has approved of them, he then puts them in their places.

“ This tribunal takes cognizance of every thing concerning the faith, and it is absolutely invested both with the pope's and the King's authority; there is no appealing from its judgment; and the two and twenty tribunals of the Inquisition, which are in all the estates of Spain, and which depend upon this at Madrid, every month render an account to it, of their finances and revenues, and every year of their causes and criminals: but those of the Indies and the other distant places, only give an account at the end of every year. As to the places of these inferior tribunals, they are filled by the general Inquisitors, with the approbation of the counsellors. It would be pretty difficult to be able precisely to reckon up the number of the officers, which belong to the Inquisition; for in Spain alone, there is above two and twenty thousand Familiars of the Holy Office. They are

called by this name, because they are as it were spies, scattered up and down every where, who are continually giving true or false information to the Inquisition, upon which those are seized and taken up, whom they accuse."

Whilst with the greatest attention I was listening to Don Fernand, the Marchioness de Palacois interrupted us, to let us know that we were come near Toledo, and that certain old ruins of an ancient castle which we saw upon our left hand, were those of an enchanted palace. I seemed to Don Fernand to doubt of what she affirmed, upon which he said, "You may think what you please, but certain it is, that there is for it a very ancient tradition in this country; and moreover, they pretend that there is a cave shut up, and a prophesy which threatened Spain with the greatest miseries, whenever this cave should be opened. Every body terrified with this threat, had no mind to draw upon themselves the sad effects of it, so that this place did for several ages remain very close. But Don Rodrigue, the King, less credulous, or more curious, caused it to be opened, upon which there were heard most terrible noises; every body thought that the very elements themselves were going into confusion, there was so violent a tempest. This did not hinder him from going into

it, where by the light of several flambeaux, he saw the figures of divers men, whose cloaths and arms were very strange. There was one who held a copper blade in his hand, and upon it was written in Arabic, that the time drew near for the desolation of Spain, and that the persons, whose statues were there, would ere long come." I never was in any place, said I, smiling, where they relied so much on fabulous tales, as they do in Spain. "Say rather," replied he, "that there never was any woman so incredulous as you; and in telling you this story, I did not think I should alter your judgment; but as much as one can be assured of a thing by the testimony of men, this story is credible."

It was now light enough, very plainly to observe all the charms of the country. We passed the Tagus over a very large and fine bridge, of which I had heard, and a little time after we discovered Toledo all surrounded with hills and rocks, which command it. There are very neat houses built amongst those rocks, designed for the pleasure of solitude: the archbishop of Toledo has one there, where he goes very often. The city stands upon the rock, the unevenness of which in divers places, contributes to make it high and low; the streets are narrow, badly paved, and trouble-

some, which is the reason that all the people of quality there, go either in chairs or litters. And as we were in our coach, we took up our quarters in the Placa-mayor, because it is the only part to which one can pass with a coach. As soon as we were arrived, we stopped at the hospital of Foira, which stands in the suburbs, whose building consists of three sides, within which is a large square court; the church makes up the south side, and there we heard mass. This hospital was built by an archbishop of Toledo, whose monument and statue in marble are in the midst of the body of the church: the walls of the city were rebuilt by the Moors. On the sides stand a great many little towers, which heretofore served to defend it; and it would be a strong place, being almost encompassed with the Tagus; and having extreme deep ditches, did not the adjacent hills command it, from whence it were easy to batter it down. It was not eight o'clock when we got there, and we would spend the rest of the morning in seeing the church, which, as it is said, is the finest in Europe: the Spaniards call it Holy, whether it is upon account of the relics which are there, or for some other reason, which they did not tell me, I know not: if it was as long and as high as it is broad, it would be much better. It is beautified with divers

chapels as big as churches; they all shine with gold and paintings; the chief of which are those of the Virgin, St. Martin, St. James, Cardinal Sandoval, and the Connestable de Luna. In the choir I saw a niche, or hollow place, from whence it is pretended there issued out for several days together a spring of water, with which the soldiers and citizens quenched their thirst in the time they maintained the sieges against the Moors, when they were half dead with thirst. Without digressing from my subject, I must tell you, that in the city there is not so much as a well or a spring, and that they fetch all their water from the Tagus, which is so very troublesome, that one would wonder how Toledo comes to be so full of people as it is. Near the entrance into the church, there is a marble pillar, which they reverence, because the holy Virgin appeared upon it to St. Alphonsus. It is enclosed with an iron gate, and through a little window they kiss it, and upon it there is written, *Adorabimus in loco ubi fleterunt pedes ejus*. Between every canon's seat there is a marble pillar, and the sculpture of the church is fine and curiously wrought. I was amazed when I saw the treasury. There must be thirty men to carry the tabernacle upon Corpus-Christi day. It is made of silver, gilt, and there is exquisitely

wrought upon it several spires or steeples, with abundance of angels and cherubims. Within this there is also another of massy gold, and such a vast quantity of precious stones, that their value is inestimable; the chalices, the patins and the pyxes, are no less beautiful. Indeed, every thing shines there with great diamonds and oriental pearls; the sun, where the holy sacrament is kept, the crowns, and robes of the Virgin are the most splendid things I ever saw in my days. But indeed, this archbishoprick is so very rich, that it is but just every thing should be answerable to it. I have told you, dear cousin, that the archbishop of Burgos informed me, that the bishoprick of Toledo produced three hundred and fifty thousand crowns a year. I must now add, that the revenue of the church itself, is a hundred thousand crowns; the forty canons, [which have every one a thousand crowns; the grand arch-deacon, forty thousand; three arch-deacons, the first of whom has fifteen thousand; the second twelve thousand; and the third ten thousand; and the dean ten thousand crowns a-year.

There is, besides, an infinite number of chaplains, clerks of the chapel, and other persons, to whom daily allowances are given.

There is the chaplain-mayor of the chapel de los Rios, who enjoys twelve thousand crowns

a-year, and six others that are under him, have a thousand crowns per annum.

After we had spent a great deal of time in considering the fine things with which this court was filled, we resolved to return to our inn, where we had left our coach; and just when we were going away, there came to us an almoner and a gentleman that belonged to Cardinal Porto Carrero, who sent them to compliment us, and to assure us, that we must by no means lodge any where but at the archbishop's palace. They chiefly addressed themselves to the Marchioness de Pala-cois, who was near a-kin to him, and who earnestly desired us to go thither. We excused ourselves upon our being in such disorder, not having had any sleep that night, and being in an undress. She ordered her son to go to the cardinal, and to beg him to accept our excuses. Don Fernand returned in a moment, attended with abundance of pages, some of whom brought umbrellas of gold and silver brocade. He told us that his eminence very much desired we would go to his house, and that he had shewed so much concern at our refusal, that indeed he had promised to bring us; and thereupon he commanded them to fetch umbrellas to defend us from the sun, and that they had watered the place which we were to cross from the church to the palace. And immediately

we saw two mules drawing a little cart, in which there was a tub full of water; and we were told that as often as the cardinal comes to the church, it is the custom to water the way.

The archbishop's palace is very ancient and large, most richly furnished, and every way suitable to the person who possesses it. We were conducted into a very fine apartment, where immediately they brought us chocolate, and afterwards all sorts of fruits, wine, water, and other liquors cooled with ice. We were so sleepy, that after we had eat a little, we begged the Marchioness de Palacois to see the cardinal, and to excuse us to him, if we deferred giving ourselves the honor of waiting upon him, for that we were not able any longer to live without sleep. And indeed, the young Marchioness de la Rosa, my kinswoman, and myself, chose to go to bed, and in the evening we dressed ourselves to see the Queen-mother.

The Marchioness de Palacois, who had always been extremely devoted to her, went to the Alcazar, which is the name of the castle, and made her a visit whilst we slept; so that she told her she would give us audience at eight o'clock in the evening. This was the first time I dressed according to the Spanish mode.

I do not think there can be a more troublesome

dress; your shoulders must be squeezed so that it hurts you : you cannot lift up your arm, nor can you hardly get it into the sleeve. I had on a farthingale of a prodigious bigness, (for you must wear that in the Queen's presence) I knew not what to do with myself with this strange invention; there is no sitting down in it, and I believe if I were to wear it all my life, I should never be reconciled to it. My head was dressed after the Melene fashion; that is, the hair all spread over the neck, and tied at the end with some nonpareil ribbon, this is a great deal hotter than a patine; so that being now in the month of August, and in Spain, you may easily guess how I pass away my time. But this being a ceremonial dress of the head, there was nothing to be omitted upon such an occasion; besides, I wore their pattens, which are more fit to break a person's neck than to walk with. When we were all in a condition to appear, for my kinswoman and my daughter were both also dressed after the Spanish fashion, we were led into a chamber of state, where the cardinal came to see us; his name is Don Luis Porto Carrero; he may be about two and forty years old; he is very civil, is of a sweet complaisant temper, and hath well learned the polite breeding of the court of Rome: he stayed an hour with us, and afterwards there

was served up to us a very plentiful meal; but every thing was so full of amber, that I never tasted any sauces so rich and less pleasant. I fancied myself at this table, like Tantalus in the midst of victuals, and yet starved with hunger, because I could not eat; for either all the meat was perfumed, or else full of saffron, garlic, onion, pepper, and spices: but with searching about, I found some jellies and white meats, which were admirable, and with which I saved myself harmless. There were also brought to table a ham of bacon, which came from the frontiers of Portugal, and which is better than either those they boast so much of at Bayonne, or those of Mentz: but it was spread all over with certain little comfits, which in France we call nonpareil, the sugar of which melted into the fat; it was drawn full of lemon-peel, which abated much of its goodness. The fruit was the best and pleasantest thing one can see, for whole trees, with their fruit, were iced over with sugar after the Italian way; you will easily believe the trees were not very large. There were orange trees thus ordered, with small artificial birds fastened in them. There were likewise cherry-trees, raspberry and gooseberry bushes, and others, set in little cases of silver.

We did not sit long at table, because the hour for

seeing the Queen was near; we were carried thither in chairs, though it is at a considerable distance, and very much up hill; for the Alcacar is built upon a rock of a prodigious height, and the prospect is admirable. Before the gate there is a large square, afterwards you enter into a court an hundred and sixty feet long, and an hundred and thirty broad, adorned with two rows of piazzas, ten rows of the pillars which made the length, were all of one entire stone; and the breadth had eight rows of pillars, and this made a fine shew. But that which pleases me much better, is the stair-case at the bottom of the court, which is an hundred and thirty feet wide, like the court. After you have gone up some steps it parts in two, and to speak the truth, I believe it to be one of the finest in Europe. We went through a great gallery, and vast apartments, but met in them so few people, that it did not look as if we could have met with the Queen-mother of Spain there; she was in a great hall, whose windows were all open, and which had a prospect to the valleys and the river. The hangings, cushions, carpets, and canopy were all of grey cloth; the Queen was standing and leaning upon a balcony, having in her hand a great pair of beads. When she saw us she turned towards us, and received us with a very

cheerful countenance. We had the honor to kiss her hand, which is extremely delicate: she is very pale, her complexion pure, her face a little long and flat, her looks are agreeable, and her stature is of a middling size; she was dressed as all the widows in Spain are, that is, like a nun, without so much as one hair appearing; and there are many, (though she is not of that number) who cause all their hair to be cut off when they lose their husbands, for a greater expression of their grief. I observed that her gown was tucked up quite round, that it might be let down as it wears out; yet I do not believe she practises this, but such is the fashion of the country.

She asked me how long I had been come from France, and I gave her an account; she enquired if they discoursed then of a marriage between her son and Mademoiselle d' Orleans, and I told her no; then she said she would shew me her picture, which was drawn from that the King her son had, and she desired one of the ladies, who was an old duenna, and very ugly, to bring it. It was drawn in water colours, about the size of your hand, in a box covered with black sattin, and lined with green velvet. "Do you find, said she, that it is like her?" I assured her that there were not any of her features; for indeed it seemed to squint, the face

was awry, and there could not be any thing less resembling a princess so perfect as mademoiselle. She asked me whether she was more or less handsome than this picture. I told her she was handsomer beyond comparison. "The King, my son, then, replied she, will be pleasantly cheated, for he believes this picture is just like her, and no one can be better satisfied than he is with her. For my part, her eyes that look askew were troublesome to me, but to comfort myself, I considered that she had a great share of wit, and divers other good qualities. Do not you remember, says she, to the Marchioness de Palacois, to have seen my picture in the late King's chamber?" "Yes, madam, answered the Marchioness, and very well remember also, that as soon as we saw your Majesty, we all wondered extremely how the painter could do you so much wrong." "That is what I would have said to you, replied she, for when I arrived here, and cast my eyes upon that picture which they said was made for me, I in vain tried to believe it, but I could not do it." A little female dwarf, but thick as a tun, and no taller than a good big mushroom, cloathed all in gold and silver brocade, with long hair hanging down to her feet, came in, and kneeling before the Queen,

asked her if she would please to have supper; upon which we offered to withdraw, but she told us we might follow her, and she went into a parlour all of marble, and sat down to table alone, and we all stood round her. Her maids of honor, with the camera-mayor, who looked very sad, came to wait on her. I saw some of them, which methinks were very handsome; they talked to the Marchioness de Palacois, and told her, that they were horribly tired with that sort of life; and that they lived at Toledo, as if they were in a desert. These were called *Damas de Palacio*, and they wear pattens; but for the little *Menines*, they wear shoes quite flat; these are children of the highest quality, and neither wear cloak nor sword.

There were several dishes brought before the Queen, the first were melons cooled with ice, and some sallads and milk, of which she eat plentifully before she touched any of the flesh, which looked bad enough. She did not want a stomach, and she drank a little pure wine, saying, "That was to digest her fruit." When she called for drink, the first *Menine* brought her a cup covered upon a salver, and kneeling, gave it to the *camerera*, who also kneeled when the Queen took it

from her hands: and on the other side, a lady of the palace presented on her knee a napkin to the Queen to wipe her mouth with. She gave some dried sweetmeats to Donna Marguretta de Palacois, and to my daughter, saying, "They must not eat much of such things, because they spoiled the teeth of young girls." She asked me many times how the Most Christian Queen did, and how she diverted herself; she said, that she had lately sent her some boxes of amber pastils, some gloves, and some chocolate. She was above an hour and an half at table, speaking little, but seemed merry enough. We desired to know her commands for Madrid, whereupon she expressed a great deal of kindness and civility, and after that we took our leave of her.

It cannot be denied, that this Queen has abundance of understanding, as well as courage and virtue, to bear as she does so tedious a banishment.

I must not forget to tell you that the first *Mennine* brings the Queen's pattens and puts them on, this is so great an honour in this country, that they would not change it for the best place belonging to the crown. When the ladies of the palace marry, and with the Queen's consent, she adds to their portions fifty thousand crowns, and

commonly some government or viceroyalty is given to their husbands.

When we came back to the cardinal's house, we found a theatre prepared in a prodigious great room, and abundance of ladies on one side, and cavalleros on the other, and that which seemed very strange to me was a damask curtain which was drawn all the length of the room to the very theatre, and so prevented the men and women from seeing one another. They only waited for us to begin the comedy of Pyramus and Thisbe; this was a new play, but the worst that I have yet seen in Spain. Afterwards the comedians danced very well, and the diversion lasted till after two o'clock in the morning.

There was given an elegant supper in a great hall, where there were divers tables, and when the cardinal had placed us, he went back to the cavalleros, who had the same things on their side as we had. There was an excellent Italian concert of music, for his eminence had brought with him musicians from Rome, to whom he gave large pensions. It was six o'clock in the morning before we could retire to our apartment, and as there were divers things for us yet to see, instead of going to bed, we went to the Placa-mayor, which they call *Secodebet*; the houses which en-

viron it are of brick, and all uniform, with balconies: it is of a round figure, and has piazzas about it, under which people walk, and this is a fine place. We went back to the castle to view it better and more leisurely; the building is after the gothic fashion, and very ancient; but there is something in it that looks so stately, that I do not wonder that Charles V. had rather have lived there than in any other city under his obedience. It contains, in a square, four great apartments, with their several wings and pavillions; there is room enough to lodge conveniently the whole court of a great king.

We were shewed a machine that was very strange before it was broken; it was to draw up the water from the Tagus, and to make it rise to the top of the Alcacar; the house where it stood is yet whole, though it be several ages since it was built. There are upwards of five hundred steps from it to the river's side; when the water came into the receiver, it ran by several channels into all parts of the city where there were fountains: this was a very great conveniency, for now they are obliged to draw the water thirty fathoms deep.

We went and heard mass in the church de los Reyes: it is fine and large, and all full of oranges

and pomegranate trees, jessamine and myrtles that are very high; they are set in cases, and are formed into walls up to the very high altar, whose ornaments are extraordinarily rich, so that looking through all these green boughs, and the flowers of different colours, upon the shining gold, embroidery, and great lighted candles which adorn the altar, it seems as if the rays of the sun played before your eyes. There are also some cages painted and gilt, and filled with nightingales, canary birds, and others, which make a charming noise. I should be glad if in France they would imitate the Spaniards in adorning our churches. The walls of this church are all covered on the outside with the chains and irons of the captives which have been redeemed out of Barbary. In this part of the town I observed that most of the houses had upon their doors a square piece of earthen ware, upon which was set the angelical salutation in these words, *Maria fu concebida sin pecado lo original*. I was told that these houses belonged to the archbishop, and that none but those that work in silk dwell in them, of which there are a great many at Toledo. The two stone bridges that cross the river are very high, broad, and long: if they would but take a little pains with the Tagus, boats might come up to the city, this would be a con-

siderable conveniency, but they are naturally too lazy to consider that the profit and advantage of a work is to be preferred before the trouble of undertaking it.

We also saw the hospital of Los Nimnos, that is, of foundlings, and the city-house, which is near the cathedral, and at last our curiosity being satisfied we came back to the archiepiscopal palace, went to bed, and laid till night, when again we had another feast as splendid as the former. His eminence eat with us, and when we had returned him all due thanks, we set forward towards the castle of Ignarica: the Marquis de Palacois, with all his family, was there waiting for us, so that we were obligingly received, and nothing could be added to the good cheer and to the pleasure with which we were entertained for six days, either in fishing upon the river Xarama, or in hunting, in walking, or in common conversation: every one was emulous to appear good humoured; and it may justly be said, that when the Spaniards go so far as to lay aside their gravity and know and love you, they contribute greatly to ease and recreate the mind. They become sociable, obliging, earnest to please you, and the best company in the world.

This is what I have found in this little journey I

have made, of which I should not have given you so particular an account, but that I am persuaded, dear cousin, you desire it so, and that you set some value upon my complaisance.

From Madrid,

Aug. 30.

LETTER XIV.

