

Acerca de este libro

Esta es una copia digital de un libro que, durante generaciones, se ha conservado en las estanterías de una biblioteca, hasta que Google ha decidido escanearlo como parte de un proyecto que pretende que sea posible descubrir en línea libros de todo el mundo.

Ha sobrevivido tantos años como para que los derechos de autor hayan expirado y el libro pase a ser de dominio público. El que un libro sea de dominio público significa que nunca ha estado protegido por derechos de autor, o bien que el período legal de estos derechos ya ha expirado. Es posible que una misma obra sea de dominio público en unos países y, sin embargo, no lo sea en otros. Los libros de dominio público son nuestras puertas hacia el pasado, suponen un patrimonio histórico, cultural y de conocimientos que, a menudo, resulta difícil de descubrir.

Todas las anotaciones, marcas y otras señales en los márgenes que estén presentes en el volumen original aparecerán también en este archivo como testimonio del largo viaje que el libro ha recorrido desde el editor hasta la biblioteca y, finalmente, hasta usted.

Normas de uso

Google se enorgullece de poder colaborar con distintas bibliotecas para digitalizar los materiales de dominio público a fin de hacerlos accesibles a todo el mundo. Los libros de dominio público son patrimonio de todos, nosotros somos sus humildes guardianes. No obstante, se trata de un trabajo caro. Por este motivo, y para poder ofrecer este recurso, hemos tomado medidas para evitar que se produzca un abuso por parte de terceros con fines comerciales, y hemos incluido restricciones técnicas sobre las solicitudes automatizadas.

Asimismo, le pedimos que:

+ *Haga un uso exclusivamente no comercial de estos archivos* Hemos diseñado la Búsqueda de libros de Google para el uso de particulares; como tal, le pedimos que utilice estos archivos con fines personales, y no comerciales.

+ *No envíe solicitudes automatizadas* Por favor, no envíe solicitudes automatizadas de ningún tipo al sistema de Google. Si está llevando a cabo una investigación sobre traducción automática, reconocimiento óptico de caracteres u otros campos para los que resulte útil disfrutar de acceso a una gran cantidad de texto, por favor, envíenos un mensaje. Fomentamos el uso de materiales de dominio público con estos propósitos y seguro que podremos ayudarle.

+ *Conserve la atribución* La filigrana de Google que verá en todos los archivos es fundamental para informar a los usuarios sobre este proyecto y ayudarles a encontrar materiales adicionales en la Búsqueda de libros de Google. Por favor, no la elimine.

+ *Manténgase siempre dentro de la legalidad* Sea cual sea el uso que haga de estos materiales, recuerde que es responsable de asegurarse de que todo lo que hace es legal. No dé por sentado que, por el hecho de que una obra se considere de dominio público para los usuarios de los Estados Unidos, lo será también para los usuarios de otros países. La legislación sobre derechos de autor varía de un país a otro, y no podemos facilitar información sobre si está permitido un uso específico de algún libro. Por favor, no suponga que la aparición de un libro en nuestro programa significa que se puede utilizar de igual manera en todo el mundo. La responsabilidad ante la infracción de los derechos de autor puede ser muy grave.

Acerca de la Búsqueda de libros de Google

El objetivo de Google consiste en organizar información procedente de todo el mundo y hacerla accesible y útil de forma universal. El programa de Búsqueda de libros de Google ayuda a los lectores a descubrir los libros de todo el mundo a la vez que ayuda a autores y editores a llegar a nuevas audiencias. Podrá realizar búsquedas en el texto completo de este libro en la web, en la página `http://books.google.com`



This is a digital copy of a book that was preserved for generations on library shelves before it was carefully scanned by Google as part of a project to make the world's books discoverable online.

It has survived long enough for the copyright to expire and the book to enter the public domain. A public domain book is one that was never subject to copyright or whose legal copyright term has expired. Whether a book is in the public domain may vary country to country. Public domain books are our gateways to the past, representing a wealth of history, culture and knowledge that's often difficult to discover.

Marks, notations and other marginalia present in the original volume will appear in this file - a reminder of this book's long journey from the publisher to a library and finally to you.

Usage guidelines

Google is proud to partner with libraries to digitize public domain materials and make them widely accessible. Public domain books belong to the public and we are merely their custodians. Nevertheless, this work is expensive, so in order to keep providing this resource, we have taken steps to prevent abuse by commercial parties, including placing technical restrictions on automated querying.

We also ask that you:

+ *Make non-commercial use of the files* We designed Google Book Search for use by individuals, and we request that you use these files for personal, non-commercial purposes.

+ *Refrain from automated querying* Do not send automated queries of any sort to Google's system: If you are conducting research on machine translation, optical character recognition or other areas where access to a large amount of text is helpful, please contact us. We encourage the use of public domain materials for these purposes and may be able to help.

+ *Maintain attribution* The Google "watermark" you see on each file is essential for informing people about this project and helping them find additional materials through Google Book Search. Please do not remove it.

+ *Keep it legal* Whatever your use, remember that you are responsible for ensuring that what you are doing is legal. Do not assume that just because we believe a book is in the public domain for users in the United States, that the work is also in the public domain for users in other countries. Whether a book is still in copyright varies from country to country, and we can't offer guidance on whether any specific use of any specific book is allowed. Please do not assume that a book's appearance in Google Book Search means it can be used in any manner anywhere in the world. Copyright infringement liability can be quite severe.