THE ceremony of swearing to the treaty of peace concluded at Nimeguen, between the crowns of France and Spain, was performed here the last day of August. I had a great desire to see what passed then; but as women are not to be present there, so the Connestable de Castille promised to get us into the King's chamber, as soon as he should be gone into the great hall; Madam Gueux, the Danish ambassador's lady, and Madam de Chais, the envoy of Holland's lady, were there also. We went up a private pair of stairs, where one of the constable's gentlemen waited to

receive us, and we tarried for some time in a very fine closet full of Spanish books, well bound and very diverting: there, amongst others, I found the history of Don Quixote, the famous knight of the Manca, in which the plainness and the subtilty of the expression, the weight and strength of proverbs, and that which the Spaniards call *El pico*, that is, the smartness and nicety of a language, appeared quite different from the translations which we have in French. I was so pleased in reading it that I hardly thought of seeing the ceremony. It began as soon as the Marquis de Villars came, and through a lattice-window, which was opened, we saw what passed. The king placed himself at the end of the great gilt hall, which is one of the most stately in the palace; the alcove was spread with an amazing fine carpet; the throne and the canopy were embroidered with pearls, diamonds, rubies, emeralds, and other precious stones. Cardinal Portocarrero sat in a great chair below the alcove, on the right hand of the throne; the constable of Castille sat upon a stool; the French ambassador was seated on the left hand of the throne, upon a bench covered with velvet, and the grandees were placed near the cardinal; when every one was seated according to their quality, the King came in, and when he was seated on his

throne, the cardinal, the ambassador, and the grandees, sat down and covered themselves. A secretary read aloud the power which the Most Christian King had sent to his ambassador. After that a little table was brought and set before the King, with a crucifix and a book of the Evangelists, and whilst he held his hand upon it, the cardinal read the oath, by which he swore to keep the peace with France: there are some other little ceremonies, but I did not mind them sufficiently to be able to give you an account of them. Soon after the King returned to his lodgings, but we had got out of them before, and stayed in the same closet where we stopped at first: it was so near his chamber, that we heard him say that he was never so hot, and that he would pull off his collar: and, indeed, the sun does shine very hot in this country.

At my first coming hither, I was afflicted with a strange meagrim, and could not imagine the cause of it, but my kinswoman told me it was because I wore too much upon my head, and that if I did not take care I might lose my sight by it; I immediately took off my bonnets and my cornets, and since that time I have never had any pain in my head. For my part, I cannot believe there is in any place in the world more serene air than

there is here : it is so pure that you cannot see so much as a cloud, and it is affirmed to me, that even the weather here in winter is like the finest weather in any other country : that which is most dangerous here is a certain wind De Galiegue, which blows off the mountains of Galicia ; it is not violent, but it is so piercing that it reaches the very bones, and sometimes causes a lameness in a leg, or an arm, and often in half the body, which will continue during a person's life : it is more frequent in summer than in winter. Strangers take it for the western breezes, and are ravished when they feel it, but experience convinces them of its malignity.

The seasons in Spain are much more convenient and pleasant than either in France, England, Holland, or Germany ; for not to reckon that purity of the air, which cannot be imagined so fine as it is from the month of September to the month of June, it is not so cold but you may make a shift without fire ; and this is the reason that there are no chimnies in any of their apartments, and that they make use of only chafing-dishes. But it is a great happiness, wood being so scarce as it is in this country, that they have no occasion for it ; it never freezes thicker than the bigness of two crowns, and there falls

little snow. But the adjacent mountains furnish Madrid with it all the year round. The months of June, July, and August, are indeed excessively hot.

I was lately in a company where all the ladies were sadly frightened: one of them said, that she had received a letter from Barcelona, which advised that a bell, that was only rung upon some public calamity, or upon some occasion of the highest consequence, had all alone rung several times: This lady came from Barcelona, and she assured me, that whenever any misfortune or misery is to befall Spain, or that any of the house of Austria is to die, this bell rings; that for a quarter of an hour together, the clapper of the bell moves with an unaccountable quickness, and strikes in turning round. I did not believe it, neither do I yet; but all the company confirmed what she said: if it is a lie, there were above twenty that conspired with her in it. They began to think upon what, and on whom this unhappiness, which by this sign is foretold, was to fall; and as they are very superstitious, the beautiful Marchioness de Liche increased their fears, by telling them that Don John was very sick.

In their deep mourning, they are attired like fools, but chiefly on the first days; for the footmen

as well as the masters have long cloaks trailing, and instead of hats wear high pasteboard caps covered with crape; their horses are all in black trappings and housings, which entirely cover their heads and their bodies; nothing can appear more disagreeable: their coaches are so badly covered, that the cloth which covers the roof, hangs almost down to the boots: no one that sees this doleful equipage but would think that some corpse was carrying to be buried. The people of quality wear their cloaks of black baize, very thin and rotten, the least violence tears it in pieces; and that mourning is most graceful, that is most ragged and tattered. I have seen some cavalleros tear their cloaths on purpose, and I assure you, that through some of their cloaths you may see their skin, as ugly as it is to look on: for though their children when young are as white as alabaster, and so pretty, that you would take them for angels, yet it must be granted, as they grow bigger they alter very strangely; the heat of the sun roasts them, the air tans them, and it is easy to know a Spaniard from any other nation: their features are nevertheless regular, but still there wants methinks our air and mien, as well as our skin and complexion.

All the scholars wear long robes, with a little border of linen about their necks, instead of a col-

lar; they are habited very much like the Jesuits, there are some of them above thirty years old; they are known to be students by their habits.

I fancy this city to look like a great coup, in which they feed poultry: for really, from the level of the street to the fourth story, you can see nothing but lattices, whose holes are very small; and their very balconies have them. There are always to be seen some of the poor confined women standing behind them, to look upon passengers, and when they dare, they open them, and with great delight shew themselves; there is not a night passes without four or five hundred concerts of music in several parts of the town; it is true they are at a moderate rate, and it is sufficient if a gallant has only a guitar or his harp, and sometimes both, joined with a voice hoarse enough to awake the most drowsy person, and affords them the pleasure of a serenade: if either they do not understand what is most excellent, or cannot obtain it, they are content with what they can get: I never saw any virginals or theorbos here.

In every street, and at every corner house, there is some image or statue of Our Lady, dressed after the fashion of the country; with a pair of beads in her hands, and either a great wax candle or lamp burning before her: I have seen three or four in

my kinswoman's stable, with other pieces of devotion; for you must know that every groom will have his oratory as well as his master, though perhaps neither one nor the other often pray there.

When one lady goes to visit another, if it be in the night, four pages come to receive her with great flambeaux of white wax, and in the same manner conduct her out again, and while she is getting into her chair, they commonly kneel upon one knee: this appears something more splendid than the small wax candles inclosed in links which are used in France.

Here are houses on purpose for women of lewd lives, like the Magdelonnettes at Paris: they use them very severely, and there is not a day passes that they are not whipped several times; at a limited time they are released, but come out worse than they went in, their punishments making them not any thing the better. They live almost altogether in a particular part of the town, where virtuous women never go, but if by chance any one should go that way, they run and pursue after her, as if she was their enemy; and if it happens that they are the strongest, she is sure to be cruelly used; and for the cavelleros they run the risque of being torn in pieces as often as they pass that way; that is to say, who shall have them: one takes him by

the arm, another by the leg, and a third by the head, and if he grows angry, they all fall upon him and rob him, and even strip him of his cloaths. My kinswoman has a page who was ignorant of the tricks of these wretches, and went innocently through their quarters, when they stripped him as naked as common thieves in a wood could have done; and yet a man must be content and put up with this treatment, for to whom shall he go for restitution?

The bell of Barcelona hath been but too true in its prognostics, for Don John was the first of this month brought down so very low with his sickness, that the physicians despaired of him, and he was advised to prepare himself for death. He received the news with so much tranquillity and resignation, as greatly confirmed the belief that several persons had before entertained, that he had taken some private disgust, which made him rather wish to die than live. The king came every moment into his chamber, and spent several hours at his bed-side, notwithstanding his most earnest prayers that he would not expose himself to a fever. He received the blessed viaticum, made his will, and wrote a letter to a lady, whose name I could not learn: he commanded Don Antonio Ortis, his chief secretary, to carry it in a little box, locked, which I saw; it

was made of China wood, and light enough to make one think there was not any thing in it but letters, and perhaps some jewels. While he was so dangerously sick, a courier arrived with the news of the King's marriage with Mademoiselle; the joy of which did not only fill the palace, but all the city shewed expressions of it, for there were over the whole town artificial fire-works and illuminations for three days together. The king could not contain himself, but ran into Don John's chamber, and although he was very drowsy, heavy to sleep, and wanted rest, yet he awaked him to tell him that the Queen would quickly be here, and intreated him not to think of any thing but being well again, that he might assist at her reception. "Ah! Sire, answered the prince to him, I shall never have that satisfaction, I should be content to die, if I had had the honour to have seen her once." The King fell a weeping, and told him, "that seeing him in that condition, was the only thing that disturbed his happiness." There was to have been a bull-feast, but the prince's illness has caused it to be put off; and the king would not have suffered any fire-works in the palace-court, had not Don John, notwithstanding he had a violent pain in his head, begged him to permit them. In fine, on the seventeenth of this month he died, extremely re-

gretted by some, and as little by others. This is the fate both of princes and favourites, as well as of persons that move in an ordinary sphere; and as his credit was already declining, and the courtiers now thought of nothing else but the Queen-mother's return, and the arrival of the new Queen; so it is a mighty strange thing to observe with what indifference the sickness and death of Don John was taken; they did not so much as talk of him the very next day: it seemed as if he had never been in the world. Alas, dear cousin, does not this deserve a little to be reflected on? He governed all the kingdoms belonging to the King of Spain; his very name struck terror; he caused the Queen-mother to be banished; he drove away Father Nirtard, and Valenuela, who were both favourites; he had commonly a greater court than the King. And yet four and twenty hours after he was dead, I believe I saw in different places, fifty persons of the highest quality, who did not so much as speak one word of this good prince, notwithstanding several of them had very great obligations to him; and yet after all, he had very great personal qualifications and virtues: he was of a middle stature, and a well shaped body, his features were regular, his eyes black and lively; he had black hair, a great deal of it, and very long: he was well bred, of

great wit and judgment, very generous, brave, and beneficent, and had a capacity for the highest affairs. He was not ignorant of any thing that was suitable to his birth, nor of any of the arts and sciences. He both spoke and wrote very well five different languages, and understood more. He was perfectly well versed in history: he could make and play upon any instrument as well as the best master. He understood how to turn several things; he could forge arms, and he delighted much in the mathematics; but being called to the management of the government, he was obliged to take his thoughts from off these exercises. The face of things changed in a moment, his eyes were scarcely closed, before the King, (moved only by his own kind and easy nature for the Queen his mother) went to Toledo to see her, and to intreat her to return; she consented to it, with all the joy she had to see the King. They weeped not a little, while they embraced each other, and we saw them come back together. All the persons of quality went to meet their Majesties, and the people shewed abundance of joy. I should enlarge a great deal more upon their return, did I not intend to be very particular in the memoirs I am writing.

Don John lay three days in his bed of state, and in the same cloaths which he had made to go meet

the young Queen; after that he was carried to the Escorial: the funeral had nothing of greatness; the officers of his house, with a very few friends, accompanied him. He was laid in the little vault near the pantheon, which is reserved solely for the princes and princesses of the royal blood; for there are none buried in the pantheon, you must know, but kings, and those queens who have had children; those that have had none, are buried in that particular vault. In a few days we are to go to the Escorial, which will be when the King goes there; but he is so taken up with his young Queen, that he can think of nothing but going towards the frontiers to meet her. In every place where I come, they are continually ringing it aloud in my ears, that she will soon be Queen of two and twenty kingdoms. In all likelihood there is eleven of them in the Indies; for I only know those of Old and New Castille, Arragon, Valentia, Navarre, Murcia, Granada, Andalusia, Galicia, Leon, and the isle of Majorca. In these places there are some parts of them admirable, upon which it seems as if heaven had a mind to spread abroad its most benign influences. There are others again so barren, that there is neither corn, herbs, vines, fruit, meadows, nor springs; and of these, there are more than of the others. But generally speaking,

the air is very good and wholesome. In certain places the heats are excessive, and in others the cold and the winds are insupportable, although it is in the same season. There are a great many rivers, but that which is very singular, is, that the largest of them is not navigable; particularly those of the Tagus, Guadiana, Minchio, Duero, Guadalguiver, and that of Ebre; for either because of the rocks, or falls of water, or the gulphs, or turnings, vessels cannot pass upon them; and this is one of the chief difficulties of trade, and which most of all hinders those things from coming to cities of which there is most need; for if there was an easy communication between them, those places and towns that want a great many wares and goods, might be supplied from those which abound, and so every body might be furnished with necessary things at a reasonable price; whereas the charges by land carriage being so high, one must want divers conveniences, unless you are in a condition to pay three times more for a thing than it is worth.

Amongst the several cities which belong to the King of Spain, there are several, esteemed either for beauty or riches, viz. Madrid, Seville, Granada, Valentia, Sarragossa, Toledo, Valladolid, Cordova, Salamanca, Cadiz, Naples, Milan, Messina, Palermo, Cagliari, Bruxelles, Antwerp, Ghent, and

Mons. There are a great many others, which nevertheless are very considerable; and several of the towns are as large as cities; but there are not in them those multitudes of people, which are both the riches and strength of a King. And there are divers reasons to be given why there is this defect.

First, When King Ferdinand drove away the Moors out of Spain, and established the inquisition, what through the punishments they inflicted upon some Jews, and banishing of others, there died and went out of the kingdom in a little time, above nine hundred thousand persons; besides, the Indies draw away abundance; the unfortunate go there to enrich themselves, and when they have done so, they remain to enjoy the fruit of their labour, and the pleasures of the country. Again, soldiers are raised in Spain, and sent away to garrison other cities under the obedience of the King; these soldiers marry and settle in the places where they happen to be, and never return to those from whence they came. Add to this, that the Spanish women bear but few children; if they have three, it is reckoned abundance; and strangers do not come to inhabit there, as in other parts of the world, because they are not loved there, and the Spaniards are generally *recatados*, that is,

singular, and reserved to themselves, and will not be communicative and open with other nations, which they either envy or scorn. And thus having examined into all those means which help to depopulate the country under his Catholic Majesty, one may rather wonder that there are so many people remaining.*

There grows but little corn in Castille, it is brought from Sicily, France, and Flanders; and indeed, how should it grow, unless the earth would produce it of itself, as the land of promise did? the Spaniards are too idle to till and improve it; for even the meanest peasant is persuaded that he is an *hidalgo*, that is to say, a gentleman; that in every little family there is an apocryphal history, composed within an hundred years, which he leaves to his children and nephews, of a village, as an inheritance, in which fabulous history they are all made to descend from ancient chevaliers, whose ancestors have done wonderful things; reciting that their great grandfather, Don Pedro, and Don John, performed such and such services to the crown. I say, they having taken up these vain conceits of themselves, no wonder if they will neither dero-

* The author might have added another great cause of the depopulation of Spain, the banishment of the Moriscos in the reign of Philip III. about the year 1611.

gate from the *Gravidad*, nor *Decendentia*. At this rate do they talk, and they will more willingly endure hunger, and all severities of life, than work (say they) like mercenaries, which belongs only to slaves. And thus pride, seconded by sloth, hinders the most part of them from sowing their land, unless some strangers come and help them to till their ground, which by a special direction and guidance of Providence always happens. Strangers that are more laborious and worldly minded, being moved thither by the gain they find; so that you shall see a sorry peasant sitting in his chair, reading a mouldy romance, whilst these strangers are working for him, in order to carry away his money.

There are no oats to be seen; hay is scarce, their horses and mules eat barley, with straw chopped small.

The hills and mountains in these kingdoms I speak of, are of such a prodigious height and length, that I do not believe there is the like in any other part of the world; one meets with some of an hundred leagues in length, which join one to another in a continued chain, and which, without exaggerating, are higher than the clouds; they are called *sierras*; amongst which are reckoned the Pyrenean mountains, Granada, Astura, Alcantara, Morena, Toledo, Doua, Molina and Albanera. These hills

render the way so very difficult, that no waggons can pass, which obliged them to carry all upon mules, who are so sure footed, that in two hundred leagues continual travelling amongst rocks, and large flint stones, they will not so much as once stumble.

I have been shewed some of the patents the King grants; I never read so many titles; I will set them down here. He calls himself King of Spain, Castille, Leon, Navarre, Arragon, Granada, Toledo, Valentia, Galicia, Seville, Murcia, Jaen de Hierusalem, Naples, Sicily, Majorca, Minorca, and Sardinia, the East and West Indies, the Isles, and Terra Firma of the great Ocean, Archduke of Austria, Duke of Burgundy, Brabant, Luxemburgh, Guelderland, Milan, Count of Hasburgh, Flanders, Tirol, and Barcelona, Lord of Biscay and Molina, Marquis of the Holy Empire, Lord of Friezland, Salines, Utrecht, Malines, Overissel and Groningen, and Grand Seignior of Asia and Africa. I have been told that Francis I. laughed at these when he received a letter from Charles V. stuffed with such arrogant titles, and in his answer gave himself no other title than Citizen of Paris, and Lord of Gentilis.

They do not trouble their heads to study much here, that little they do know bears them out; for

with the help of their wit and grave looks, they seldom betray their ignorance by being at a loss about any thing; when they speak, they always seem to know more than they do; and when they are silent, you would think them wise enough to resolve the most difficult questions. Nevertheless, there are some famous universities in Spain: amongst which they reckon, Sarragossa, Barcelona, Salamanca, Alcalá, Santiago, Granada, Seville, Coimbra, Terragona, Evora, Lisbon, Madrid, Murcia, Majorca, Toledo, Lerida, Valentia, and Occa. There are but few famous preachers; here and there you will meet with some that are pathological: but indeed let these sermons be good or bad, the Spaniards that hear them will perpetually beat their breasts with an extraordinary fervour, and even disturb the preacher with the grievous cries which their troubled consciences make them utter. I am willing to believe that there are a few that have some compunction, but in my conscience, I doubt far less than they make shew of. They never leave off their swords, either when they go to confession or the sacrament; they say they wear them to defend religion; and in the morning before they put them on, they kiss them, and make the sign of the cross with them; they pay an excessive devotion to the blessed Virgin,

and put an extraordinary confidence in her; there is hardly any man that does not wear a scapular, or some embroidered image that hath touched some of those that are held to be miraculous; and though otherwise they do not lead lives very regular, yet they will not forbear praying to her with a trust, that it is she that must protect and save them from the greatest evils. They are very charitable, not only upon the account of the merits by alms-deeds, but also by a natural inclination they have to give, and a real pain they endure, if either through poverty, or for any other reason, they are forced to refuse any thing that is asked of them. They have also another good quality, which is, never to forsake their friend in sickness; their care and their concern is far greater in such a time, when doubtless the presence, as well as the assistance of a friend, is much wanted. So that persons that do not see one another four times in a year, yet are constant in their visits three or four times every day, when one is under any affliction, and that they can become useful to each other: but as soon as they are well, they resume the same way of living they used before they were sick.

Don Frederic de Cardonna, of whom I now write to you, dear cousin, as if he and you were well acquainted, is returned. He hath brought

me a letter from the fair Marchioness de los Rios, who without doubt, is still one of the prettiest women in the world, and who is not weary of her retirement. I also by him heard from the archbishop of Burgos, whose merits are uncommon; and he added, that he came back in the company of a Spanish gentleman, who had told him some very wonderful things; amongst others, that every Spaniard who is born on Good-Friday, whenever they go by or through any church-yard, in which there has been any body buried that was murdered, or if they pass through any place where a murder has been committed, although the man who was killed has been taken away, yet for all that he appears to them all bloody, and in the same manner and condition he happened to be in when he was murdered, and this too, whether they knew one another or not. This certainly is a very unpleasant thing to those whom it happens to; but in requital they can cure the plague with only breathing upon the party, and do not receive the infection, although they be with those that have the plague upon them. "Many people, said he, wondered that Philip IV. held his head so high, and stared up with his eyes; the reason was, he was born on Good-Friday; and when he was very young, he had several apparitions of those persons that had been

murdered; so that with the fright of them, he had got a custom (very seldom) to hold down his head."

But, said I to Don Frederic, did he talk seriously, and as if these things were allowed of every body without any doubt? And just as I was saying that

it would be worth while to enquire of some creditable persons about these matters, Don Fernand de Toledo came into my chamber, and so he asked him; and he assured me that he had frequently heard people talk thus of these matters, but yet he would not answer for the truth of them.

"It is also said, continued he, that there are a certain people who can kill a mad dog with breathing upon him, and that they have a power to remain in the fire without being burnt; and yet I could never see any of them that cared to trust themselves there: but they give this reason, that though they could safely do it, yet there would be something of vanity in it, by such peculiar favours from heaven, to distinguish themselves from other men; and for my part, said I, laughing, I am of opinion these men have more prudence than humility. They are afraid, as it is but reasonable, of the biting of the dog, and the heat of the furnace. "I am altogether of your mind, madam, replied Don Frederic, I can give little credit to things above nature."

“ I do not pretend to make you believe it, says Don Fernand, though I must tell you, I do not find any thing in this matter more extraordinary than in a thousand prodigies which we see every day. Do you think, for instance, that you ought less to wonder at that lake which is near Guadajora in Andalusia, which foretels approaching tempests, by most horrid bellowing and roaring, that is heard above twenty thousand paces distance? and what do you say of that other lake which is found upon the very top of the mountains Clavio, in the county of Roussillon, near to Perpignan? it is extremely deep, there are in it fishes, monstrous both for bigness and shape; when a stone is thrown into it, there are vapours seen to come out attended with a great noise, and to ascend into the air, and there convert into the clouds, which produce most terrible storms, accompanied with thunder, lightning and air. Is it not likewise true, continued he, in addressing himself to Don Frederic, that near the castle of Gracimanos, in a cavern which is called Judea, not far from the bridge Talayredas, there is a spring whose water freezes as it drops, and grows so hard, that it becomes a perfect stone, which cannot easily be broken, and with which in that country they build fine houses?”

“ You have a good stock of examples,” said Don Frederic, “ but if you please, I will furnish you with some others for your purpose. Do you remember the mountain of Monrayo in Arragon? if the sheep feed upon it before the sun rise, they die; but if they are sick, and feed there after the sun is up, they are cured. I must not forget neither, the spring in the isle of Cadiz, which is dry when it is high water, and runs when the tide ebbs.” You shall not be the only person, said I, interrupting him, that shall second Don Fernand in these kind of relations: I must tell him, that in the same isle of Cadiz, there is a certain plant, which withereth upon the first appearance of the sun, and grows green again as soon as night comes. “ Ah, pretty plant, exclaims Don Fernand, laughing: well, I have enough now to be revenged for all the sport you have made at my stories for this hour together; I declare open war against you about this plant, and if you do not send for one hither, I know what I will believe.” The facetious humour of this cavellero made us pass the evening very agreeably; but we were interrupted by my kinswoman, who returned out of the city, where she had spent some part of the day at her lawyer’s, who was at the point of death; he is very old, and a very learned man in his profession,

She told us that all his children stood round his bed, and that the only thing which he recommended to them, was always to preserve a good stock of gravity; and after he had blessed them, says he to them, "What greater good can I now wish you, my dear children; than to lead your whole lives at Madrid, and never to quit this earthly paradise, but for the heavenly." "This may shew," continued she, "the strange prepossession the Spaniards have for Madrid, and the happiness they enjoy in that court." For my part, said I, interrupting her, I am persuaded there is abundance of vanity in that fondness which they express for their own nation, for certainly they have too much sense not to know that there are many other countries far more agreeable. Is it not true, addressing myself to Don Fernand, that though you will not say as I say, that you have the same thoughts? "What my thoughts are," said he, smiling, "can be no rule for other people; I must tell you, that since my return, I have been upbraided by every one with being no longer a Spaniard." But certain it is, that people being so bewitched with the delights and charms of Madrid, and not having power to forsake it in any season of the year, nobody has thoughts of building pretty houses in the country,

whither they might sometimes retire ; so that all adjacent parts about the city, which should be filled with delicious gardens and splendid seats, look like so many little deserts ; and this is the reason also, why the city in summer, as well as in winter, is equally crowded with people. Here-upon my kinswoman said, “ She would have me go to the Escorial, and that it was agreed on by the Marchioness of Palacois and La Rosa, to go thither two days hence : the lady, your mother,” added she, speaking to Don Fernand, “ designs you to make one ; and I am resolved to secure Don Frederic for another. They both declared that with a great deal of pleasure they would go this little journey. And indeed, the next day we went to kiss the Queen-mother’s hand, and to know her commands for the Escorial : for you must know, it is the custom, when one is to go out of Madrid, first to pay respects to the Queen. But we had not seen her since her return ; she looks pleasanter than she did at Toledo, and told us, “ She did not think of coming so soon back to Madrid, and that now it seemed as if she had never been out of it.” There was brought before her a giant woman that came from the Indies : as soon as she saw her she ordered her to be taken away, she was so frightened at her. Her ladies would make this

colossus dance, who held in each hand two she-dwarfs that played upon the castinets and the biscay drum, which was disagreeable in the highest degree. My kinswoman observed in the Queen-mother's apartment, things which had been Don John's; amongst others, an admirable pendulum clock, all set with diamonds; he made her in part his heir, in all likelihood it was to testify his regret for having troubled and vexed her.

The journey to the Escorial was performed with all imaginable satisfaction; the desire of entertaining you with it, hindered me from sending you the letter I had begun before I went thither; the same ladies that went to Arranjues and Toledo, were very glad to embrace the opportunity of taking the air a little in so fine a season; and we went first to the Prado, which is a royal house, the building like the rest in Spain is handsome enough, that is, it consists of a square of four several apartments, separated by galleries of communication, which are supported with pillars; the furniture of it, indeed, is not stately, but there are good pictures, amongst others, those of the Kings of Spain, in ridiculous dresses.

We were shewed a little closet, which the late King used to call his beloved, because in it he used

sometimes to entertain himself with his mistresses; this prince, who was seemingly so cold and grave, that he was seldom ever seen to laugh, was really the most amorous and the pleasantest of men. There is a garden well enough kept, and a park of a considerable extent, where the King frequently goes to hunt.

We were afterwards at a convent of the Capuchins, which stands on the top of a hill; this is a place of great devotion, because of a crucifix which it seems was taken from the true cross, and which often works miracles. After we had said our prayers there, we descended on the other side of the hill, to a certain hermitage, where there was a recluse, that would neither see us nor speak to us, but he threw a ticket to us through his grate, on which we found written, that he would recommend us to God. We were all very weary, for we were forced to walk on foot up the hill, and it was very hot weather. We perceived at the bottom of the hill a very little cottage, by the side of a brook, which runs amongst willow trees; we steered our course that way, and when we were yet a great way off, we could see a man and a woman very well dressed, rise up nimbly from the foot of a tree where they were seated, and run into that cottage, and shut the door as hastily as if

they had taken us for thieves ; but doubtless it was the fear of being known, which made them avoid us. We went to the place they had left, and being seated on the grass, we fell to eating some fruit we brought with us. We were so nigh this little house, that they could easily see through their windows what we were doing : there came out a very pretty country lass, with a sea-rush basket, and addressed herself to us, and kneeling, begged some of the fruit of our collation for a pregnant lady, that would die if we refused her. Immediately we sent her some of the fairest, and quickly after the same young girl came again with a gold snuff-box, and told us, the Senora of the Casita, that is, the lady of the little house, intreated us to accept of some snuff for an acknowledgement of the favour we had done her. It is the custom here to present snuff when they have a mind to express their friendship. We stayed so long by the water-side, that we resolved to go no farther than the Carcuela, which is another of the King's houses, but not so handsome as the Prado, and so neglected, that there is nothing worth commending but the waters. We were bad enough lodged there, though we laid in the very same beds his Majesty did ; and we were very lucky in taking along with us all necessaries for supper. After

that, we went into the gardens, which are in bad order, the fountains run day and night, and the water there is so good and in such plenty, that for as little almost as one would desire, it might be made as pleasant a dwelling as any in the world. But it is not the custom in this country, from the King, to private persons, to keep several country houses in good repair, they let them go to ruin, for want of some very small reparations. Our beds were so bad, that we were not loth to leave them early the next morning to go to the Escorial. We went by Monareco, where the woods begin, and a little farther is the park which belongs to the convent of the Escorial: for in effect, it is one which Philip II. built among the mountains, that so he might the more easily get the stone he needed, of which there is such a prodigious quantity, that without seeing it one cannot conceive it, and certainly it is one of the largest buildings we have in Europe. We went up to it through a very long walk of elm trees, which are planted in four rows; the great gate is stately adorned with divers marble pillars, raised one upon another, till they reach up to the statue of St. Lawrence, which stands on the top; the King's arms are cut upon a certain stone, which is called the thunder-stone, and is brought from Arabia, the cutting of which cost

threescore thousand crowns. It is easy to believe, that having been at so considerable a charge for a thing so little useful, they would not spare any cost for others which might be necessary, and contribute to the beauty of the place. It is a great square pile of building; but beyond the square there runs out a length, which contains the buildings of the entrance, and are contrived to present the form of the gridiron on which St. Lawrence (who is the patron of the monastery) suffered martyrdom. It is built according to the Doric order, and very plain; the square is divided in the middle, and one of those divisions, which looks upon the order, opens itself both ways into four other lesser squares, which are four cloysters, built also according to the Doric order, and who sees one of them, sees all the rest; the building has nothing in it, either as to its design or architecture, that is extraordinary; that which is to be admired, is the largeness of it, being three hundred and eighty paces in the square; for besides those four cloysters I have mentioned, the other division of the square, subdivided into two, makes two other piles of building, one of which is the King's quarters, and the other is the college; for there are in it abundance of pensioners, whom the King maintains to study. The friars that live in it are Hiero-

nomites; this order is unknown in France, and it is abolished in Italy, because a certain Hieronomite friar at Milan attempted the life of St. Charles Barromeo; but he did not hurt him, though he shot at him, and the bullets pierced his pontifical habit; but nevertheless this order is here in great esteem. There are three hundred monks in the convent of the Escorial; they live much after the manner of the Carthusians; they speak little, and pray much, and women never come into their church; besides, they ought to study and preach.

But there is another thing yet, which makes this building considerable, and that is, the nature of the stone of which it is built. It was taken out of the neighbouring quarries; it is of a greyish colour; the sharpest air and severest weather make no impression on it; it does not soil or grow dirty, but constantly preserves that colour it had when it was taken up. Philip II. was two and twenty years in building it; he enjoyed it thirteen, and then died in it. This structure cost him six millions of gold. Philip IV. added the Pantheon to it, that is to say, a sepulchre, like the Pantheon at Rome, contrived under the great altar of the church, all of marble, jasper and porphyry; in which there are six and twenty most stately tombs

inched in the walls, and one goes down into it by a pair of stairs, all of jasper. I fancied myself descending into some of those enchanted places which our romances and books of chivalry talk of. The tabernacle, the architecture of the altar, the steps by which you ascend to it, the pyx or box in which the host is kept, and made all of one single agate, are so many wonders. The riches there in precious stones and gold are incredible. One single cupboard of relics (for there are four in the four chapels of the church) infinitely exceeds the treasure of St. Mark's at Venice. The ornaments of the church are embroidered with pearls and precious stones; and so are the chalices and vessels of precious stones. The candlesticks and lamps are of pure gold. There are forty little chapels, and as many altars, upon which are put every day forty several cloaths and attires. The fore part of the great altar is composed of four ranks of jasper pillars, and one goes up to the altar by seventeen steps of porphyry stone. The tabernacle is beautified with several pillars of agate, and divers curious figures of metal and chrystal. You can see nothing about the tabernacle but gold, azure stone, and other stones so transparent, that through them the sacrament (which is kept in an agate vessel) is easily perceived. This tabernacle

is esteemed at a million of crowns. There are eight pair of organs, the chairs or seats in the choir, are made of fine wood, which comes from the Indies, curiously wrought after the pattern of those of St. Dominic, at Boulogne. The cloysters of the monastery are extremely fine; in the middle there is a flower-garden, and a chapel which opens four ways, whose roof is supported with porphyry pillars, between which there are niches, in which are placed the four evangelists, with an angel, and several creatures made of white marble, larger than nature, who throw out torrents of water into marble basons. The chapel is arched with curious architecture, and paved with black and white marble. There are divers pictures, of an inestimable value, and in the chapter-room, which is very large, there are besides most excellent pictures, two bass reliefs all of agate, two foot and a half long, which cannot be valued. As to the church, it has nothing extraordinary in its structure; it is larger than that of the Jesuits in St. Anthony's-street at Paris, but of the same form, except that, like their house, it is of the Doric order. Bramanto, the famous Italian architect, drew the model and design of it. The King and Queen's apartments are not stately, but Philip II. intended this only for a house of prayer

and retirement, the church and the library were the things he took most care to adorn. Titian, the famous painter, and many others besides, have exhausted all their art and skill in curiously painting the galleries of the library, which indeed are admirable, not only for the excellent painting, but for a hundred thousand volumes that are there, without reckoning the original manuscripts of several fathers and doctors of the church, which are elegantly bound and gilt. You will easily guess at the largeness of the Escorial, when I have told you that there are in it seventeen cloisters, twenty-two courts, eleven thousand windows, above eight hundred pillars, and an infinite number of parlours, halls, and chambers.

Soon after the death of Philip II. there was taken from the friars of the Escorial, a certain estate in lands, called Campillo, which the late King had given them, and was worth eighteen thousand crowns per annum, and this was done by virtue of a clause in his will, by which he revoked all the immense donations which in his life-time he had given.

The Duke of Braganza being at court in King Philip IId's. time, he had a mind they should go with him to the Escorial, that he might see that stately pile of building. And as he that had the

care of shewing it to him, told him, "it was built in performance of a vow which Philip II. made at the battle of St. Quintin;" the Duke replied, "he that made so great a vow must needs have a great terror upon him." And now in mentioning this King, I remember to have heard that Charles V. recommended to him the preservation of the three keys of Spain. These were the Streights-mouth, Flushing in Zealand, and Cadiz. The Turks and Moors have the first, the Dutch the second, and the English had the last, but the King of Spain soon recovered it from them.

The Escorial is built upon a descent of some rocks in a desert and barren place, and environed with hills; the village stands below it, and has but a few houses in it; it is in a manner always cold weather there. The extent of the gardens and the park is a prodigious sight to see, in which you meet with woods, plains, and a vast house in the middle, in which is the keeper's lodge; it abounds with all sorts of deer and fowl.

After having seen a place that so highly deserves our admiration, we all left it, and as we had visited the royal houses of Prado and Carcuela, we returned over the mountains, which is a nearer way, but very troublesome. We came by Col-

menar, and coasting along the little river of Guadarama, we passed through Rozas and Aravaca, and arrived at Madrid, where we learned that the Queen's household were just going away to meet her upon the frontier. We immediately went to the palace to bid adieu to the Duchess de Terra Nova and the other ladies. The King had caused them all to be mounted, that he might see after what manner they would be on the day of her entry; for this reason all the gardens and doors, every way, were kept close shut and guarded, and no man was to enter there. The young court-ladies looked well enough, but, good God! what figures were the Duchess de Terra Nova, and Donna Maria de Alarcon, who were the governantes of the Queen's maids; they rode every one upon a mule shod with silver, and all friezed with a large housing of black velvet, like that the physicians in Paris rode with upon their horses. These ladies, dressed like widows, (which I have already described to you) very old and ugly, with morose and imperious looks, wore broad hats, tied with strings under their chins, and twenty gentlemen who walked on foot by their sides, held them up, lest they should fall. They would never have suffered these men to have touched them in that manner, had not they feared breaking

their necks. For you must know, dear cousin, that though every lady has two gentlemen-ushers, and that they go with them wherever they go, yet they never give them their hand; they walk by their sides, and present to them their elbows wrapped in their cloaks, which makes their arms look prodigiously thick. The ladies do not come near them, but that which is yet more strange, if the Queen, in walking, should happen to fall, unless her ladies were near her to help her up, though there were an hundred gentlemen there, she must be pleased, either to rise by herself, or lie all day upon the ground, for no one dare take her up.

We spent part of the afternoon in looking at these ladies; the equipage they had was indeed very rich, but very poorly and dully contrived. The Duchess of Terra Nova had alone six litters of velvet of various colours, and all embroidered, and forty mules, whose housings were as costly as ever I saw any.

You will not hear from me again, dear cousin, before the Queen is come hither. While the King is gone to meet her, and the whole court absent, my kinswoman will go into Andalusia, about some business she has there. I might send you a short relation of our little journey, if I

could be assured it would please you. I most heartily embrace you.

From Madrid,

Sept. 30.

LETTER XV.

THE whole court is returned, and in my memoirs you will find, dear cousin, the particulars of the Queen's journey. The king and she were both together in one coach, and the curtains being all open, I saw her at her arrival here; she was dressed after the Spanish way, and I did not think that she looked less handsome in this, than in her French garb; but the King was dressed *A-la-Schomberg*, which is the Spanish habit for the country, and it is almost like the French. I have heard it told, how strangely the Queen was surprized the first time she had the honor to see him; he had on a close-bodied coat of grey barragon, very short and wide, velvet breeches, stockings of

pelo, that is, raw silk, which they work so very loose that their skin appears through them; this silk is as small as a hair, and though they be very strait, yet the King pulls them on at once, and by that means tears sometimes twenty pairs one after the other. He had also a very fine cravat, which the Queen sent him, but it was tied a little too loose: his hair was put behind his ears, and he wore a grey hat. All the journey, which was very long, they sat close to each other in a large coach, and seldom could understand one another but by some certain signs, for the King cannot speak a word of French, and the Queen could speak but very little Spanish. Upon their arrival at Madrid, they went to sing *Te Deum* at our Lady d'Atocha, attended by all the persons of quality, and a multitude of the people, that made the air resound with acclamations of joy. Afterwards their Majesties went to Buen Retiro, because the apartments in the palace were not yet ready, and the Queen was not to remain there till she had made her entry. This time must needs have been very tedious to her, for she saw no one but the camerera-mayor and her ladies. She is forced to lead a life so much against her inclinations, that she has need of all that discretion and sweetness of temper she is possessed of, to be

able to endure it; she has not so much as the liberty to see the French ambassador; to be short, it is a perpetual torment. All the Spanish ladies are very fond of her, and amongst themselves pity her.

I was some time ago at the Countess Vallambrosa's, and in a great deal of company. The Marchioness de la Fuente came in there, and as they are extremely superstitious in this country, so she told them, like one affrighted, that being with the Queen, who looking at herself in the glass, and laying her hand gently upon it, cracked it from top to bottom, and that the Queen beheld it without being the least moved, but even laughed at the consternation that all the ladies about her were in, telling them it betrayed a weakness of mind to take such notice of things and accidents as might proceed from natural causes. They discoursed and argued a great while upon this matter, and with deep sighs, said that their Queen would not live long.

She also told us that the Queen was much more disturbed at the incivility of the camerera-mayor, who seeing some of her hairs out of place on her forehead, spit on her fingers to lay them smooth, upon which the Queen stayed her arm, telling her in a majestic way "that the best essence there was

not too good," and that taking her handkerchief, she was a great while cleaning that part of her hair which this piece of antiquity had so handsomely wet. It is no uncommon thing here to wet the head all over, the better to smooth and make the hair shine; the first time my head was dressed after the Spanish mode, one of my relation's women undertook this curious piece of work, she was no less than three hours tugging and pulling my head, and finding that my hair, which is naturally curling, would not comply, without saying a word to me, she dipped a great sponge twice in a bason of water, and baptized me so handsomely that I was laid up with a cold for a month.