About Google Book Search

Google's mission is to organize the world's information and to make it universally accessible and useful. Google Book Search helps readers discover the world's books while helping authors and publishers reach new audiences. You can search through the full text of this book on the web at `http://books.google.com/`

Span. 1916.43.10



Harvard College Library.

FROM THE

SALES FUND.

Established under the will of FRANCIS SALES, Instructor in Harvard College, 1816–1854. This will requires the income to be expended for books "in the Spanish language or for books illustrative of Spanish history and literature."

Received 9 Mar. 1903.

Digitized by Google

SPAIN AND THE SPANIARDS.

Digitized by Google

By the same Author,

SKETCHES IN SPAIN,

DURING THE YEARS 1829-30-31, & 32,

CONTAINING

NOTICES OF SOME DISTRICTS VERY LITTLE KNOWN;

OF THE

MANNERS OF THE PEOPLE, GOVERNMENT, RECENT CHANGES, COMMERCE, NATURAL HISTORY, AND FINE ARTS;

WITH LIVES OF SPANISH PAINTERS.

Two Vols. 8vo. price 21s.

"Volumes of great value and attraction; we would say, in a word, they afford us the most complete account of Spain in every respect which has issued from the press."—*Literary Gazette.*

"The value of the book is in its matter and its facts. If written upon any country it would have been useful, but treating of one like Spain, about which we know almost nothing, but of which it is desirable to know so much, Captain Cook's Sketches must be considered an acquisition to the library."—*Spectator.*

"These volumes comprise every point worthy of notice, and the whole is so interspersed with lively adventure and description; so imbued with a kindly spirit of good nature, courting and acknowledging attention, as to render it attractive reading."—*United Service Gazette.*

"No one could either pretend to write or converse upon this country without preparing himself by a previous perusal of this instructive work."
Metropolitan.

Digitized by Google

SPAIN AND THE SPANIARDS,

IN 1843.

BY

CAPTAIN S. E. WIDDRINGTON, R.N.

K.T.S., F.R.S., F.G.S.

AUTHOR OF

SKETCHES IN SPAIN, IN 1829-30-31-32.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

LONDON:

T. & W. BOONE, 29, NEW BOND STREET.

1844.

Digitized by Google

Spa 1748.43.15

HARVARD COLLEGE
MAY 9 1900
LIBRARY

Sales fund
(1-2).

Digitized by Google

TO HIS GRACE

HUGH, DUKE OF NORTHUMBERLAND, K.G.

ETC. ETC. ETC.

THIS WORK

IS RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED

BY

HIS OBEDIENT SERVANT,

THE AUTHOR.

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

CONTENTS OF VOL. I.

CHAPTER I.

Page

Plan and arrangement of the Journey—Bayonne—Custom-houses—Population—Miranda del Ebro—Burgos—Spanish Blacksmith—The Parador—A "Fix"—Spanish Carriages—Buytrago—Madrid—Omnibuses—Monument in the Prado—Festival Days—Horse-racing—Breed of Horses - - - - - - - - 1

CHAPTER II.

Madrid—Pictures—The University—Leon's Sculpture—Natural History—The Ichneumon—The Megatherium—Public Library—Festival of Easter—Curious Chapel—The Palace—Countess of Mina - 30

CHAPTER III.

Transactions in the Palace, in October 1841—The Alabarderos—Colonel Dulce—Attack on the staircase—The defence—General Leon—General Concha—Heroism of Madame Mina—Danger of the Queen—Object of the Conspirators—Conduct of the Regent - - - - 58

CHAPTER IV.

Preparations for the Journey to Estremadura, and Route—Mode of Travelling—Talavera—Passage of the Tagus—Stoppage at the Ferry—Spanish Scenery—The Sand-bank—Bridge Repairs—Almaraz—Puerto de Miravete—Jaraicejo—Arrival at Truxillo—The Diligence - 80

CHAPTER V.

Truxillo—Roman Fortress—Church of Sta. Maria—Arch of Santiago—The Alberca—San Martino—Palace of the Duke of San Carlos—Open Attics—The Convents - - - - - - - 98

Digitized by Google

CHAPTER VI.

Page

Journey to Logrosan—Logrosan—The Phosphorite—The town lands—Nest of the Mohiño—Excursion to Guadalupe—Canomero—Guadalupe—Tombs of the Kings—Camarin of the Virgin—Serrania de Guadalupe - - - - - - - - 107

CHAPTER VII.

Preparations for Journey to Almaden—Cortijo del Rincon—The Gum Cistus—Talarrubias—Valley of the Guadalema—Rateros—Almaden 142

CHAPTER VIII.

Almaden—The Quicksilver Mine - - - - - - 166

CHAPTER IX.

Departure from Almaden—Sta. Eufemia—Hinojosa—Velmez—A Sportsman—Penaroya—Fuente Ovejuna—Azuaga—Mal Cocida—San Miguel—Picturesque Scenery—Draft Oxen—Pedroso - - 181

CHAPTER X.