But to return to the Queen, it would draw pity from one to see how this camerera treats her; I am well assured that she neither suffers her to have so much as a single hair curled, nor to come near her chamber windows, nor to speak to any body; and yet the King loves the Queen sincerely, and for the most part eats with her, and that without ceremony, so that very often when the maids of honor are laying the cloth, the King and the Queen will divert themselves in helping them, one will lay the cloth, and the other a napkin: the Queen has her meat dressed after the French way, and the King his after the Spanish. He has a

woman cook to dress all his victuals, but the Queen endeavours to bring him to like the ragouts that are made for her, but he cannot abide them. But now you must not imagine that their Majesties are surrounded with their courtiers when they are at dinner, at the most, there are only some ladies of the palace, a few menins, but a great many male and female dwarfs.

The Queen made her entry on the 13th of January; after all the passages and avenues of the great road which leads to Buen Retiro were stopped, and all coaches forbid to come that way, there was a triumphal arch built, and the Queen painted upon it. It was also covered with divers garlands, and had several emblems and other things painted; it was set in the way by which the Queen must pass to go into Madrid; on each side there was a sort of galleries which had places contrived in them, to shew the arms of the several kingdoms under the Spanish dominion, joining one to another, by certain pillars which supported some gilt statues, every one of which represented crowns and inscriptions which had relation to those kingdoms.

This gallery reached to the triumphal gate on the great road, which was very rich and adorned with several statues, where likewise there were

four beautiful and young maids, dressed like nymphs, waiting for the Queen, and holding in their hands baskets of flowers ready to strew them on the ground as she passed; hardly was one out of this gate or arch, but a second appeared, and so for a great way one after another was seen. These were adorned with the King's Council, that of the inquisition, the council of the Indies, of Arragon, of State, of Italy, of Flanders, and other places, under so many gilt statues; that of justice was higher raised than all the rest. A little further was represented the Golden Age, accompanied with the law, rewards, protection, and punishments. The Temple of Faith was exhibited in a picture, Honor and Fidelity opened the gate, and Joy came forth to receive the new Queen. There was besides, a picture which shewed the reception Solomon gave the Queen of Sheba, and another where Deborah was giving of laws to her people. There were also the statues of Ceres, Astrea, Union, Virtue, Life, Safety, Time, the Earth, Tranquillity, Peace, Greatness, Rest, Themis, and Liberality. Amongst the number of paintings I took notice of, there were Æneas descending into hell, Cerberus chained by the Sybil, the Elysian Fields, where Anchises shewed his son who should succeed him in his

posterity. The rest were filled with an infinite number of hieroglyphics. The Queen stopped at the third arch, which was over against a very fine parterre in her way; in it were falls of water, grottoes, fountains, and white marble statues. Nothing could be more pleasant than this garden: it belonged to the friars of St. Francis of Paulo, who built it. The fourth gate was in the middle of the place called Del Sol: it was not less glorious than the others, by the gold, pictures, statues, and mottoes about it.

The street where the furriers dwelt was all full of seeming animals, and their skins were so artificially stuffed, that any body would have taken them for living tygers, lions, bears, and panthers. The fifth, which was that of Guadalajara, had its peculiar ornaments, and after that, the Queen passed into the goldsmith's street, the side of which was set full of angels of pure silver; there were seen also divers buckles of gold, upon which were contrived the King and Queen's names, with their arms, in pearls, rubies, diamonds, emeralds, and other stones so fine and rich, that the skilful said, there was to the value of above twelve millions.

In the Placa-mayor there was an amphitheatre set full of statues, and adorned with paintings.

The last gate was near that. In the middle of the first front of the Queen-mother's palace, was seen Apollo, all the Muses, the picture of the King and Queen on horseback, and divers other things which I did not remember so much as to give you an account of. The palace court was surrounded with young men and maids, who represented all the rivers, both great and small of Spain; they were crowned with reeds and water lilies, with pots overturned, and the rest of their attire suitable. They complimented the Queen in Latin and Spanish. There were also erected in this court, two castles of artificial fireworks. All the palace was hung with the richest tapestry that belonged to the crown, and there are but few places in the world where there is finer seen; two chariots full of musicians went before their Majesties.

The magistrates of the city came out of their public house in their robes, which were made of brocade embroidered with gold; they wore little hats buttoned up, with plumes of feathers, and were mounted upon very fine horses, they came to present the keys of the city to the Queen, and to receive her under a canopy. The King and the Queen-mother went in a coach all open, that the people might see them, as far as the countess of Ognate's house, where the Queen came to them.

Six trumpeters in black and red suits, in company with the city kettle drums mounted upon fine horses, whose housings were of black velvet, marched before the Alcade of the court, the Knights of three military orders, namely, St. James, Calatrava, and Alcantara, followed after, in cloaks, all embroidered with gold, and their hats covered with plumes of feathers; after them went the Titulados de Castille, and the officers of the King's household, they wore white robes, and most of them were Grandees of Spain, their hats were trimmed with diamonds and pearls, and their magnificence appeared every way; they had most admirable horses, every one had abundance of liveries, and their footmen's suits were of gold and silver brocade, mixed with coloured silk, which looked very well.

The Queen rode upon a curious horse of Andalusia, which the Marquis de Villa Mayna, her first gentleman usher, led by the reins; her cloaths were so richly embroidered, that you could see no stuff; she wore a hat trimmed with a plume of feathers, and the pearl called the peregrina, which is as big as a small pear, and of an inestimable value; her hair hung loose upon her shoulders and upon her forehead, her neck was a little bare, and she wore a small farthingale; she had upon

her finger the large diamond of the King's, which is pretended to be the finest in Europe. But the Queen's pretty looks, and her charms, shone much brighter than all the sparkling jewels with which she was adorned; behind her, and without the canopy, went the Duchess de Terra Nova, dressed in duenna, together with Donna Laura Maria d' Alarcon, governante of the Queen's maids; they rode each of them upon a mule. Immediately after them the Queen's maids, to the number of eight, all covered with diamonds and embroidery, appeared upon very fine horses, every one having two of the court walking by their side; the Queen's coaches went after them, and the guards of the Lancilla brought up the rear. She stopped before the Countess of Ognate's house to salute the King and the Queen-mother; she alighted at St. Mary's, where Cardinal Portocarero, Archbishop of Toledo, waited for her, and immediately Te Deum began; as soon as it was ended, she mounted her horse again, and rode to the palace, where she was received by the King and Queen-mother; the King helped her off her horse, and the Queen-mother taking her by the hand, led her to her apartment, where all the ladies were waiting for her, and fell on their knees with all humility to kiss her hand. While I am upon this head of the

palace, I should tell you, dear cousin, that I have heard there are certain laws and rules established in the palace, which have been observed there for above these hundred years, without the least deviation, they are called the orders or ceremonials of the palace; they run thus: "That the Queen of Spain shall go to bed at ten o'clock in summer, and nine in winter." At the Queen's first being here she did not consider the appointed hour, it seemed to her reasonable that the rule of going to bed, should be when one was sleepy; but it frequently happened, that as she was eating her supper, some of her women, without saying a word to her, would begin to undress her head, and others pull off her shoes under the table, and so hurry her to bed with that haste, as made her very much wonder.

The King of Spain sleeps in one apartment, and the Queen in another, but his present Majesty loves the Queen too well to lie from her. It is thus noted, "That when the King comes out of his own chamber in the night to go into the Queen's, he must wear his shoes like slippers, (for here they make no slippers) his black cloak upon his shoulders, instead of a night-gown, (of which no one makes use at Madrid) his broquel, or bucklar, (of which I have spoken in some of my former

letters) fastened under his arm, and his bottle fastened by a string to the other:" but you must not think this bottle holds drink to quench thirst, it is for a quite contrary purpose, which you must guess. With all this accoutrement, the King has besides a long rapier in one hand, and a dark lantern in the other; and in this manner he is obliged to go all alone into the Queen's chamber.

There is another order of the ceremonial, which is, "That after the King has taken a mistress, and happens to forsake her, she must be a nun," as I have already told you. I have heard that the late King being in love with a lady of the palace, he knocked one night softly at her chamber door, as she imagined it was he, she would not open it, and only said to him through the door, *Baya, baya, con Dios no quiero ser monja*; that is to say, "Go, go, God be with you, I have no mind to be a nun."

It is also set down, "That the King every time he receives a favour from his mistress must give her four pistoles." You perceive he will not ruin his estate thus, and that the expense he is at for his pleasure is very moderate. To this purpose it is publickly known, that Philip IV. the father of the present King, having heard of the beauty of a famous courtesan, went to see her at her

house; but being a religious observer of the orders, he gave her but four pistoles; she was very angry at so disproportionate a recompence to her merit, but dissembling her displeasure, she dressed herself like a cavellero and went to see the King, and after she had made herself known, and had had a most particular audience of him, she pulled out a purse of four hundred pistoles, and laid it upon the table: "It is thus," said she, "I pay my mistress;" pretending that this time the King was her mistress, seeing she came in man's cloaths to find him out.

By these ceremonials, the fixed time of the King's going to any of his houses of pleasure are known, whether it be to the Escorial, to Aranjuez, or to Buen-Retiro, so that without staying for his orders, all his equipage is sent away, and early in the morning, they go to awake him, that he may rise and put on those cloaths that are set down in the orders, according to the season, and after that he steps into his great coach, and so very contentedly goes, where several ages past it has been agreed on that he must go.

When the appointed time comes to return, though the King is never so well pleased where he is, yet he must go away, that he may not alter the custom.

It is also known when he is to go to confession, and to perform his devotions, at that time the confessor comes, and presents himself.

Every courtier, and even the ambassadors, are obliged when they go into the King's chamber, to put on certain little lawn cuffs, which they wear quite flat upon their sleeves; there are shops in the guard-room, where the Lords hire them, and return them when they come out. In like manner all the ladies are to wear pattens when they go into the Queen's presence, I think I have already told you, that these are a kind of sandals, into which the shoe is fastened, and which raises them up very high; if they should appear before the Queen without these sandals, she would take it very ill.

The Queens of Spain have none but widows and maids about them, the palace is so full of them, that you can see nothing else through the lattices and in the balconies, and here is one thing to me seems very singular, which is, that a man, although he be married, is allowed to declare himself the lover or gallant of a lady of the palace, and for her sake to commit all the follies, and so to spend all the money he can, without being in the least blamed for it. You shall see these gallants in the court, and all the ladies in the win-

dows; where it is their daily employment to discourse with, and entertain one another by the fingers: for you must know that their hands speak a language that is perfectly intelligible; and as it might be guessed that it was always alike, and that the same signs always meant the same things, so they agree with their mistresses upon certain private signs and actions, which no one else understands. This kind of love is public, a man must be of a peculiar sort of wit and humour, dexterously to manage these intrigues, and to be accepted by the ladies, for they are wonderfully delicate and nice, they do not talk like other people. In the palace there reigns a certain genius and strain of wit, quite different from that in the city, and so peculiar, that one must learn it as one would an art or trade. When the Queen goes abroad, all, or however the greatest part of the ladies go with her; then the gallants, who are constantly upon the watch, go on foot by their coach sides, that they may enjoy their conversation. It is really good sport to see how these poor lovers dirty themselves, for the streets are exceedingly nasty; but then, the more dirty the more gallant. When the Queen returns home late, there are carried before the coaches where her ladies are, forty or fifty flambeaux of white wax;

and this sometimes makes a very glorious illumination; for there are several coaches, and in every one divers ladies, so that frequently you may see above a thousand flambeaux, besides those the Queen has.

When the ladies of the palace are let blood, the chirurgeon takes a prodigious care of the ligature, fillet, or any cloth or handkerchief upon which any of the blood of the fair one has fallen; for he never fails to make a rich present of it to the cavellero that loves her, and this is looked upon to be a worthy occasion for a man to ruin himself to all intents; there have been some so extravagantly foolish, as to give the chirurgeon the greatest part of their plate; you must not fancy this is only a spoon, a fork, or a knife, which may be the stock of a great many we know; no, no, I assure you, this extends to the value of three or four thousand crowns; and this is a custom so rooted amongst them, that a man had rather feed upon nothing but radishes and leeks all the year long, than not to perform what he is obliged to do upon these sort of occasions.

Few of the ladies of the palace leave it without being advantageously married; there are also the Queen's meninas, who are so very young when they come to her, that she has some not above six

or seven years old; these are children of the highest quality. I have seen some of them more beautiful than the god of love himself was ever painted.

On some solemn days, when the ladies of the palace go abroad, or when the Queen gives audience, every lady has the privilege to place by her sides two cavalleros, who put on their hats before their majesties, although they be not grandees of Spain; they are called *Embevecidos*, that is, "drunk with love," and so transported with their passion, and the pleasure of being near their mistresses, that they are incapable of minding any thing else, they are permitted to be covered for the same reason that madmen are, who understand not their obligation to decency and good manners; but yet to enjoy this liberty, they must have leave from their ladies, otherwise they dare not presume to attempt it.

There is no other diversion at court than play; but during the carnival, they empty eggs by a little hole in the shell, and fill them full of sweet scented water, and then stop them up again with wax, and when the King is at a play, he throws these at every body, and every one in imitation of his majesty throw them likewise at one another; this perfumed rain makes the air very sweet, but withal

wets people pretty handsomely, and this is one of their greatest pastimes, there is hardly any body at this season but what carries an hundred of the egg-shells, that are either filled with orange-flower, or some other sweet-scented water, and as they go along in their coaches throw them in people's faces. At this time the people also please themselves after their fashion; for example, they will break off the neck of a bottle, and tie the part that is within the wicker to the tail of a dog, and sometimes you shall see above two thousand run after him.

The King's dwarf is the prettiest that I ever saw, his name is Levisillo; he was born in Flanders; he is extremely little, and exactly well proportioned; he has a handsome face, an admirable complexion, and not only wittier than one can imagine, but withal very wise and learned. When he goes to take the air, there is a groom to wait on him, who rides upon one horse, and carries another before him, which is so very small, that it may properly be termed a dwarf horse, and is as handsome for his kind as his master is for his. This horse is brought to the place where Levisillo is to mount him, for he would be almost tired were he to walk so far; and it is really a great pleasure to see the dexterity of this little animal and his master, when he orders him like a managed horse. I

do assure you that when he is upon his back, they do not both make above three quarters of an ell in height. He said very seriously the other day, "That he would fight the bull at the first bull feast, for the sake of his mistress Donna Elvira." This is a little girl about seven or eight years of age, but very beautiful. The Queen commanded him to be her gallant. It is a great happiness for this child that she is fallen into the Queen's hands. I will tell you how it happened.

The fathers of mercy went to redeem a certain number of slaves which they brought to Madrid: and according to their custom of coming through the city in procession, the Queen chanced to cast her eyes upon a captive woman, who led two little girls by the hand; they seemed to be sisters, but there was this difference between them, the one was extremely handsome, and the other as ugly. The Queen made her come to her, and asked her, "If she was the mother of those two children?" she answered, "That she was mother only to the ugly one." "And how came you by the other?" said the Queen. "Madam," replied the woman, "we were in a vessel in which there was a great lady big with child, but we did not know who she was, only by her attendants, and the richness of her cloaths, it was easy to think

she must be of quality. After a long and sharp fight we were taken, the greatest part of her people were killed; and she was so frightened, that she fell in travail, and as soon as she was delivered, died. I was by her, and seeing this poor little creature without a nurse, and ready to perish, I resolved to nourish it up with my own, if it was possible. As soon as the corsairs were masters of our ship, they divided the booty amongst themselves: they were in two vessels, and so each took away with them the lot that was fallen to them. Those remaining women, and other servants who belonged to this lady, were on one side of the vessel, and I on the other; so that, madam," continued the woman, "I was never able to learn what or who the person was whose child I saved. I now look upon her as my own daughter, and she believes I am her mother." "So charitable a deed, says the Queen, shall not go unrewarded; I shall take care of you, and the little incognito I will keep." And indeed the Queen loves it so extremely, that the girl wears very rich cloaths. She follows her Majesty every where, and talks to her with that grace and freedom as sufficiently declares her to be of no mean original. Perhaps time may discover who she is.

Here are none of those solemn and pleasant

festivals which are at Versailles, when the ladies have the honour to eat with their majesties. All is very reserved in this court, and in my opinion, nothing but a general and constant habit could prevent abundance of things from being extremely tedious to them. Those ladies who do not actually dwell at court, never come to it, but when the Queen sends for them, nor is she allowed to send for them often. She lives for the most part without any other company than her women, never was there any life more melancholy than hers.

When she goes a hunting, (and you must know, that of all the Queens that have reigned in Spain, she is the first that has had this liberty) and is come to the place appointed for mounting on horseback, she must set her feet upon the coach boot, and so throw herself upon her horse. It is not long since she had one, who being a little shy and skittish, would start away as she leaped upon him, and so she had a most grievous fall. When the King is there, he assists her, but nobody else dare come so near the Queens of Spain as to touch them and help them on horseback; they had rather they should be hurt, and that their lives should be exposed to the greatest danger.

She has fourteen matrasses or quilts upon her bed; there is neither flocks nor feather-beds used

here, these quilts being made of Spanish wool, which is the finest in the world; they are not above three fingers thick, so that her bed is no higher than one of ours in France. They make these matrasses so thin that they may the more easily be turned and removed; and indeed I have observed that they keep hollower, and are not near so hard as ours.

It is the custom in Madrid for the master or mistresses of the house to go before those that come to see them; they think this is a piece of great civility, to leave, say they, a person in the possession of all that is in the room. As to the women, they do not kiss one another in their salutation, they only present their hand without glove.

They have another custom, which I think odd and peculiar enough, and that is, when a daughter has a mind to be married, and is the eldest, and has already made her choice, though both her father and mother are against the match, she need only go to the curate of the parish and tell him the matter, and the business is done. Immediately he takes her from her parents' house, and either puts her into a convent, or to some devout lady, where she remains for a little time; afterwards, if she perseveres in her resolution, the fa-

ther and mother are obliged to give her a portion suitable to her quality and their estate, and in spite of them she is married. Partly upon this account it is, that such care is taken to keep their daughters close, and to let no body speak to them, and so to make it difficult for them to take any measures for the management of an intrigue. Otherwise, provided the cavellero be a gentleman, it is sufficient, and he may marry his mistress, though she should prove to be the daughter of a grandee of Spain.

Since my being in this country, I think I have not neglected informing you of every thing ; I will now proceed to finish my memoirs of the court of Spain, seeing those I first sent you please you so well. I shall send you the rest as fast as any thing happens that is worth your curiosity and notice. I do also promise to write you the relation you desired of me. But for all these trifles, I must beg you, dear cousin, to grant me something that is considerable, and that is, the continuation of your friendship, for which I have a just value.

From Madrid,

Sept. 28, 1681.

A LETTER
ON THE
STATE OF SPAIN,
AS IT WAS IN THE YEAR 1700.

BY AN ENGLISH GENTLEMAN.

YOU desired in your last some account of the court of Spain, and more particularly touching the nobility thereof, in which I shall endeavour to satisfy you, so far as is come to my knowledge; for you must understand the Spaniards are a proud reserved people, with a great opinion of their own, and as mean a one of other nations, which makes them very difficult of access, and so by consequence, it is a hard thing for a stranger to form that friendship among persons of quality, which is necessary for a due information of matters concerning people of the first rank; which consideration, joined to the natural jealousy of the men of that country, as well as the customary re-

servedness of the women, makes me often smile to hear our travelling gallants relate their friendship with the gentlemen, and intrigues with the ladies, with so much falsehood and confidence.