Mine and Foundery of Pedroso—Forest Lands—Natural History—Management of Bees—Colonel Elorza - - - - 208

CHAPTER XI.

Mines of Villanueva del Rio—Goats' Milk—Journey to Seville - 232

CHAPTER XII.

Seville—The Cathedral—The Museum—The Pantheon—The Convents—Manufactures—Alamedas—Paseos—Padre Mena - - - 238

CHAPTER XIII.

Preparations for Journey to Ronda—Utrera—Coronil—The Guide—Puerto Serrano—Zahara—Ronda—Don Jose Zaffran—The Bull Fight—The Maestranza—Puerto Robledo—Forest of Pinus Pinsapo—Carboneros—Serpentine Dyke—Istan—Iron Founderies—Marbella—Natural History—Mineralogy—Sleeping Guide—Benalmadena—The Rateros—Arrival at Malaga - - - - - - 263

Digitized by Google

CHAPTER XIV.

Page

Malaga — The Pronunciamento — The Founderies — English Burying Ground—Plantations of Cactus—The Cathedral—Native Costume—The Mines of the Sierra de Almagrera—Reservoirs—Dissolution of the Junta - - - - - - - - 300

CHAPTER XV.

Route to Granada — Velez — Alhama — The Baths — Analysis of the Waters—Road to Granada. - - - - - 320

CHAPTER XVI.

Granada—The Pronunciamento—Alhambra—The Machucha Medallions —The Convents—The Cathedral—Corpus Domini—The Baths—Jardin del Re—Soto de Roma—Literature—The Crops—Mariana Pineda — Political Inquisitor — Sierra Nevada—Gypsies — State of public affairs - - - - - - - - 335

APPENDIX.

Geology—Estremadura—The Castiles—Asturias—Galicia - - 365

On the Forests of Spain—Oak, Pine, Ash - - - - 385

Zoology—Ornithology—Reptiles - - - - - 392

On the Agriculture of Spain - - - - - - 399

Additional Remarks on the Agriculture - - - - 423

Hints for Travellers - - - - - - - 432

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

SPAIN IN 1843.

CHAPTER I.

PLAN AND ARRANGEMENT OF THE JOURNEY— VITTORIA—BURGOS—MADRID.

After the cessation of the civil war in Spain, and the establishment of what was apparently a steady government under the Regent, Duke of Victoria, I was anxious to revisit that interesting country for the purpose of seeing many friends I had left there, and also of observing the practical effects of the great changes which took place subsequent to the death of Ferdinand. These important results interested me the more, as I had, I believe, alone foretold the certain fall of the ecclesiastical domination under which that country had groaned for several ages, the encroachments of which had sapped and nearly destroyed every thing but the national character; which, in all its eccentricities of good as well as defective qualities, had survived and is likely still to survive, the momentous change which, in appearance but by no means in reality, has shaken the monarchy to its foundations.

I was preparing to set out with these views, when it was announced that Dr. Daubeny had offered to

Digitized by Google

the Agricultural Society of Great Britain to proceed thither, in order to examine the very curious and unique formation of Phosphorite, which had been long known to exist in Estremadura, with a view to ascertain whether that mineral could be imported as a substitute for bones, which we already draw from the most distant parts of the earth, but the supply of which is yearly diminishing. The elementary principle of this phosphorite, of which we had no account that could be depended on, led to the supposition that it might possibly be imported for the purpose of our great and increasing agricultural demands. Under these circumstances I offered to accompany him, judging that as Dr. Daubeny had not been in Spain, that the local knowledge of one tolerably well acquainted with that country and the people, might be of service in forwarding these patriotic views.

The arrangements were soon made, and we should have set out in 1842, but fortunately, as it happened, the engagements of his lectures for that year prevented Dr. Daubeny from being ready in time, and we determined to defer the journey until the following spring. The plan was to go first of all to the spot, ascertain every thing necessary as to the formation, then pursue our route to the southern provinces; after which each was to follow his own plans as most convenient. My own intention was, after visiting Seville, Ronda, Malaga, and Granada, to return to Madrid, and thence by Valladolid, Leon,

Digitized by Google

Asturias, and Galicia, to Vigo, and then embark for England.

We preferred the spring, because—although in Spain the weather is often very unsettled at that season, heavy rains interrupting the communication, rendering travelling uncertain and disagreeable—with a limited time upon your hands, it is upon the whole the best; the vegetation is in its greatest beauty; the days are lengthening, and the weather improving; by regulating your movements, as I had planned, and moving northwards, you avoid the great heat, which in the southern provinces is considerable by the middle of June.

In a very short tour, the autumn has some advantages. After the heat is broken, which is about the second week in September, at which time rains generally fall, the autumn is clear, settled, and delicious; but the days are shortening, the nights are long and cold, and the posadas not exactly fitted to pass pleasant evenings in after a hard day's work; and as our object was to do as much as possible within a given time, the spring was considered the better season.

After this expedition was determined on, Mr. Pusey applied to Lord Aberdeen for introductions and recommendations to the Spanish authorities, in order that we might receive such assistance in the country as might be found necessary. These were readily granted; and it is only fair to say, that from

Digitized by Google

Sir Arthur Aston, the other gentlemen at the Embassy, and every local authority, from the Regent downwards, we received all the information and aid in their power to bestow. I mention this more particularly, because the duty of dealing with the Spaniards chiefly devolved on me, and no tribute short of this would suffice to express the obligations we were under, for their kindness and attention in every possible way.