The present King is Charles II. the Emperor Charles V. of the house of Austria, his ancestor, being the first of that name. This prince was born on Sunday the sixth of November, 1661, at half an hour after twelve at noon, to the great joy of his father Philip IV. and his mother Donna Mariana de Austria, sister of the present Emperor; his nephew, the Dauphin of France, being born the sixth; his father died the twenty-fifth of November, 1665. The next day the councils went in state, and proclaimed the new King, and kissed his hand. On the eighth of November, the town of Madrid lift up the standard for the new King, by the hands of Don Ramim de Gusman, Duke of Medina de los Torres, accompanied by the nobility, king at arms, &c. Having mounted a scaffold richly covered in the great piazza, the oldest king of arms having proclaimed silence three times, the duke lifts up the standard, crying, three times, "*Castilla* for the Catholic King, Charles the Second of that name, whom God preserve," all the people crying out, *Viva*. They not using to crown their Kings at present, a day

or two after, Don Louis de Arragon, Duke of Cardonna and Segorbe, the most ancient knight of the Golden Fleece, knighted him in presence of several knights of that order, put on him the collar of the Golden Fleece, with the usual ceremonies; the Princes of Astilliana, Auclino, and Montalto, doing him homage for Italy, Prince of Barbançon for Flanders, the ambassador for Germany, and the Duke of Cardonna for Spain; he remained under the tutelage of his mother till the year 1675, when he took on him the government. He is an easy man, tall and thin, fair, with the Austrian great under lip, but of mean capacity, and not at all active, which makes the Spaniards often cry out, "When shall we have a King of our own complexion?" they speak very slightly of him, as of an innocent, but yet are very loyal, laying all the miscarriages in the government on the ministers, who are changed often enough.

As to the nobility of this kingdom, they may be divided into the higher and lower; the former comprehending only such as are *grandees* of Spain, who are covered in presence of the King; they were so ordered by Charles V. to avoid the competitions between the great men of Spain, and Princes of Germany, and in some sort to make them equal; there are said to be three degrees of

pre-eminence herein. The first come into the King's presence, speak to him uncovered, and then put on their hats; the second speak to the King and put not on their hats till the King has spoken to them; the third speak to the King, and stand by till the King commands them to cover. The names and titles of these grandees follow hereafter in an alphabetical order.

DUKES of,

1. Abrahantes, his name Alencastre, his estates in Portugal and Castille.
2. Alburquerque, his name Cueva, his estates in Castille.
3. Alcala, his name Ribora, his estates in Andalusia, now united by marriage to the Duke of Medina Celi.
4. Alva, his name Toledo, his estates in Castille, Granada and Navarre.
5. Arcos, his name Poncedeleon, his estates in Andalusia.
6. Ariscot, his name Arenberg, his estates in Flanders.
7. Aveiro, his name Alencastre, his estates in Portugal. (Arcos.)

8. Buena, his name Codova, his estates in Andalusia and Naples. (Sessa.)
9. Barcelos, his name Pereira and Portugal, his estates in Portugal.
10. Bejar, his name Zuniga, his estates in Castille and Andalusia.
11. Braccian, his name Vesino, his estates in Italy.
12. Braganza, his name Pereira and Portugal, his estates in Portugal, now Kings thereof.
13. Carmina, his name Meruses, his estates in Portugal.
14. Cardonna, his name Arragon, Fole, Cordova, his estates in Castille, Andalusia, Valentia and Catalonia. (Medina Celi.)
15. Cea, his name Sandoval, his estates in Castillia.
16. Escalona, his name Pacheco, his estates in Castille.
17. Feria, his name Figueroa, his estates in Estremadura.
18. Frias, his name Velasco, his estates in Castille. (the constable.)
19. Gandia, his name Borja, his estates in Valentia.
20. Gustales, his name Gonzaga, his estates in Lombardy. (Legure.)

21. Huré, his name Croy, his estates in Flanders.

22. Hjar, his name Sylva, his estates in Castille and Arragon.

23. Huescar, his name Toledo, his estates in Granada.

24. Infantado, his name Mendoza, his estates in Castille. (Ad. of Arragon.)

25. Lerma, his name Sandoval Roxas, his estates in Castille. (Medina Celi.)

26. Linares, his name Alencastre, his estates in Portugal.

27. Maquida, his name Cardenas, his estates in Castille and Valentia. (Naxera.)

28. Medina Celi, his name Corda, his estates in Castille and Andalusia.

29. Medina Rioseco, his name Henriques, his estates in Castille and Sicily. (Admiral of Castille.)

30. Medina Sidonia, his name Gusman, his estates in Andalusia.

31. Medina de los Torres, his name Gusman, his estates in Castille and Andalusia.

32. Montalto, his name Moncada and Arragon, his estates in Sicily.

33. Monteleon, his name Pignatelli, his estates in the kingdom of Naples.

34. Naxera, his name Manrique de Lara, his estates in Castille.

35. Nothera, his name Caraffa and Castriote, his estates in Naples.

36. Ossuna, his name Giron, his estates in Andalusia.

37. Paliano, his name Colona, his estates in Naples, and land of the Church.

38. Pastrano, his name Silva, his estates in Castille.

39. Pegnaranda, his name Zuniga, his estates in Castille.

40. St. Lucar, his name Gusman, his estates in Andalusia. (Medina de los Rios.)

41. Segorbe, his name Arragon, his estates in Valentia. (Medina Celi.)

42. St. Peter, his name Spinola, his estates in Milan, Genoa.

43. Sessa, his name Fernandez de Cordova, his estates in Naples.

44. Salmoneta, his name Cajectano, his estates in the land of the Church.

45. Terranova, his name Arragon and Cortez, his estates in Sicily and Castille.

46. Torrecusa, his name Carraciolo, his estates in Naples.

47. Tursis, his name Doria, his estates in Naples, Genoa.

48. Torres Novas, his name Alencastre his estates in Portugal.

49. Veraguas, his name Columbus and Portugal, his estates in Andalusia, Jamaica, and Peru.

50. Vivona, his name Peralta and Arragon, his estates in Sicily.

51. Villa Hermosa, his name Arragon and Borja, his estates in Arragon.

52. Uzeda, his name Sandoval y Roxas, his estates in Castille.

PRINCE of,

53. Asculi, his name Leiva, his estates in Naples.

54. Bisinana, his name San Severino, his estates in Naples.

55. Botera, his name Colona, his estates in Sicily.

56. Ligni, his name Ligni, his estates in Flanders.

57. Melchi, his name Doria, his estates in Naples.

58. Molfata, his name Gonzaga, his estates in Lombardy and Naples.

59. Stillano, his name Caraffa, his estates in Naples and Lombardy. (Medina de Rioseca.)

60. Sulmona, his name Burgesio, his estates in Bologna and the Church.

61. Vinoso and Piombina, his name Ludovico, his estates in Naples and Tuscany.

MARQUISES of,

62. Aguilar, his name Manrique, his estates in Castille. (Fegiliana.)

63. Aytona, his name Moncada, his estates in Catalonia.

64. Alcanizas, his name Henriques, his estates in Castille and India.

65. Astorga, his name Ossorio and Villa Lobos, his estates in Castille and Leon.

66. Balbaces, his name Spinola, his estates in Castille.

67. Camarasa, his name Cobos and Luna, his estates in Arragon and Galicia.

68. Del Carpio, his name Haro, his estates in Andalusia.

69. Castel Rodrigo, his name Moura and Corte Real, his estates in Portugal.

70. Comures, his name Ayala and Cordova, his estates in Andalusia. (Medina Celi.)

71. Denia, his name Sandoval and Roxas, his estates in Valentia. (Ditto.)

72. Hinoiosa, his name Mendoza and Arrellano, his estates in Castille and Rioja.

73. Leganez, his name Missia and Gusman, his estates in Castille.

74. Mondexar, his name Mendoza, his estates in Castille.

75.	{ Pescara, his name Avalos, his estates in Naples.	} The same person.
76.		

77. Priego, his name Cordova and Aguilar, his estates in Andalusia. (Duke of Feria.)

78. Santa Cruz, his name Bazan, his estates in Castille. (Astorgas.)

79. Velada, his name Davila, his estates in Castille.

80. De los Veles, his name Faxardo, his estates in Murcia.

81. Villa Franca, his name Toledo and Ossorio, his estates in Leon, Galicia, and Naples.

82. Villina, his name Pacheco, his estates in Castille and the Mancha, (Duke of Escalona.)

CONDEES OF EARLS OF,

83. Altamira, his name Moscoso, his estates in Galicia.

84. Alua de Listo, his name Henriques, his estates in Castille.

85. Urenna, his name Tellez Giren, his estates in Andalusia. (Duke of Ossuna.)

86. Aranda, his name Urrea, his estates in Aragon.

87. Benevento, his name Pimentel, his estates in Castille.

88. Cabra, his name Cordova, his estates in Andalusia. (Duke of Sessa.)

89. Egmont, his name Egmont, his estates in Flanders.

90. Fuensalida, his name Ayala, his estates in Castille.

91. Lemos, his name Castro, his estates in Galicia. (Mardel Carpio.)

92. Lerin, his name Braumont and Toledo, his estates in Navarre.

93. Monterey, his name Azevedo Zuniga and Fonseca, his estates in Galicia.

94. Olivares, his name Gusman, his estates in Andalusia. (Med. de los Torres.)

95. Onnata, his name Ladron de Guevara, his estates in Castille. (Med. de los Torres.)

96. Oropesa, his name Toledo, his estates in Castille.

97. Santa Gadea, his name Padilla, his estates in Castille.

98. Medellin, his name Portocarrero, his estates in Palma.

Of these grandees there are some more eminent than others. The family of the Duke of Medina Celi, Don Louis de la Corda, Henriques de Ribera, Sandoval y Roxas, Ayala, Arragon, Fole y Cordova, may well be esteemed the first; as that by the Corda, he is lineally descended from the Kings of Castille and France; and by the Arragon, the mother's family, from the Kings of Arragon; all whose royal ensigns he carries in his arms. There is united in his person seven grandeeships, as enjoying the titles and estates of Medina Celi, Cardonna, Segorbe, Lerma, y Alcalá, being five Dukedoms, Comares and Denia, two Marquisites, besides a great many other titles, which only carry the pre-eminence of titles of Castille; of which we shall speak hereafter. To

these titles, he has the support of above four hundred thousand ducats per annum, about one hundred thousand pounds sterling; so that I doubt not but he may justly deserve the appellation of the most illustrious subject in Europe.

Gusman duke of Medina Sidonia was in very high esteem, till his concern in the revolt of Portugal from Spain; the duke of Braganza, afterwards King of Portugal, having married his sister, who were parents of Katherine, Queen to Charles II. His revenue was one hundred thousand ducats by customs of his port of St. Lucar, and one hundred thousand ducats by his fishery of tunny fish at Cortes, and one hundred thousand ducats by rents of lands. And of the same family is Gusman Duke of Medina de los Torres, St. Lucar the Greater, Prince of Stillano, by which his name Caraffa, Conde de Olivares, and Conde de Onnate, by which last his name is Ladronde Guevara, and is hereditary post-master general of Spain. This family came to their grandeur by marriage, and being chief ministers to Philip IV. they are accounted the richest subjects the King of Spain has, possessing near one hundred and twenty thousand ducats per annum revenue. N. B. A ducat is about four shillings sterling.

Velasco, Duke of Frias, better known by the

title of constable of Castille, is esteemed the most ancient, from whence that of the poet: *Tan Hidalgo como el Rey y mas vicio-que Velasco*; as much a gentleman as the King, and more ancient than Velasco; an hyperbolical speech to express the antiquity of that family. The late constable being one day at dinner with the Marquis del Priego, who is also Duke of Feria; as the custom was, the Marquis's cook set the last dish on the table. The constable commending his civilities, the Marquis replied, "He did well to commend him, for he was of his family:" upon which the constable demanding his name, which was Pedro Velasco, returned on the Marquis, "Here you see the old proverb confirmed, *Majores Pedro que su Amo*, Peter is a better man than his master. The first gentleman of the family of Velasco, is the Marquis del Pico, governor of the citadel of Antwerp at this time.

Henriques, Duke of Medina Rioseca, better known by the titles of Admiral of Castille and Mendoza; Duke of Infantado, by that of Admiral of Arragon; and several of these are united to other families. The lower nobility of Spain are such, that though they enjoy the titles of dukes, marquises, princes, earls, &c. yet they have not the privilege of covering in the King's presence, and are called titles of Castille; among

which the grandees eldest sons are chief. The grandees have all the stile of excellency, but these only of lordship, unless otherwise graduated by offices or places. These titles are very numerous, the Spaniards being very ambitious of honour, and by consequence many of them very poor. A friend of mine in Seville, told me, that in one year, in that city only, they had above thirty new titles of earls and marquises made, which before, as he told me, (*no comian*) did not dine; and I asking him what they did now, he made answer, *que no cenavan*, (they did not sup) so true it is, that they will starve their own carcasses, and their families, for an empty title; and yet they will have a coach, and good cloaths, whatsoever become of the rest.

The gentry are as numerous in Spain as in any country in the world, and their families are very ancient, the reason of their preserving them so well, is, that all estates in land are intailed, and cannot be alienated, but in case of failure of issue, and not then, without a great deal of charge and trouble, which is the occasion that land is so very dear there, worth thirty-nine to forty year's purchase. Also in every city, in the archives, they keep a register of all the families that belong thereto, with the alliances they make, which are also the more neces-

sary, because no one can be made a knight without full proofs of his being clear for four generations, by father and mother, of the blood of Jews and Moors, with whom the Spaniards have been very much mixed in former times, especially in Andalusia; therefore men of estates in Spain, are extremely ambitious of knighthood, because then their blood is out of question, and every younger brother of a good family is also very desirous thereof; both because that honour may maintain him in that respect in the world, which his want of estate would lose, and also for that thereby they are capacitated more readily to obtain offices and places, civil and military. I have known several made knights, that all their estate and credit would hardly amount to make up sixty pounds, for the charge of being invested therewith; and I remember to have seen fourteen knights in the retinue of the Marquis of Laguna, when he went viceroy to Mexico in his livery, so that we may well put the knights of Spain, into the old list of the poor companions.

The orders of knighthood in Spain are these; (that of the Golden Fleece, nor that of St John's, cannot be reckoned Spanish orders; the former being given only to some very great men, and that in Flanders and Germany as well as Spain, and is

peculiar to the King of Spain, as Duke of Burgundy, and head of the house of Austria; the last is common to all the popish gentry in Europe;) therefore the Spanish orders are St. Jago, Calatrava, and Alcantara. There is hardly any grandee or nobleman in Spain that is not of one of these orders, and it is beneficial as well as honourable; they having many commendaries belonging to them.

The first, or order of St. Jago is the eldest, though not esteemed the best, because they in producing the proofs of pure blood, pardon the quarter part on the mother's side, which the others do not. The habit is a long white robe, and the badge is a red dagger, which they wear wrought on their cloaks, and enamelled on a golden scollop-shell, which shell you shall see St. Jago's pilgrims wear.

This order hath forty-two commendaries in the province of Castille, and forty-five in Leon, besides ten Alcades and lieutenancies.

The second order is Calatrava, whose badge is four red flower-de-luces cross-ways. It has thirty-four commendaries, and eight priories.

The third order is Alcantara, whose badge is the same with calatrava, but green. It has thirty-three commendaries, four alcades, and four priories. All these orders yield to the possessors of the seve-

ral commendaries, four hundred and forty thousand ducats yearly rents, besides the masterships, which are worth three hundred thousand ducats per annum, which are at present possessed by the King: those officers, by the power and influence they have over the knights of their several orders, for some time past, were thought too great for subjects to enjoy as they formerly did. Over and above these rents, the several orders allow all their several knights, professors, that have not commendaries, and that will demand one hundred and twenty thousand marvedies a year for bread and water.

Further, for the employment and advancement of this numerous nobility and gentry, the King of Spain has to bestow about one thousand seven hundred offices, ecclesiastical, civil, and military; amongst which, some of the chief are nine vice-royships, viz. of Naples, Sicily, Arragon, Valentia, Navarre, Sardinia, Catalonia, Peru, and Mexico. Governments near upon as considerable, Flanders, Milan, Galicia, Biscay, Andalusia, Upper and Lower Murcia, Seville, Majorca, Minorca, Ivica, the Canaries. In Africa, Oran, Ceuta, East India, and the Philippine Islands. In America, governor, captain-general, and president of the chancery of St. Domingo. The island of Hispaniola, governor and captain-general of St.

Christophers, of the Havanna, governor of Cuba, governor and captain-general of Port Rico, governor and captain-general of Florida, governor of the islands of Magarita, governor and captain-general of New Andalousia, governor and captain-general of Tucatan, president and governor of the New Galicia, governor and captain-general of New Biscay, governor captain-general, and president of Guatimala, governor of Luconusco, governor and captain-general of Honduras, governor of Maracago, governor and general of Costa Rico, and governor of Terrenates.

The revenues of the crown of Spain are reckoned about thirty-seven millions of dollars, wherein they reckon but three and a half from the West-Indies yearly.

In Castille alone are five archbishops, thirty-one bishops; whose revenues are above one million and a half. To make a better judgment of the grandeur of Spain, consider that as it appears by the books of accounts of the council of the Indies, there has entered into Spain from these parts, from the year, 1545, to the year 1667, one thousand five hundred and fifty millions of dollars value in gold and silver; of all which the king has the one-fifth part: besides which, there always comes a great quantity out of register, at least one-fourth

part of the whole, of which the mountains of Potosi alone, have produced three hundred millions of silver. Besides the plate, there comes from thence a vast wealth in pearls, precious stones, cochineal, indigo, Vigonia wool, and other commodities.

In the Indies, the King promotes six archbishops and thirty-two bishops. In Arragon, one archbishop and seven bishops. In Valentia, one archbishop and two bishops. In Catalonia, one archbishop, eight bishops, and the bishop of Majorca. In the islands of Sardinia, three archbishops and four bishops. In Italy, eight archbishops, and seventeen bishops. In Sicily, three archbishops and seven bishops. Besides a great number of abbots, priors, and dignities without number, of all which the pope has not the spoils of the dead, nor the fruits of the vacant sees.

The government of Spain, by its constitution, is a limited monarchy, successive in a right line both males and females. The male line ended in Ferdinand; who united Castille and Arragon, by marriage with Isabella of Castille, whose daughter and only child married Philip the Fair; by whom the crown came into the house of Austria, Charles V. Emperor, being sole heir of that family. Philip I. dying before his wife, the limitation of the monar-

chy is by the Cortes, (or parliament) composed of twenty cities, and one town, viz. Burgos, Leon, Granada, Seville, Cordova, Murcia, Jaen, Madrid, Cuenca, Samora, Galicia, Guadalaxara, Valladolid, Salamanca, Avila, Soria, Segovia, Tora, Estremadura, Valencia, and Toledo; each of which sends two deputies, who are chosen by and out of the aldermen, or common councils of the respective cities, who are hereditary. These deputies must bring decisive procurations from their respective cities: on their meeting they are covered in the King's presence, and sit and take an oath of fidelity to him, and that they have no private orders from their cities other than what their procurations express; and when they enter upon business, they take an oath of secrecy among themselves. They have two secretaries within themselves, and the eldest of the procurators or members for Burgos, acts as president, or speaker; but no act can pass without the consent of all. If it be matter of grant to the King, then their votes are cast or given privately; but if it be matter of justice, or private concerns, which is first determined, they give their votes publicly, and then the majority carry it. When any act passes, they carry it to the King for his consent. They are called by letters convocatory from the King and privy-council, or council of the chamber;

and dissolved by a notification of the president of the said council. But they leave a deputation at court, of eight members, four for action, and four for absence, or infirmities. The cortes have never been called since the year 1647, when they gave the king the millions, or general excise, and will not be called any more, unless upon the utmost exigency of affairs; their power being so great in calling ministers to account, and examining into all mal-administration since their last session. But their acts only bind the kingdom of Castille and its dependents; that of Arragon having its states and justice; but they are now also discontinued: so that now, the whole of the Spanish government lies in the power of the king, and his several councils, who reside at Madrid, and whose pragmatics, or proclamations in the King's name, have the force of laws in their several provinces, and are, the supreme council of Castille, the council of Arragon, the council of the Indies, the council of Italy and Flanders, council of the chamber-cabinet, which is only the president, and three or four of the council of Castille, at the King's pleasure; and these are they that have the chief management of affairs of government. Though there is also a council of state, which is above all in title, though in reality it is more for state than use. Besides these, there are

councils of war; of revenues; of the inquisition, of orders of knighthood, of the crusado, which are for the management of these several matters

The law of the land, where the King's proclamations do not intervene, or the despotic power of the inquisition, is purely civil; where in criminal cases no man is condemned by witnesses alone, without his own confession, which is however extorted by torment of the rack: and in cases of *meum* and *tuum*, all suits are managed before alcaldies or judges of the respective towns or cities, by way of bill and answer in writing, from which there are appeals to the supreme courts of chancery, at Granada, &c. where there are pleadings. But there are a great many exemptions from the common course of law, on account of privileges, as all churchmen, all that belong to the inquisition, all soldiers, all knights, and all persons belonging to the King's revenue; all who appeal, in case of prosecution, criminal or civil, to their own judges: or finally to their respective councils at Madrid. Besides the power of the church in preserving any person that flies to it from ordinary justice in any case, from whence he cannot be taken, but by order of the pope's nuncio or legate, who is usually the archbishop of Toledo, primate of Spain, and

generally a cardinal and a Spaniard. Thus have you a brief account of what has occurred to my notice touching Spain, or more properly Castille, wherein I had my residence some years. But the government of Arragon is, or was very distinct, with which I am not acquainted.

APPENDIX. I.

The following Account of the present King of Spain, and his manner of living, and of other particulars relating to the court of Madrid, is taken from Mr. BARETTI'S Travels through Spain.

THIS day I have seen the King; and I must say, that a prominent nose, a piercing eye, and a serene countenance, make him look much better than his coin represents him. I have seen several portraits of him, even one by his favorite Mengs, but neither Mengs, or any other painter, had given me a true idea of his face, which is pleasing, though made up of irregular features.

As to his person, it is of a good size, and his walk quite Bourbonian; that is, erect and steady. He appears to be robust, and I am told that he has a great deal of bodily strength. His complexion is quite sun-burnt, which is undoubtedly the consequence of his passion for the chace. In this respect he is a true Meleager. No degree of

heat or cold can keep him from this exercise. You may possibly think it worth the while to read an account of the life he leads; and here it is, as I had it from people who have been daily witnesses of it for many years.

Every day in the year he gets up about six, and exactly at seven comes out of his bed-room in his night-gown. He finds waiting in the anti-chamber a *Gentilhombre de Cámara*, a *Mayordomo de Semána*, a physician, a surgeon, and several other regular attendants, with whom he interchanges words while dressing. The *Gentilhombre* kneeling on one knee, presents a dish of chocolate, which the King drinks almost cold. He then dismisses some of them with a nod, enters his private chapel, and hears a mass: then retires to a closet, to which no body is ever admitted, and there reads or writes, especially on those days that he does not intend to go a hunting in the morning.

About eleven he comes out of the closet to meet the whole royal family. They all kiss his hand, or offer to do it, lowering a knee. He embraces them all, kissing the princes on the cheek, and the princesses on the forehead.

The royal family withdraw after a little chit-chat, and he gives a momentary audience to his confessor: then speaks to those ministers of state,

who have any business to communicate, or paper to sign. Then the family ambassadors come in, that is, the French and Neapolitan. With them the King interchanges words for a quarter of an hour; seldom more. Just against the time that he is going to dine, the other ambassadors and foreign ministers come in. Exactly at twelve he sits down to table, quite alone, now that his Queen is dead. The ambassadors and foreign ministers, his own ministers of state, the great officers of his army, and several other great personages, pay their court while he falls to eating, and all those whom the guards have permission to let in, crowd around the table to see him dine. The cardinal-patriarch of the Indies says grace, not as cardinal or patriarch, but as his chief chaplain.

The ceremony of the table is this. The *Mayordomo Mayor* stands on the King's right hand, and a captain of his body-guards on his left. One of the weekly *Mayordomos*, two *Gentilhombres de Cámara*, and a crowd of pages and servants attend promiscuously. One of the two *Gentilhombres* carves, the other gives him drink. The dishes, all covered, are brought in one by one in an uninterrupted succession by pages, and each dish is put into the hands of the carving *Gentilhombre*, who take it with one hand, uncovers it with the other, and

presents it to the King. The King gives a nod of approbation or disapprobation to every dish. Those that are approved, the *Gentilhombre* places upon the table: the rest are carried back. Many however are the dishes approved, which still are not touched, as the King eats only of the plainest, and always with a good appetite.

The *Gentilhombre* who gives him drink, pours first a few drops of wine and water in a silver salver that has a beak, and drinks that himself; then kneels on one knee, and pours of both to the King, first the water, then the wine, which is always Burgundy.

When the King has drank his first glass, the ambassadors and foreign ministers, who stood the while, and all in a row, on the King's right hand, make their bows, and go to pay their respects to the rest of the royal family that are all at their dinners, each in his or her own apartment, the Prince of Asturias alone, Don Louis alone, the Infanta alone, and the two younger Infantes together. All these tables are sumptuous: yet none so much as that of the Queen-mother, of whom I shall speak a word by and by.

Near a hundred dishes are generally served to the King, of which about forty are laid upon the table. When they are removed an ample desert succeeds:

but he seldom tastes of it, except sometimes a little bit of cheese and some fruit. The last thing that is presented is a glass of canary wine with a sweet biscuit. He breaks the biscuit in two, steeps it in the wine, and eats it, but never drinks the wine.

A moment before he rises from table, which lasts near an hour, the ambassadors and foreign ministers return, pass before him, and go into an adjoining room, where they wait for his coming. With them he converses about half an hour upon indifferent matters.

He then re-enters his private apartment to put on his hunting-dress; that is, a grey frock of coarse cloth, made at Segovia on purpose for him, and a leather waistcoat. The leather breeches he always puts on when he gets from bed, especially on those days that he intends to go a-hunting. Light boots, a hat flapp'd before, and strong leather gloves complete this dress. While the boots are putting on, the *Sommelier de corps* (Duke of Losada) gives him a dish of coffee. Between one and two he steps into his coach drawn by six or eight mules, and away with his brother Don Louis, the mules galloping *ventre à terra*.* Half a dozen of his

* Mr. Clarke, in his letter on the Spanish nation, says, that his Majesty drives so very fast, that it is no uncommon

body-guards precede the coach on horse-back, and three footmen ride behind it.

No bad weather, as I said, is ever an obstacle to his going out on hunting-days, not even a storm of hail accompanied by thunder and lightning. Don Louis, who is his constant attendant in the coach, is the only person allowed to fire at the game on these daily huntings. But on solemn huntings, some of the *grandees* who wait on him at the chase, are granted the same privilege. However, of late the solemn huntings are become rare, because the expense of them was found too great.

A little after sun-set he generally comes back, carrying as much of the feathered-game in his hands as he can hold. As to the quadrupeds he has killed, such as stags, deer, wild-boars, wolves, foxes, &c. they are brought to the palace in carts. He surveys the whole, orders it to be weighed in his presence, and rejoices when there is so much, most particularly when he has killed a wolf or two. It is but seldom that he takes the Prince of Asturias to hunt with him.

thing for some of the guards who attend the royal family when they travel, to break a leg, an arm, or a neck : when this happens his Majesty very humanely says, *Murioen su officio* : " He died doing his duty."

When the game is weighed and ordered to the kitchen, he goes to pay a short visit to the Queen-mother; then gives a private audience to that minister whose day it happens to be, as each of them has his fixed day of private audience. The minister brings his papers in a bag, and offers to his inspection those that are to the purpose of his errand. If the minister's business leaves him any time, he plays at *Reversino* (a game at cards so called) with three of his courtiers, generally the Duke de Losada *Sommeliers de Corps*, Duke d'Arcos *Capitan de la Compania Espaniola*, and another grandee whose name I have forgotten. He never plays for any thing, having recourse to this expedient merely to consume a quarter of an hour, or half an hour, that he must wait for his supper. At nine he sits down to it, attended only by his courtiers: then goes to bed, to get up again next day to the same round of occupations, and with the same scrupulous nicety of method in the distribution of them, seldom or never to be altered except on post-days, when instead of going to hunt, he passes some more time, both morning and afternoon, in the private closet, writing to his son at Naples, to his brother at Parma, to his sisters in Turin and Lisbon, and very often likewise to Marquis Tanucci and to the Prince of

Santo Nicandro, the first of whom he has made chief-minister, and the second *Ayo*, or governor, to his Sicilian Majesty.

If on post-days he has any time left, it is employed in his laboratory; that is, in the compleatest turner's shop that ever existed. He is a most expert turner, and works toys to perfection. The shop contains many turning engines of rare invention, some of which were presents from the King of France, and some contrived by Count Gazzola already mentioned, one of the greatest mechanists of the age. By him his Majesty is attended when working in the laboratory.

As to his personal character, he was certainly a good husband when his Queen was alive. Never once did he swerve from conjugal fidelity, nor ever had any mistress public or private. His brothers were always his best friends, and most familiar companions; and as to his children, there is no need of saying that he always proved a kind father. He is rather an easy, than an affectionate master, never descending to great familiarity with his servants, yet always satisfied with what they do. They say that he never betrayed any great love or hatred to any body out of his own family. It happened once, that he detected one of his most familiar domestics in a lie, and forbade him his

presence, but continued him his salary. His conversation is generally cheerful, but always as chaste as his conduct. He reposes much confidence in his chief ministers, especially Marquis Squillace, who has found the means of prepossessing him in favour of his own abilities; yet neither Squillace, nor any body else, was ever a favorite, when by a favorite we mean a man admitted by a sovereign to the closest intimacy of friendship. No body ever reached so high with him, though he treats some with particular kindness, especially the Duke of Losada, who in virtue of his employment sleeps constantly in the same room with him. This Duke of Losada has long obtained the reputation of being the honestest man in Spain, which is probably what has endeared him to the King. As to Squillace, he is a most indefatigable man, and they say that he alone dispatches more business than all the other ministers put together, scarcely allowing himself time to eat or to sleep. But they charge him with insufferable haughtiness and insatiable avarice; two qualities not easily pardoned, especially when they meet in a foreigner, as it is the case with Squillace, who is a Sicilian. But it is not my intention to give you the characters of any body here, only tell you what I hear people frequently repeat with regard to this and that great

man at court. It is natural that Squillace should be envied, having reached the highest post, though a stranger; and the language of envy is not to be blindly credited.

The King uses every body with a sort of condescension that may be called civility, which impresses his servants with a strong sense of real respect, independent of his kingship, as the rigidity of his morals gives them no room for the least contempt. His method of spending time, so unalterably regular, may appear somewhat dull: but it is certainly laudable, and it is quite necessary that a King should have his ministers and servants exactly apprized of the hours, and even the minutes, that they are to approach him for the dispatch of business in their respective stations and employments.

Every body here agrees that his Majesty is far from wanting knowledge of men or things. He has read much, and never passes a day without looking into a book. Besides his native tongue, he speaks Italian and French with the greatest fluency and propriety, nor is he ignorant of the Latin. They say that he knows his own as well as other princes' interests full as well as any of his ministers, and does not spare any expense to be early informed of whatever passes in

Europe and out of Europe that may affect him in any way.

Since he came to his throne he never would suffer any Italian opera to be performed either at Madrid or Aranjuez, as was practised in the former reign. The days of Queen Barbara are over, when millions were squandered upon Italian musicians. I have already mentioned the great ascendant Farinelli had obtained over that Queen; nor was her husband less fond of him than herself. Yet our modern Orpheus behaved with such constant humility and moderation during the long time he was their favourite, and got so many real friends amongst the natives by his disinterestedness and simplicity, that some of the grandees spoke in his behalf to the King on his arrival from Naples, and were so generous as to recommend him to his favour as a truly honest man, who had never abused the confidence of their former masters, but constantly employed his credit to do all the good that was in his power to do. All this is very well, said the King; yet *los capones son buenos sobre la mesa*, "Capons are only good to eat," and would not hear of his continuing in Spain, but ordered him two thousand doubloons pension and sent him back to his country, dismissing at the same time all the opera-singers, as their sa-

laries amounted to too high a sum in his opinion. This piece of economy won him the hearts of his new subjects, who had long grumbled at the prodigality of their former sovereigns in this respect; and it was long before they gave over their acclamations whenever the King appeared in public. To some body, who after the departure of Farinelli asked him if he ever intended to order an opera for the diversion of the Queen, who loved music, he sternly replied, *ni agora, ni nunca*, “Neither now, nor ever.” You may well think that after so laconic an answer, no body ever dared to mention Italian operas any more.

Besides retrenching this absurd article of expense, he lessened also that of his stables, in which, on his arrival, he had found no less than four hundred compleat sets of coach mules, and a much larger number of saddle-horses than was necessary. Both horses and mules he quickly reduced below the half, to the great mortification of the underlings at court, who by the indulgence of his predecessor had long been accustomed to parade about in the King’s vehicles, though not entitled to it by the mediocrity of their ranks in the King’s service.

By these and other like regulations his Majesty soon enabled his exchequer to pay off a part of

the vast debts with which he found it encumbered. Those debts are still very considerable; yet, if the peace continues, there are probable hopes that they will be totally discharged in about twenty years.

As to her late Majesty, they say that she was a good woman in the very best sense of the word. Fond of her husband, of her children, of her servants, of every body that she thought good. Yet she was quick, and her quickness would sometimes make her reprimand people who did not deserve it: but coming presently to herself, and fearing to have done wrong, she would enquire better, which conduct generally forced her to make reparation to those she had offended, and bewail that "She had much more of the impatience than of the virtue of her dear mother." Repeated declarations of this nature, and the natural warmth of her heart, had endeared her to all who approached her.

With regard to the Queen-mother, the famous disciple to stern Alberoni, blindness and age have long quenched her high spirits, and totally disabled her from taking any part in the politics of her son. Her present way of living is quite unmethodical, never doing any thing at any stated

hour. She will sometimes dine at noon, sometimes in the evening, sometimes at midnight, often making day of night, or night of day, contrary to what she used to do in the lifetime of her husband Philip V. whom she would often upbraid for keeping irregular hours. I told you already that her table is more sumptuous than the King's; yet it is but seldom that she touches any of the many dainties served up to her, living almost upon nothing but a large cup of chocolate that she drinks as soon as she gets from bed. The King visits her once a day, puts up with all her fancies, smiles at her unsettled way of living, and treats her with the profoundest respect.

On every gala-day his majesty puts on a new suit, and as rich as art can make it: but all his fine cloaths are constantly made after the fashion that was used in his younger years, and he always appears impatient to undress, being never easy, until he resumes his grey frock and leather waistcoat. He was always an enemy to all sort of innovation, and so steady in uniformity, that he wore for above twenty years a silver watch. His Queen insisted often upon his changing it for a better, but to no purpose. Yet, to get rid of her impor-

tunity, and incessant jokes, he resolved at last to have a gold case to it, which he made himself on the lathe.

When he resolved to give the kingdom of Naples to his son, every body expected that he would send to Spain all the antique monuments that had been dug out of the Herculaneum. But little did they know him that formed such conjectures, as on the same day that he crowned that son, he went to the place where those monuments were deposited, and there left a ring he had worn many years, which had been found in those ruins, saying, "That now he had no right to any thing that belonged to another monarch."

The palace of Buen Retiro was formerly but a mean habitation for such kings as those of Spain, if we credit old accounts. But the late King embellished its apartments very much, and his present Majesty has also laid out some sums about them, so that they are now very grand and convenient. I went by it this afternoon, and saw no less than two hundred women sitting in rows before it upon the bare ground. I asked the meaning of such an extraordinary assembly, and was answered, "That they came there upon no other errand but to enjoy the fine weather, and look at the courtiers going and coming." They do so on every fine day, holy-days especially. They all sat with their *mantillas* turned up; that

is, with uncovered faces, which renders the sight agreeable enough. You will easily guess that those women are not of the highest rank; yet I am told that they are not of the last neither. An odd sort of diversion, thought I, to sit in rows on the bare ground for several hours!

There are neither hackney chairs, nor hackney-coaches, in Madrid. A foreigner cannot therefore ride occasionally about town, as both foreigners and natives do in London and Paris. He who keeps no coach of his own, must either walk or hire a chariot, which is commonly to be had for thirty reals a-day. All voitures are here drawn by mules, and the coachmen might as well be called postillions, as they ride on the mule instead of sitting on the coach-box: a good practice in my opinion, as by so doing, they obstruct less the sight through the fore-glass.

This custom of having mules instead of horses, to wheel-carriages, is here universal, because horses cannot long resist the hot sun in summer, nor the cold blasts in winter, which I am told are very rigid in this town when the snow covers the hills on the side of the Escorial. Some foreign ambassadors who refused to submit to this custom, and would have horses to their coaches, have had reason to repent their love of singularity, as no

pair of horses could last them a whole year, whether they made use of Spanish or foreign horses. No body is allowed to ride about town with more than four mules to his vehicle. The King only has six, and sometimes eight; but he is seldom seen about town. Out of Madrid the great people ride with six, but few are permitted to enter the town gates with them. Only the great officers of the crown, and the foreign ministers (if I am not mistaken) have this privilege; but then they must have their postillions in travelling dresses, and go straight home from the gate at which they enter.

The best gentry here are very kind to strangers when once introduced to them, if you will allow me to judge by what I experience myself: nor do the common people here give us bad language, or angry looks, as it is often the case in England, where the lower classes are continually deceived into an aversion to foreigners by a daily uninterrupted succession of dishonest and malignant scribblers. As to the Spanish grandees, they are seldom acquainted either with foreigners or natives that are not of their own rank. A foreign ambassador was telling me yesterday that he has not had a dinner in the space of four years residence, but from those grandees who are actually in the

ministry, nor ever had any to dine with him. One must conclude by this, that it is not the custom amongst the great, to keep open houses here as they do in almost all the capital towns in Europe. Yet some of these grandees are very rich, nor can they be taxed with avarice, as most of them live with the greatest splendour: but the mode of their spending is different from that of other countries, and generally consists in keeping a great court within doors, which consists of many chaplains, secretaries, pages, and a large number of livery-servants, together with a considerable number of mules in their stables. Then very few are the grandees or rich people in Madrid, who ever dismiss a servant that has been a while in their families; but when he is disabled by age or sickness, he is a *jubilado*, as they call it, and enjoys his salary as long as he lives, without any further care. There are some noblemen here, who, as I am told, have above a hundred such useless domestics between town and country; and you must own that there is no less humanity than grandeur in this sort of Spanish generosity, which extends even to the middling classes. Our great nobility at Rome, Naples, Genoa, and Milan, continued the same practice so late as the beginning of this century, but have been these several

years leaving it off, not much to their honour, in my opinion.