The first part of the work will contain principally the personal narrative of the extensive tour in the middle and southern provinces, some parts of which have been little visited and less described. The latter part, that through the northern provinces, and the notices of some early churches, of which no account exists that I am aware of, with the daily increasing interest in Ecclesiastical architecture in this country, will probably be viewed with curiosity. Some account will also be given of the most important changes in the civil situation of the country, and of the causes which led to the strange and unexpected events, which, though regretting extremely, and certainly never expecting when I set out, I should have been sorry not to have witnessed. Some notices of Natural History will e found in the Appendix.

It may be as well to state that politics form no part of the work, and the remarks and notices will be as strictly as possible matter of fact; leaving to every one the free exercise of his own judgment

Digitized by Google

and feelings upon them; and also that every thing stated is either the result of actual observation, or from the best local and Spanish authority.

We entered Spain at the end of March by the great line of Bayonne. There is a considerable increase of activity of communication on this road since the peace. A daily diligence, furnished by one or other of the rival companies, starts for Madrid and the movements are quicker and the arrangements better, though still far from perfect. The custom-house is now on the frontier instead of being at Vittoria, in consequence of the fueros of these provinces being suppressed. I had requested an order might be sent to facilitate the passing of our baggage, books, &c. and we were received by the authorities with the greatest civility. A prying underling who entered the office whilst I was with the chief, laden with loose packages he had picked out of our places in the coach, was peremptorily ordered back without being allowed to deposit his cargo on the table. As usual, our fellow-travellers profited by this order; but I refused the very improper request of one of them, to allow his trunk to pass as my property. To shew the great progress made in establishing the revenues and the advantages accruing from rival custom-houses in close vicinity, as well as old habits of organized smuggling, cigars were as abundant and as cheap as they were at Cadiz during the system of the puerto franco.

We had left Bayonne at ten in the morning, and

Digitized by Google

to my great surprise, I found we were to sleep at Astigarraga, close within the frontier, where we arrived at four. For this most inconvenient arrangement we were indebted to the custom-house authorities at Tolosa and other places, who insisted on the diligence passing through their quarters at the hour which suited them. There was a regular file of registros or examinations of no less than seven, before we entered Castile. Our pass of course exempted us personally, but as none of the other passengers had the same good fortune, the delay was nearly the same as if we had been unprovided with it. The reason was the recent change by the introduction of the custom-houses into the Basque provinces, and the system not being as yet consolidated; however, very soon after our arrival at Madrid an order was issued by Government, putting an end to this abominable nuisance which was the more vexatious as it was well known that any quantity of goods might be introduced without difficulty, by the very persons employed in this ungracious service.

The next day was passed in traversing Guipuscoa and Alava, the centre of the civil war. Not the smallest change was visible. The people were working in the fields, preparing for the crop of maize on which their subsistence depends. They use iron grapes or forks, of which each person has two. They stand in a line, and forcing the implement into the ground, the slice is raised in a lump,

Digitized by Google

producing much the same effect as deep ploughing. Women are mixed with the men in this work which is extremely hard, but is carried on with the greatest cheerfulness. Some of them to whom I spoke said, "We must work, or we shall have nothing to eat." There was not the smallest appearance of diminution in the numbers of the people and swarms of children were in every village. I inquired about the losses during the war: they said, "Those who had fallen were not missed," owing to the density of their numbers, which, in these provinces equals that of the most populous parts of Europe, by the square measure. After the accounts we had been reading, for so long a period, of massacre on massacre, even with all allowance for the usual exaggeration of Spanish battles, such a report could hardly be expected, but it is perfectly correct; and to see these provinces in their present and natural state of tranquillity, their condition, a few months after every man was in arms, would scarcely be credited by those unacquainted with the peculiarities of their character. There is a sensible difference in the appearance, both of the people and their houses, as you leave the coast where the richest lands are and which suffer least in the winter. The manners of the people are also more rustic, and less polished than those of the inhabitants in the rich country near the frontiers.

We slept at Vittoria which is very much im-

Digitized by Google

proved, and a scene of the greatest activity. A convent had been partly demolished and a portion of the site converted into a public ground for playing fives, a favourite amusement of the people in these provinces. Its contiguity to the paseo, the place of recreation generally more frequented by the upper ranks of society, shewed a degree of consideration well worthy example in other countries.

At Miranda del Ebro, the frontier of Old Castile, the diligence underwent a final, but most tedious examination. I occupied the time in examining a church which was opposite, and is of the Norman period or soon after it, the doorway being a little pointed. There are circular windows and some clustered columns at the east end, which are now built in. It is of tolerable size but had been much larger, and the only information I could obtain from the cura and people about was, that a good deal of it had been pulled down some years since. There was a spacious covered porch as usual in the north of Spain, for the accommodation of the people in bad weather.

The road to Burgos has been put in complete repair on the best principle, and is now as good as any in Europe. Trees have been planted by the side, which in open plains form a pleasing object anywhere, but are doubly welcome in Spain. They were ploughing in a rude and simple way, rather like harrowing than any thing else and preparing to sow their rye, which in the Castiles is extensively

Digitized by Google

cultivated for the use of the bullocks. All appearance of maize ceases after crossing the Ebro and wheat becomes the staple food of man.

We arrived early at Burgos and had plenty of time to look round. Although it is the last place in Spain where alterations and improvements would be looked for, there are very decided symptoms of both. The sale of the convents and of the fincas or houses belonging to them, had put a good deal of money in circulation and the result was becoming very evident.

The cathedral, the exterior of which is familiar to most readers, from its lying in the route of the general tourist, and justly forming a prominent subject in the beautiful illustrations of annuals and other publications, is a mixture of, as usual in Spain, many styles. The body of the church was built in 1220, at the same time with that of Toledo, to which it bears some resemblance in design. It was, however, too dark and numerous claraboyas or lights were opened subsequently. The well-known western towers, which are perhaps the finest specimens existing of the clear transparent style, were built or rather finished by Juan and Simon of Cologne, two artists, father and son, who, as far as I know, introduced it into Spain about 1440. I have no doubt the upper parts were their own composition and further mention will occur of the style at Leon and Oviedo. The octagon lantern is still more modern, having been built by Vigarny,

Digitized by Google

an artist of the sixteenth century who was sent for when the original cupola fell down. It is extremely beautiful, but rather of the Plateresco, (silversmith,) or florid style very common in this country. The cloisters, which are of the most noble and perfect design and proportion are of 1400, the reign of Henry II. of Castile. Vigarny is claimed as a native of Burgos, but his name of Felipe of Burgundy, is strong presumptive proof of his being from that country.

There was a good light to examine the Leonardo da Vinci, in the chapel of the Constable, and my belief in its authenticity was very much shaken. It is probably an early and possibly cotemporaneous copy.

I hurried to the entrance of the cloister, to see some sculpture, on which the most hyperbolical praise had been lavished by a recent French writer, who compared it to the gates of Ghiberti! I feared that in my former examination such a remarkable work had been overlooked, but it is of the early pointed epoch, almost barbarous in design and execution.

No cathedral has suffered more by the indiscreet zeal of the bishops and cabildos, who have added chapels and other ornaments to the interior of the beautiful edifice. As it was Lent, the greater part of the sculpture and paintings was covered up; but they were already familiar to me and although good, they are by no means of the first order. The

Digitized by Google

principal parts are in the painted or national style of sculpture and are by the Hayas.

Beyond Burgos the appearance of the country is unaltered. The dreary plains and miserable villages are unrelieved by any agreeable object and so far from any marks of improvement, that the breaches made in the war of independence are not yet repaired. We had a bad breakfast at Aranda and then passed the Duero. I here found some building materials in a corral which were from the great fresh-water formation of Old Castile, one limb of which lies in this direction, and corresponds in every respect with the extensive one on the other side of the Guadarrama first pointed out by me in the geological account in my former work. We crossed a ridge where they worked the material. A good account of the site and such particulars as came within his knowledge, were given by a very intelligent blacksmith, who is one of the "notabilities" in Spanish villages, and left his work of shoeing mules with cold iron to enjoy a little conversation.

Beyond this is a considerable tract of ancient forest, now only producing a few stunted oaks, pinasters and junipers. We slept at a new and spacious caravansera, lately built by the Company for the purpose of accommodating the passengers in their diligences. It is high up on the Somosierra and is certainly an improvement on the wretched quarter of Fresnillo, which was formerly a halting place.

Digitized by Google

This is a *parador*, and the stranger must be careful not to confound it with the inferior grade of *venta*, which some of these establishments bear. It once happened to me on the road to Valladolid, to inquire from the window of the carriage, what was the name of a new venta at which we stopped. The only person who could give any information, after waiting in silence some time in hopes I would correct my phrase, said in a most surly tone, "No es venta, es parador,"—and turning away, left me in ignorance. The conductor of this establishment was no other than the Catalan major-domo, originally employed by the Company to superintend the mounting, and establishing the various places for dining and sleeping of the numerous passengers in their diligences, and of seeing them provided with beds and all other necessaries,—an office, in the outset, of no small importance and difficulty. After labouring several years in drilling waiters and chambermaids, and their masters and mistresses yet more difficult to manage, his employers had provided him with this retreat, as a recompense for his past services. It might naturally be expected that the "Tusculum" of such a character would be a model of management and comfort. As, however, it is rare in Spain that calculations turn out in their natural ratio, but, to use their own expression, often prove to be "Cosas de España," this was a perfect example of the rule of contrary; and the supper was by far the worst we had upon the road. As there was no possibility of

Digitized by Google

remedy, we consoled ourselves by laughing at the absurdity of such a state of things, and exchanging the national proverbs which bear upon it. The English, it is unnecessary to repeat; that of the Spaniards is "En casa del herrero, cuchillo de palo,"—In the house of the cutler, you find wooden knives.

We reached this place at an early hour so that we could very easily have passed the summit and have made Somosierra, which, although only a wretched village is a better resting place than the wild locality of the parador. I suppose the reason of placing it there to have been the difficulty of reaching it from Burgos in snow or wet weather; when the roads are heavy or in case of detention on the way.