If a native, or stranger, wants occasionally to go a few leagues from town, he may hire a *calessin*, that is, an open chaise drawn by a single horse. The driver runs a-foot by the side of the calessin, or rides behind when tired with running; but never ceases to hoot and strike the poor jade with his long whip to make it trot. I saw several of them this morning early, as I went on mule-back to see the Pardo, that is, one of the King's country houses, about six miles distant from town, which my beast paced stoutly in less than an hour.

At the Pardo the King resides during two months in the year, merely for the sake of hunting in the neighbourhood, and his palace is neither beautiful nor large, considering the owner, yet large enough to lodge both him and his whole family, who all have distinct apartments in it, none of which are richly furnished, but all very neat. To the main body of the palace there are additional buildings, where the great officers and ministers of state have apartments when the court is there, together with stabling enough for about eight hundred horses and a thousand mules. The main edifice was erected by the Emperor Charles

V. who delighted to retire there from business; and his successors have always been adding something to it, in order to render it more and more convenient. When the King is there,* the place must look crowded, as several thousands of people constantly follow the court, and many are the great that come every morning from Madrid to shew themselves to the King and royal family. The situation of the Pardo is very romantic, having an easy hill on one side and an extensive forest all round. The trees in the forest are chiefly green oaks, and their sweet acorns afford plenty of food to the innumerable animals that live in it. When the King is there, the greatest part of the rustics in the neighbouring villages get up before day at the ringing of their church-bells, and men, women, and children, run about the country hooting and beating the bushes, in order to fright the game towards the Pardo, that the King may meet with abundance of it. His majesty is a most astonishing marksman, and of his justness in shoot-

* Mr. Clark, speaking of the Pardo, says drily, that it is "But an indifferent seat for an English country-gentleman." I have seen many seats of English country-gentlemen too, but few as yet of those that could easily contain such a family as that of the King of Spain, with his ministers, guards, mules, horses, &c. &c.

ing they tell here several stories that appear improbable, such as hitting with a single ball the smallest and most fluttering birds while flying. Such stories the French will likewise tell of their King. An army of such marksmen as either of the two monarchs, was it possible to bring one together, would soon conquer the world.

APPENDIX, No. II.

The method of masquerading during Carnival-time, established at Madrid, 1763; with the description of the Fandango. From Mr. BARETTI'S Travels.

THE King has built a very grand hall, called el Amphitheatro, where thousands resort twice a week during the carnival-time. Any body masked is admitted there only for twenty reales (not quite five shillings) and passes there the whole night with as much pleasure as such a place can afford. There the dancing-place is spacious enough for three hundred couples to dance at a time, and there are seats round it, amphitheatrically disposed, with three large galleries over, which admit five or six thousand people more. The hall has four spacious stair-cases at the four corners, that lead up to the galleries, and to several large rooms, where people may have hot and cold suppers at choice, coffee, chocolate, lemonades, and other

refreshments, every thing nearly as cheap as at home. A considerable number of waiters attend, all uniformly dressed in pompadour-colour. Besides these conveniences, there are two large rooms with four beds in each, one for the men, the other for the women, who should happen to be taken suddenly ill; and there are physicians and surgeons regularly attending, as well as four dancing-masters to direct the country dances, and teach their various motions and evolutions to those who do not know them well. Nor must I omit to mention two small rooms with inscriptions over their doors, one *Jaula por los páxaros*, the other *Jaula por las páxaras*; that is, a cage for the cock-birds, a cage for the hen-birds; in plain language, a jail for the men and a jail for the women. Should any body raise any disturbance, or behave with any indecency there, he would be shut up for the night by the guards attending at the entrance-door.

I have seen above six hundred people dance at once the Fandango in that amphitheatre; and it is not possible to give an idea of such a rapturous diversion. The enthusiasm that seizes the Spaniards the moment that the Fandango is touched, is a thing not to be conceived. I saw hundreds of them at supper, quit instantly the tables, tumble

precipitously down the stair-cases, throng promiscuously into the dancing-place, face about for a partner that was found in an instant, and fall a dancing both men and women with such a vigour as to beggar all description. Was the place ample enough, there is not one of them that would remain a simple spectator, as many are forced to be. Those who are obliged to it, stand gazing from the seats below or the galleries above, with sparkling eyes and limbs trembling, and encourage the dancers with clamour and clapping of hands. There is a small printed book, intituled, *BAYLE de Mascaras*, &c. printed at Madrid in 1763, that sets forth the laws to be observed at the amphitheatre. Should any body contravene any of those laws, he would instantly be thrust into one of the *Jaulas*. The band there, consists of forty instruments, that play alternately twenty at a time, so that the dancing is never stopped as long as the night lasts; that is, from nine o'clock at night till six in the morning.

The facility that this place affords for diversion to the inhabitants of Madrid, has nearly annihilated their private assemblies and domestic balls, which prove insipid in comparison of the great ball and assembly at the amphitheatre. The pro-

fits that arise there from the suppers and rinfrescos, are sufficient to defray the nightly expenses of the place; therefore all the money which is received at the door, (about a crown each person, as I said) is spent towards the embellishment of the public walks round the town. Thus has this government wisely turned a public diversion into a public utility, and Count d'Aranda, who has been the schemer of it, has taken it under his own immediate direction, nor ever fails to be there every night to take care that nothing happens to spoil the feast.

Amongst other laws, there is one, which prohibits every body to wear gold or silver on their clothes at the amphitheatre; nor are the ladies allowed to have jewels about them, but at one finger. This law brings all sorts of people upon a level. To encrease this equality, they have also introduced the custom of talking to each other, and without any distinction of rank or sex, in the second person singular; that is, in the style used throughout Spain when people talk to the lowest rank, or to intimate friends. Thus the duchess and the grandee are there brought down from the altitude of their ranks, during the night, by their very domestics, and by those who out of the amphitheatre would never dare to address them

but by the title of *Vosselencia*, an abbreviation of *Vuestra Excellencia*. But their temporary diminution of greatness is amply recompenced by the jollity and alertness caused by this kind of equality.

APPENDIX, No. III.

For the instruction of those who intend to travel to Madrid by land: and an Account of the roads in Spain. By Mr. BARETTI.

EVERY body knows, that there is no entering Spain from any part of France, but by crossing the Pirenees.

The roads through those mountains go under two different denominations with the Spaniards. Those which admit of wheel-carriages, they call *Caminos de Ruedas*; and *Caminos de Herradura* they term those which are too narrow for such vehicles. A *Camino de Herradura* is generally travelled on a mule. Couriers only run it out on horseback, changing horses at different stages.

The best *Camino de Ruedas* through those mountains, is certainly that which I have described in the foregoing letters. But to spare my reader the trouble of tracing it out of them, I give it here again, beginning at Perpignan, which is the chief town in the province of Roussillon.

THE ROAD
FROM PERPIGNAN TO MADRID.

	<i>No. of Leagues.</i>
From Perpignan to Boulou - - -	5
From Boulou to Bellegarde - - -	1
From Bellegarde to Johnquiera, which is the first place in Spain - - -	1
From Jonquiera to Hostal Nuevo - - -	2
From Hostal Nuevo to Figuieras - - -	1½
From Figuieras to Santa Locaya - - -	1
Here you cross a river in a boat.	
From Santa Locaya to Bascara - - -	1½
From Bascara to Villa de Muls - - -	1
From Villa de Muls to Medina - - -	2
A river crossed over a bridge.	
From Medina to Girona - - -	1
From Girona to Hostal de Ceba - - -	1
From Hostal de Ceba to Las Mallorquinas - - -	2½
From Las Mallorquinas to Hostalrich - - -	2
From Hostalrich to Batloria - - -	1
From Batloria to Sanseloni - - -	1
From Sanseloni to Linarez - - -	2

No. of
Leagues.

A river crossed over a bridge.

From Linarez to La Roca	-	-	1
From La Roca to Monmelò	-	-	1
From Monmelò to Los Hostals	-	-	1
From Los Hostals to Moncada	-	-	1
From Moncada to Sant' Andrés	-	-	1
From Sant' Andrés to <i>Barcellona</i>	-	-	1
From <i>Barcellona</i> to Hospitalet	-	-	1
From Hospitalet to San Feliu	-	-	$\frac{1}{2}$
From San Feliu to Molin de Reys	-	-	$\frac{1}{2}$

A river crossed over a bridge.

From Molin de Reys to Sant' Andrea			1
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A river crossed over a bridge.

From Sant' Andrea to Martorel	-	-	1
From Martorel to La Veguda	-	-	1
From La Veguda to Maquefa	-	-	1
From Maquefa to Piera	-	-	1
From Piera to Valbona	-	-	$\frac{1}{2}$
From Valbona to Puerta de la Reyna	-	-	$\frac{1}{2}$

A river waded.

From Puerta de la Reyna to La Pobla			1
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The above river waded again.

From La Pobla to Villanoba	-	-	$\frac{1}{2}$
From Villanoba to Igualada	-	-	$\frac{1}{2}$
From Igualada to Yorba	-	-	1

	No. of Leagues.
From Yorba to Meson del Gancho -	1
From Meson del Gancho to Santa Maria	$\frac{1}{2}$
From Santa Maria to Porcarises -	$1\frac{1}{2}$
From Porcarises to Meson Nuevo de Mon- maneu - - - - -	$\frac{1}{2}$
From Meson Nuevo to Hostalets	$1\frac{1}{2}$
From Hostalets to <i>Cerbera</i> - -	1
From <i>Cerbera</i> to Curullada - -	1
From Curullada to Tarrega - -	1
From Tarrega to Villagrasa - -	1
From Villagrasa to Belpuch - -	1
From Belpuch to Gomez - -	1
From Gomez to Mollerusa - -	1
From Mollerusa to Belloch - -	2
A river crossed over a bridge.	
From Belloch to <i>Lerida</i> - -	2
From <i>Lerida</i> to Alcaraz, which is the last town in Catalonia - - - -	2
A river crossed over a bridge.	
From Alcaraz to <i>Fraga</i> , which is the first town in Arragon - - - -	3
From <i>Fraga</i> to Venta de Fraga - -	2
From Venta de Fraga to Candasnos - -	2
From Candasnos to Penalba - -	$1\frac{1}{2}$
From Penalba to Bujalaros - -	11

No. of
Leagues.

From Bujalaros to Venta de Santa Lucia	3
From Venta de Santa Lucia to Osera -	2
From Osera to Villafranca de Ebro	2
From Villafranca to Alfajarin - -	1
From Alfajarin to Puebla de Alfinden	1
Two rivers crossed over bridges; that is, the Gallego, and the Ebro or Hebro.	
From Puebla to Zaragoza - -	3
From Zaragoza to Santa Fé -	1
From Santa Fé to Maria - -	1
From Maria to Venta de Martorita - -	1
From Venta de Martorita to Venta de Ma- zota - - - - -	$\frac{1}{2}$
From Venta de Mazota to La Muela	$\frac{1}{2}$
From La Muela to Longares - -	3
From Longares to Carinena - -	1
From Carinena to Venta de San Martin.	2
From Venta de San Martin to Maynar	$1\frac{1}{2}$
From Maynar to Retascon - -	1
A river crossed over a bridge.	
From Retascon to Daroca - -	1
From Daroca to Used, which is the last town in Arragon - - -	2
From Used to Embid - - -	3

	<i>No. of Leagues.</i>
From Embid to Tortuera - -	1
From Tortuera to Tartanedo - -	2
From Tartanedo to Concha - -	1
From Concha to Anchuela del Campo, which is the last town in the district called El Partido de Molina - -	1
From Anchuela del Campo to Barbacil	2
From Barbacil to Maranchon - -	1
From Maranchon to Aquilarejo - -	2
From Aquilarejo to Alcolea, which is the last town in the province or district call- ed De Soria - - - -	1
From Alcolea to Torremocha - -	2
From Torremocha to Algora - -	1
From Algora to Grajanejos - -	4
From Grajanejos to Triqueque - -	2
From Triqueque to Torrija - -	1
From Torrija to Valdenoches - -	2
From Valdenoches to <i>Guadalaxara</i>	1
A river crossed over a bridge. At that bridge the district (or Partido) de Gua- dalaxara ends, and that of Alcárria be- gins	
From <i>Guadalaxara</i> to Venta de San Juan	2
From Venta de San Juan to Venta de Meco	1

No. of
Leagues.

From Venta de Meco to <i>Alcalá</i> de He- narez, which is the first town in New Castille - - - - -	1
Two small rivers waded.	
From <i>Alcalá</i> to Torrejón de Ardós - -	2
Another small river waded.	
From Torrejón de Ardós to Puente de Vi- veros - - - - -	1
From Puente de Viveros to Rejas - -	1
From Rejas to Alameda - - -	$\frac{1}{2}$
From Alameda to Canillejas - - -	$\frac{1}{4}$
A small river waded.	
From Canillejas to <i>Madrid</i> - - -	1
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Total of leagues from Perpignan to Ma- drid - - - - -	135 $\frac{1}{2}$
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It is notorious, that there is no going post through any part of Spain in a wheel-carriage, but only on horseback, after the manner of the couriers. A courier told me in Spain, that there are no better horses in Europe for the purpose of riding post than those in Spain. Few gentlemen however would chuse to go in that manner; and he, who intends to go the above or any other Spanish road, and does not chuse to ride on horseback, must either have his own carriage, and hire mules or horses to it, or hire both a carriage and mules at Perpignan, where this may always be done. Those who go the journey with their own voitures, will find it costly, as the calesseros or muleteers must in that case come back from Perpignan to Madrid to fetch their chaises; and it is plain that they must be paid both for the going and coming; which would not be the case if they took their chaises or coaches along with them, and have a chance left of bringing back some other traveller. The expense of a pair of mules and a man, will generally amount to twelve or thirteen shillings a day, going at the rate of ten or eleven leagues. If you want to go faster, you must pay three or four shillings a day more; as in that case your conduc-

tors will be at the additional expense of changing mules at Barcelona and Zaragoza.

There are two other great roads, or *Caminos de Ruedas* through the Pirenees. One is from Bayonne to Pamplona; the other from Bayonne to Vittoria. Bayonne is the last considerable town in France on the side of Biscay; Pamplona is the capital of Navarre; and Vittoria (if I am not mistaken) is the chief town in the small province of Alava.

THE ROAD

FROM BAYONNE TO PAMPLONA.

	<i>No. of Leagues.</i>
From <i>Bayonne</i> to <i>Mediondo</i> - - -	4
From <i>Mediondo</i> to <i>San Juan Pie de Puerto</i>	4
From <i>San Juan</i> to <i>Roncesvalles</i> - - -	4
From <i>Roncesvalles</i> to <i>Burguete</i> - - -	2
From <i>Burguete</i> to <i>Espinar</i> - - -	1
From <i>Espinar</i> to <i>Escaret</i> - - -	1
From <i>Escaret</i> to <i>Zubiri</i> - - -	1
From <i>Zubiri</i> to <i>Verdey</i> - - -	1
From <i>Verdey</i> to <i>Garsuena</i> - - -	$\frac{1}{2}$
From <i>Garsuena</i> to <i>Ancholit</i> - - -	$\frac{1}{2}$
From <i>Ancholit</i> to <i>Irot</i> - - -	$\frac{1}{2}$
From <i>Irot</i> to <i>Zabaldica</i> - - -	1

	No. of Leagues.
From Zabaldica to Ugarte - - -	¼
From Ugarte to Villalva - - -	1
From Villalva to <i>Pamplona</i> - - -	1
	<hr/>
Total of leagues from Bayonne to Pamplona	23

Many parts of this last road are very bad. Between San Juan Pie de Puerto and Roncesvalles there is a frightful declivity on the French side of a mountain, which cannot be descended in a coach without the assistance of four pair of oxen; that is, one pair to lead the coach, and the other three to hold it up behind, that it may go down slowly.

The country about Roncesvalles and San Juan is rocky for many leagues on all sides: yet no tract in Europe has been taken more notice of in ancient romances and poems, nor any battle so often described as that of Roncesvalles, in which Orlando and all the peers of France lost their lives. In the small church of the poor village of Roncesvalles the brave Orlando's remains were buried, and part of his armour or weapons preserved during many ages. The people of the country tell you so.

THE ROAD

FROM BAYONNE TO VITTORIA.

No. of
Leagues.

From <i>Bayonne</i> to the river <i>Bidassoa</i> , called <i>Beovia</i> by the Spaniards	-	6
From that river to <i>Irun</i>	-	$\frac{1}{2}$
From <i>Irun</i> to <i>San Sebastian</i>	-	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
From <i>San Sebastian</i> to <i>Urnieta</i>	-	1
From <i>Urnieta</i> to <i>Anduaein</i>	-	2
From <i>Anduaein</i> to <i>Villabona</i>	-	1
From <i>Villabona</i> to <i>Irure</i>	-	$\frac{1}{2}$
From <i>Irure</i> to <i>Tolosa</i>	-	1
From <i>Tolosa</i> to <i>Alégria</i>	-	$\frac{1}{2}$
From <i>Alégria</i> to <i>Castarieta</i>	-	$\frac{1}{2}$
From <i>Castarieta</i> to <i>Legorrieta</i>	-	$\frac{1}{2}$
From <i>Legorrieta</i> to <i>Villafranca</i>	-	1
From <i>Villafranca</i> to <i>Segura</i>	-	2
From <i>Segura</i> to <i>Segama</i>	-	1
From <i>Segama</i> to <i>Galarreta</i>	-	3
From <i>Galarreta</i> to <i>Luzurriaga</i>	-	$\frac{1}{2}$
From <i>Luzurriaga</i> to <i>Heredia</i>	-	1
From <i>Heredia</i> to <i>Audicana</i>	-	$\frac{1}{2}$

	<i>No. of Leagues.</i>
From Audicana to Arbului	- 1 $\frac{1}{2}$
From Arbului to La Raza	- $\frac{1}{2}$
From La Raza to Lorriago	- $\frac{1}{2}$
From Lorriago to <i>Vittoria</i>	- 1
	<hr/>
Total of leagues from Bayonne to Vittoria	27 $\frac{1}{2}$
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At Vittoria you are quite out of the Pirenees, and May continue your journey to Madrid through La Puebla and Miranda de Ebro to Ameyugo, a small town which is eight leagues from Vittoria.

I will now give you the road from Bayonne to Madrid, which I went in December 1768, taking Pamplona in my way, and not Vittoria, though I knew before-hand, that, by crossing the Pirenees where I did, I was to meet with greater inconveniences than by going the other way. But of inconveniences on a journey I never thought much, and went that *Camino de Herradura* for no better reason but that few travellers chuse to do so, and because I imagined that it would afford a description not to be found in any book.

THE ROAD

FROM BAYONNE TO PAMPLONA.

	No. of Leagues.
From <i>Bayonne</i> to <i>Ostariz</i> - - -	2
From <i>Ostariz</i> to <i>Anoá</i> - - -	2
From <i>Anoá</i> to <i>Maya</i> - - -	2
From <i>Maya</i> to <i>Berroeta</i> - - -	2
From <i>Barroeta</i> to <i>Lanz</i> - - -	2
From <i>Lanz</i> to <i>Ortiz</i> - - -	2
From <i>Ortiz</i> to <i>Pamplona</i> - - -	2
	—
Total of leagues from <i>Bayonne</i> to <i>Pamplona</i> - - -	14
	—

THE ROAD

FROM PAMPLONA TO MADRID.