Some time after we started which was very early I was sitting in the coupe behind the Mayoral, when down went the off fore wheel into a deep hole with a jerk which instantly roused him from the nap both he and the adelantero, or boy who rode the leading mule were indulging in, unluckily at the same time. With the philosophic coolness of this people, he instantly said, in an audible soliloquy, before he was quite awake, "Es por mucho o por poco,"—I wonder if it is a small or a large "fix," as the American would have it. I immediately got out and found, that owing to their dozing and most probably attempting to guide the mules instead of leaving them to themselves, they had got close over to the side of the road; and that the hole we were in was a part of

Digitized by Google

a culvert or covered drain, which had given way just at the outside and very fortunately we had not gone entirely off it. I said nothing for a time, but left them to their own resources and devices which were soon exhausted and without having made the smallest progress, they desisted. I then begged the other passengers who, Spaniard-like, sat quite still and unconcerned, to descend; and after a good deal of persuasion, prevailed on them to assist and draw the vehicle backwards, by which it was instantly extricated. I mention this occurrence because it may be of use to others who have the misfortune of getting into difficulties with Spanish carriages. I have frequently known them to happen and invariably found that the mayorales and others were excessively awkward in getting out of them. All four-wheel carriages in Spain have one common defect; the excessive lowness of the fore wheels, which is the great mechanical defect in all countries, but particularly so in the Peninsula. These vehicles are so built, that the high hind wheels act as a lever and restrain the fore part when once lodged; so that, unless there be very powerful assistance and favourable circumstances, they can scarcely ever be forced forward; whereas, a very small force applied to the rear, will draw them backwards. I saw some splendid galeras on this very road, of a new and commodious construction for passengers and merchandise; but with this defect to a most uncommon degree. The hind wheels were

Digitized by Google

of enormous height and the fore ones as small as they could possibly be made. The only mode they can pass any bad place in the road without sticking at the fore end, is to accelerate the pace of the mules, and force them through it, to the great inconvenience of those who may happen to be in the machine. It is also necessary to observe, that any interference on the part of strangers must be managed with circumspection, or it will produce worse than no result and will impede the operation.

It was extremely fortunate for us they had not swerved to the opposite side of the road which was walled up some height with no sort of parapet. I was rather curious to hear what sort of reprimand the adelantero would receive from his chief—each being equally culpable. He said nothing until we reached the station to change the tiro when he addressed him in these words, with the most perfect good humour —"When you first came with us, you had hardly a rag on your back, and the cold kept you awake; now you are comfortably clothed, and have got a capa (Spanish cloak), you can sleep as well on horseback as if you were in bed." No reply was made, the boy being too happy to get off so easily and the matter dropped.

We breakfasted at Buytrago, in a much better venta although with considerable less pretensions than that of the parador where we had passed the night. The chief attendant was a fine Basque woman, with her trensa, or long platted hair. The people

Digitized by Google

in this part of the country being rough and rugged, are very ill-fitted for any domestic employment requiring care and attention and kindness of manner.

The road, in descending the mountain after we passed the barrier of New Castile, was excessively bad; evidently no repairs had taken place for some years and it was unsafe in many places. It turned out as I expected, that they were working upwards from the lower part, and we found one piece beautifully finished and others in progress; so that with the traffic upon it in this climate, it will be many years before any repairs are wanted. They lay an enormous substratum of large stones, which are covered by smaller and finished with gravel or chippings. Barriers are placed and toll exacted in most of these new roads, which in some parts is rather heavy; but the people know their interest too well to object and have submitted to the new tax without opposition.

The good road ended just as we approached the most dreary and unpicturesque of capitals on its worst side. We were all but stopped within a league of the gates; for the heavy vernal rain, which had caused the barro or clay to be deeply cut by the numerous vehicles, had suddenly been succeeded by a brilliant sun, which baked its ridges as they stood into the hardest consistency, so that the mules could hardly draw the ponderous machine on to the gates.

To the great disappointment of most of the party

Digitized by Google

we came to this slough of despond just as the guns were firing for the Queen leaving the Palace to open the Cortes, so that before we were housed she had returned to it, and we had only the satisfaction of seeing the Regent drive to Buenavista and the files of troops and national guards which lined the streets.

We were very soon put in communication with all the parties in the place who could forward our views by giving information or otherwise; and after every thing was in train of arrangement with the Government by the kindness of Sir A. Aston, we set about the ordinary occupations of travellers.

The most striking change at Madrid is the great and unceasing activity in the building department: every plaza and plazuela—every part of the wider streets was occupied by piles of old materials or new and covered with the dust made by workmen employed in dressing the grey granite of Colmenar, which forms the exterior of most of the new buildings. The greater part of these transformations proceed from the convents, nearly the whole of which have been sold and either converted to public uses or those of individuals, many of whom who purchased at the outset have made large fortunes by their speculations.