	No. of Leagues.
From <i>Pamplona</i> to <i>Venta Vieja</i> -	1
From <i>Venta Vieja</i> to <i>Venta del Piojo</i>	2
From <i>Venta del Piojo</i> to <i>Mendivil</i>	1

	<i>No. of Leagues.</i>
From Mendivil to Barasuaein	- 1
A river crossed over a bridge.	
From Barasuaein to <i>Tafalla</i>	- 1
From <i>Tafalla</i> to Venta del Morillete	3
A river crossed over a bridge.	
From Venta del Morillete to Caparroso	1
From Caparroso to Baltierra	- 3
The river Ebro crossed in a boat.	
From Baltierra to Venta de Castejon	1
From Venta de Castejon to Cintruénigo	3
Not far from Cintruénigo the kingdom of Navarre ends, and that of Old Cas- tille begins	
From Cintruénigo to Venta del Postacillo	2
From Venta del Postacillo to <i>Agreda</i>	2
From <i>Agreda</i> to Hinojosa	- 3
From Hinojosa to Almenar	- 2
From Almenár to Tapuela	- - $\frac{1}{2}$
From Tapuela to Zamarcon	- $\frac{1}{2}$
From Zamarcon to Almarary	- 2
From Almaray to Almanzan	- 2
From Almanzan to Almantiga	- $1\frac{1}{2}$
From Almantiga to Cobertolada	- 1
From Cobertolada to Villasayas	- $1\frac{1}{2}$
From Villasayas to Barahona	- $1\frac{1}{2}$
From Barahona to Paredes	- $1\frac{1}{2}$

	<i>No. of Leagues.</i>
From Paredes to Venta de Rio Frio	3
From Venta de Rio Frio to Rio Frio	$\frac{1}{2}$
Here we enter New Castille.	
From Rio Frio to Rebollosa	- $\frac{1}{2}$
A river crossed over a bridge.	
From Rebollosa to Jirueque	- $2\frac{1}{2}$
From Jirueque to Jadraque	- $\frac{1}{2}$
From Jadraque to Casas de Galindo	$\frac{1}{2}$
From Casas de Galindo to Padilla	- $\frac{1}{2}$
From Padilla to Hita	- $\frac{1}{2}$
From Hita to Sopetran	- $\frac{1}{2}$
The above river crossed again in a ferry-boat.	
From Sopetran to Heras	- - 1
From Heras to Hontanar	- - 1
From Hontanar to Marchamalo	- - 1
From Marchamalo to Aloera	- - $\frac{1}{2}$
From Aloera to Azuqueca	- - $\frac{1}{2}$
From Azuqueca to Venta de Meco	- - 2
From Venta de Meco to <i>Alcala</i> de Henares	1
From <i>Alcala</i> to <i>Madrid</i>	- - 6
<hr/>	
Total of leagues from Pamplona to <i>Mad-</i> <i>rid</i>	- - - - - 60

THE ROAD

FROM MADRID TO BAYONNE, THROUGH
BURGOS, BILBAO, AND ST. SEBASTIAN.

	No. of Leagues.
From <i>Madrid</i> to Alcovendas - -	3
From Alcovendas to San Agustin -	3
A river crossed over a bridge.	
From San Agustin to the Venta de Pedre- zuela - - -	1½
From that Venta to Cavanillas -	1½
From Cavanillas to La Cabrera -	1
From La Cabrera, to Lozoyuela -	1
A small river waded.	
From Lozoyuela to Buytrago - -	1½
From Buytrago to Robregordo -	2¼
From Robregordo to Somsierra -	½
From Somsierra to the Venta de Juanilla, which is the last place in New Castille	1
From that Venta to Cerecillo -	1
From Cerecillo to Castillejo -	1
A small river waded.	
From Castillejo to Boceguillas -	2
From Boceguillas to Fresnillo de Fuente	½
From Fresnillo to Carabia - -	1

	<i>No. of Leagues.</i>
From Carabia to Honrubia - - -	2
A river crossed over a bridge.	
From Honrubia to La Pardilla - -	1
From La Pardilla to Milagros - -	1
A river crossed over a bridge.	
From Milagros to Fuentespina - -	1
From Fuentespina to Aranda de Duero	1
A river crossed over a bridge.	
From Aranda to Gumiel de Izam - -	2
Another river crossed over a bridge.	
From Gumiel to Bahabon - - -	2
From Bahabon to the Venta del Frayle	1
From that Venta to the Venta del Juncioso	1
From the Venta del Juncioso to Lerma	1
A river crossed over a bridge.	
From Lerma to Villarmazo - - -	$\frac{1}{2}$
From Villarmazo to Madrigallejo - -	$1\frac{1}{2}$
From Madrigallejo to Cogollos - -	$1\frac{1}{2}$
From Cogollos to Sarrazin - - -	1
From Sarrazin to <i>Burgos</i> - - -	$1\frac{1}{2}$
A river crossed over a bridge.	
From <i>Burgos</i> to Gamonál - - -	$\frac{1}{2}$
From Gamonál to Villafria - - -	$\frac{1}{2}$
From Villafria to Rubena - - -	1
From Rubena to Quintanapalla - -	1

	<i>No. of Leagues.</i>
From Quintanapalla to the Monasterio de Rodillas	1
From the Monasterio to Santa Olalla	$\frac{1}{2}$
From Santa Olalla to Quintanavides	$\frac{1}{2}$
From Quintanavides to Castil de Peones	$\frac{1}{2}$
From Castil de Peones to Pradano	$\frac{1}{2}$
From Pradano to Bribiesca	1
From Bribiesca to the Venta de Cameno	$\frac{1}{2}$
From that Venta to Cubo	2
From Cubo to Santa Maria	$\frac{1}{2}$
From Santa Maria to Pancorvo	1
From Pancorvo to Santa Gadéa	3
The river Ebro crossed over a bridge called Puente de la Rad.	
From Santa Gadéa to Berguenda	1
From Berguenda to the Venta Blanca	$\frac{1}{2}$
From the Venta Blanca to Espejo	$\frac{1}{2}$
A river crossed over a bridge.	
From Espejo to the Venta del Monte	$\frac{1}{2}$
From the Venta del Monte to Osma	1
From Osma to Berberana, which is the last place in Old Castille	
From Berberana to the Venta de la Pena	$\frac{1}{2}$
From that Venta to Orduna, the first town in Biscay	

No. of
Leagues.

Not far from Orduna you cross over a bridge, the Rio de Saracho, by many called Rio de Orduna from the town by which it runs.

From Orduna to Amurrio	- -	1
From Amurrio to Luyando	- -	1
From Luyando to Lodio	- -	$\frac{1}{2}$
From Lodio to Areta	- -	$\frac{1}{2}$
From Areta to Miravalles	- -	$1\frac{1}{2}$
From Miravalles to Arrigoriaga	- -	1
From Arrigoriaga to the Venta Alta		1
From the Venta Alta to <i>Bilbao</i>	- -	$\frac{1}{2}$
From <i>Bilbao</i> to Gualdacana	- -	$1\frac{1}{2}$
From Gualdacana to Zornosa	- -	$1\frac{1}{2}$
From Zornosa to Durango	- -	1
From Durango to Saldivar	- -	2
From Saldivar to Eybar	- -	1
From Eybar to Eygoabarre	- -	1
From Eygoabarre to Maudara	- -	1
From Maudara to Zumaya	- -	1
From Zumaya to Guetaria	- -	1

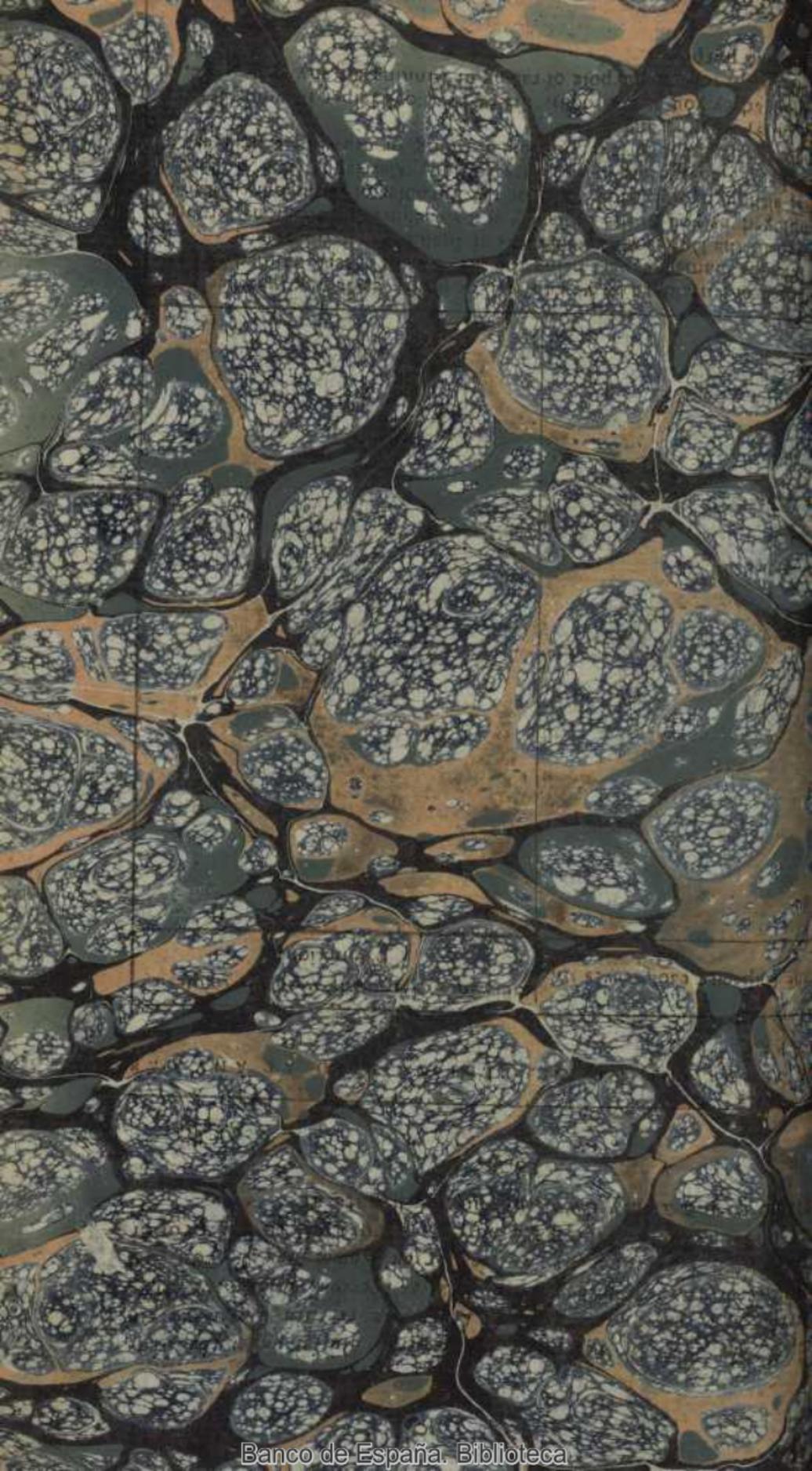
A river crossed over a bridge.

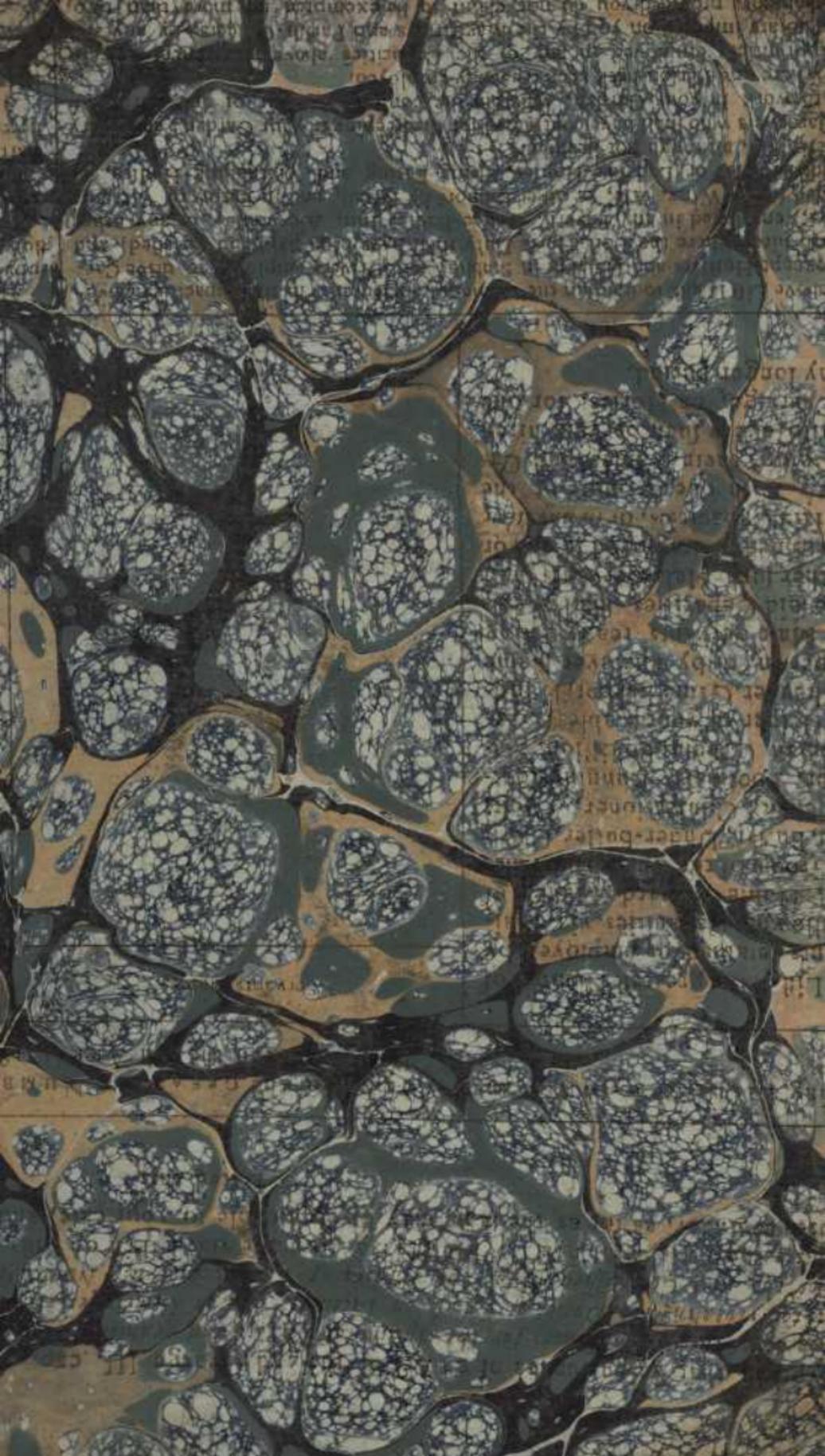
From Guetaria to Saraos or Saras	- -	1
From Saraos to Orrio	- -	1

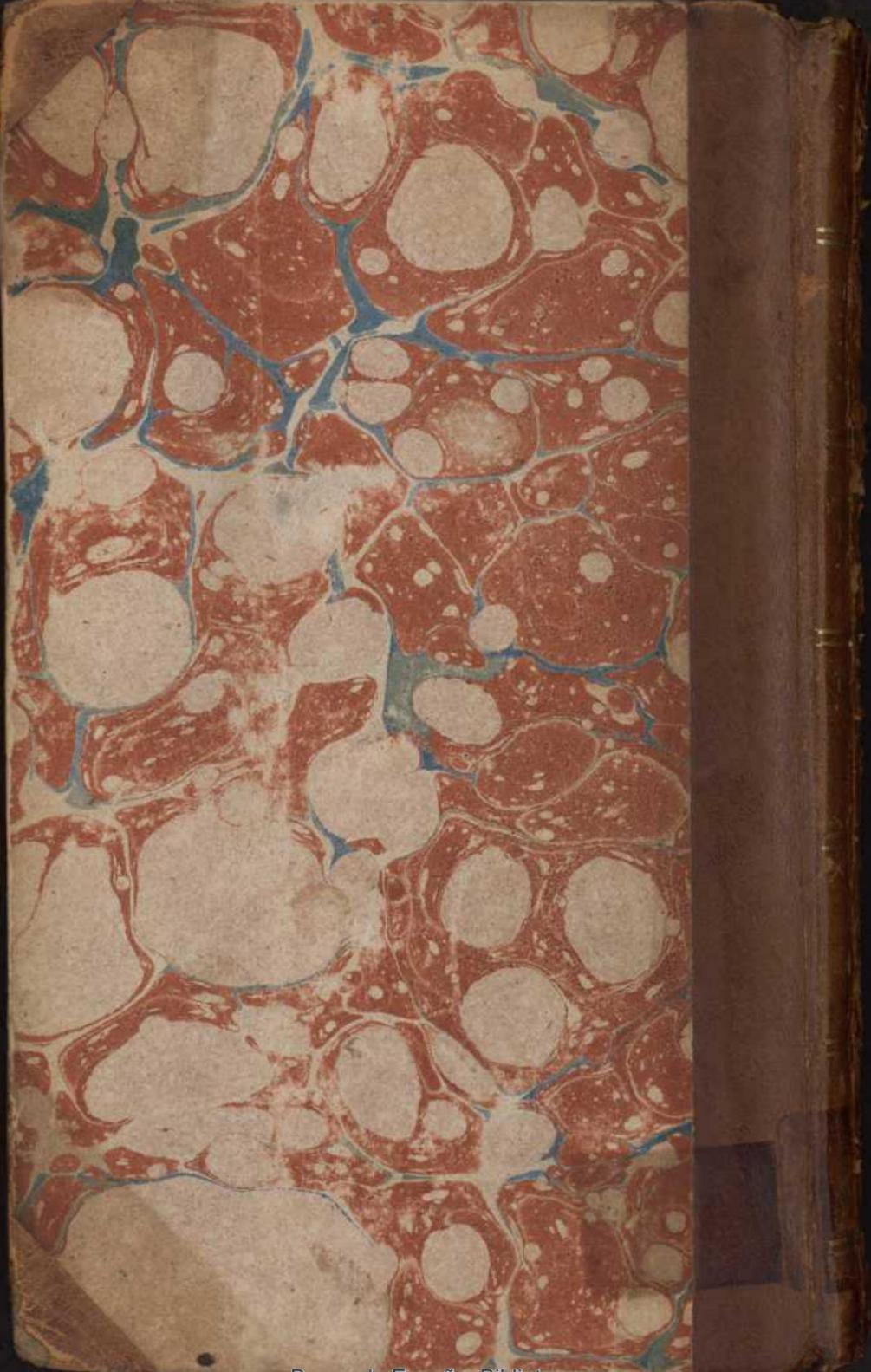
Another river crossed in a boat.

	No. of Leagues
From Orrio to San <i>Sebastian</i> - - -	1
From San <i>Sebastian</i> to Irun - - -	1
A river crossed in a boat.	
From Irun to Orogne, which is the first town in France - - -	1½
From Orogne to St. Jean de Luz - - -	1
From St. Jean de Luz to Bridars - - -	2
From Bridars to Bayonne - - -	2
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Total of leagues from Madrid to <i>Bayonne</i>	92

END OF VOL. II.







LETTERS
FROM
SPAIN

2