Amongst the leading alterations made, the small convent of Capuchinos de la Corte, to the north of the Alcala, has been changed into a neat paseo. The chapel of the Flamencos, in the same neighbourhood,

Digitized by Google

where was the famous picture of Rubens, is converted into a neat covered market, like those of Paris. The large convent of St. Thomas, in the Atocha, is the head-quarters of the national guard, its façade having been altered in rather bad taste. In the great patio, the principal articles of the Constitution are written up, in place of extracts from the holy writings which once would have been the appropriate ornament. The church serves as a sort of secondary cathedral on great occasions. Near it the immense convent of the Trinidad forms the new National Museum for the reception of the works of art from the convents. The magnificent convent of St. Felipe el Real, after many discussions and a very bad arrangement was sold to Cordero, the great Maragato, who stands amongst that curious race like Rothschild amid the Hebrews of Frankfort. It has been converted into a kind of barrack or chambers, of which he was understood to have the intention of occupying a part whilst the remainder would be let at an enormous profit. The error of disposing of such a site, which from its contiguity to the Post-office and its central situation near the Puerta del Sol, would have been invaluable for many public purposes, was great and unpardonable. One plan was to make it a general depot of diligences, which is very much wanted and for which purpose it was admirably suited. The vast convent of Atocha has been appropriated to the military invalids and made the Chelsea of

Digitized by Google

Spain. The convent of Santa Catalina, which was set fire to, whilst the Duke of Angouleme and other notabilities connected with the invasion of 1823 were celebrating mass in honour of their success, is now demolished and the building which is to accommodate both houses of parliament is being erected on the site. The open space opposite is ornamented with a good bronze statue of Cervantes and is called Plazuela de las Cortes. The convent of the noviciate of the Jesuits, a fine structure on the hill above the palace, is undergoing the process of being converted to the purposes of the University. Several smaller ones have been demolished and spacious private residences erected in their places.

The names of the streets have in very many instances been altered, and to their absurd and barbarous appellations have succeeded those of the numerous victims of the persecutions of Ferdinand. Thus we have Calle de Porlier, Calle del Empecinado, Calle Lacy, &c. &c. &c.

The bustle and movement in the streets is quite extraordinary, nor do I ever remember seeing such a change in a few years in any place. The ordinary daily passage is equal to that of the festival days in the time of Ferdinand. Every thing connected with the commerce and activity of the place has made equal progress. The shops, instead of the paltry appearance they presented at the former epoch, are now nearly as good and well filled as those of Paris in 1814. Spacious repositories abound,

Digitized by Google

where every article of French and English dress is exhibited in the greatest profusion. Formerly it was a misfortune to have any thing to do with tailors, and if any one had the ill luck to be stripped near the gate of the capital, he had great difficulty in replacing his losses. Now he need only cover himself with a capa and sallying out, may very soon complete his wardrobe, which is no small advantage, where the Spanish practice of skinning, "quitar el pellejo," is still practised. Most of these articles are French and many of them have probably taken their turn in the exhibitions of the Palais Royal before being transferred to the capital of the Castiles. Some are English, however, and in my first walk through these districts of fashion, I saw appended foulards or printed silks, of the identical patterns I had recently purchased as the newest in England.

Amongst other changes the Alcala had assumed the pompous name of the Duque de Victoria, in honour of that personage, whose residence at the palace of Buenavista, formerly that of the Prince of Peace, was situated in it; but, no doubt, an inquirer in French would now be answered, "On a changè tout cela."

In that most important particular to the stranger, the inns, very little improvement has been made. The two leading companies of diligences have each established a parador for their respective customers; but although the situations in the Alcala are good, and the rooms spacious and comfortable, the living is only

Digitized by Google

indifferent, and quite in the Spanish style. There is no good or even decent restaurateur in the place, although there are three by whom the business is regularly professed. The famous Fontana de Oro has been closed, and its miserable apartments converted into a spacious and excellent set of reading-rooms, with baths and lodgings attached, under French management. There are rooms for the English and French papers; of the former three or four daily ones are taken, and an inner room for the Spanish journals and library. It was rather different the last time I left Madrid, when a solitary Galignani with the margin close cut, was handed about with the strictest caution to let no one see you reading it, and on no account to let it go out of your possession. There are now nearly forty periodical papers of all descriptions in Madrid, which is a considerably greater number than the public requires, and most of them are so badly conducted, and in such ruinous circumstances, although managed on the most economical principle, that they are by necessity at the mercy of any party who will buy them. The mode in which those connected with these undertakings live is surprising; scarcely any of them excepting four or five principal ones, are ever seen out of the capital; and even with the absolute liberty of transit and cheapness of price, in most considerable towns, excepting those on the coast and capitals it is difficult to obtain a sight of a newspaper. The leading papers are divided into the respective classes of

Digitized by Google

Government; Opposition, of various shades and principles; Christino, supposed to be in the pay of a foreign embassy; Catalan, paid by the manufacturers of that province to uphold their interest, and thunder against any treaty of commerce or licensed introduction of foreign goods, and various others. Strange to say, the Carlist party were unrepresented in this medley. A journal they once had has ceased to appear; and the only church paper is written in the sense of general religious profession, and not of party dominion or party purposes. No reader could now be found for one conducted on such principle.

The two principal theatres remain much in the former state; but a smaller, which is now very much frequented, has been added to the number. In it are chiefly performed light musical pieces and a profusion of bad dancing.

The great theatre near the palace which was commenced to please Christina after her marriage, has never been finished, and part of it is for the present occupied by the Deputies. The back faces the palace and the space opposite having been cleared, it forms an unsightly object. The spacious Plaza del Oriente, opposite the Alcazar has been regularly laid out in a sort of circle, in rather the French style. The outside is surmounted with statues of forty Kings, Queens, and Sovereign Princes of Spain; the centre will be occupied by the colossal statue of Philip IV. executed after a

Digitized by Google

design of Velasquez, now at the Retiro. The other statues are of the white fresh-water limestone of Colmenar (near Aranjuez, and different from the other place of the same name, whence the granite is brought), which in my former work was mentioned as furnishing the ordinary material for statuary at Madrid. They are fair productions and the costume of the time has been tolerably kept, but the attitudes of many are too much forced. It remains to be seen what the effect is, when the whole is completed; but I suspect it will be found that the space is too vast for ornaments of so small dimensions, and that the proper situation for such a display would have been a forum or square, where the view is confined and the objects immediately referred to the scale of the surrounding buildings. A number of old houses have been demolished, and preparations made to fill the vast space around this square with modern buildings, some of which have been completed, but much remains to be done. The chief defect as to the theatre, is having placed it at the extremity of the city and a great distance from the more populous parts. The fixing on such a locality, for the mere advantage of the inmates of the palace, who are provided with carriages, and to whom a little extension of the drive is of no consequence, was extremely arbitrary and inconsiderate, and in bad weather the greater part of the population of Madrid will be excluded from this their only amusement.

Digitized by Google

The day we arrived was an era in the economy of Madrid, for on it was the first starting of a set of omnibuses, most gaily painted, which traverse the principal parts of the city drawn by mules, the number of which, compared with the lightness of the vehicle is a curious contrast to that in use at Paris and London. They will be of great use in the heat of summer and in the wet days of winter; otherwise, in general, the Spaniards like ourselves, are too much in the habit of walking to avail themselves of them. One of the greatest improvements recently made, has been the regularly numbering the houses. Formerly they were divided by stacks or isolated masses of building, called in Spain Manzanas. Each of these was numbered separately, and without reference to the streets which formed the boundaries; and it became excessively difficult in most cases, to make out the residences of the inhabitants of the spacious houses, containing many families and generally unprovided with porters. At present they are regularly marked and the name of the streets, which was seldom the case then, painted as in other places.

A convent near the palace is occupied temporarily by the Senadores. The church is their Sala, and being rather too large, was cased inside and reduced to a regular figure. The vacancy thus left forms admirable tribunes or galleries for strangers, to which there is convenient access, and the spectators look down upon the senators, whose places are on the

Digitized by Google

floor. They told me the arrangements of fitting this room were executed with extraordinary dispatch, when the place of assembly was changed from St. Geronimo at the Prado where it was formerly held. In simplicity and convenience, both to the members and strangers and in elegance of fitting it is a masterpiece. That of the Deputies is not so good, and the strangers' gallery is bad, hot and placed too high. The principal ornament of that is the names of the various martyrs of Ferdinand amongst whom Mariana Pineda, the lady of Granada, of whom mention will be subsequently made has not been forgotten, and her name is inscribed in golden letters in the great assembly of the kingdom. A monument has been erected in the Prado to the memory of Daoiz and Velarde, the officers of artillery who perished at their posts in opposing the troops of Murat, on the memorable 2nd May, 1808. It is plain and simple, of pyramidal form and it cannot be denied shews better taste in the design than the generality of such subjects in most countries. It is rather a curious coincidence, that the space selected for it should have been opposite the palace of the Duke of Villa Hermosa, so long occupied by the French embassy, whether from accident or design, I know not. During the Regency, the anniversary of this great day in the annals of Spain was kept with due solemnity, and the whole of the troops and national guard, after attending divine service, defiled round the monument. We shall

Digitized by Google

be curious to see, whether under the new regime this custom be maintained.

During the time of the Regent, all military festivals were preceded by solemn religious ceremonies; and in the garrisons, and on all the regular festival days the regiments invariably attended mass in every part of Spain. The troops marched in without any arms and in perfect silence. No word of command was given, but the men were previously drilled to follow the officers and serjeants, which they did mechanically, taking off their caps when they entered, and kneeling the great part of the time. When the service was over, which was shorter than the full mass as performed to a common congregation, the soldiers rose and marched out in the same manner as they entered, not a syllable being whispered during the whole time. The wind instruments of the regimental band generally attended and played parts of the mass. On very particular solemnities I have seen some of the national guard in full uniform, inside the altar, who presented arms when the host was elevated. Nothing could be more solemn or simple than this ceremony and it formed a striking contrast with the indecent noise and parade of a French regiment going through the same ceremony, as it used to be practised a few years since.

Some extension of the walks has been made at the Prado and a neat glorieta or small garden, added

Digitized by Google

at the extremity of it, at the Puerta de Recoletas, not far from the convent of the Salesas.

The promenades were fully attended in the fine days during my stay at Madrid. The chief difference is, that there are more carriages than used to be formerly and many people who used to mix with the crowd on foot, now promenade enclosed in their lumbering vehicles, the worst in Europe; the fewest decent equipages turn out of any modern capital in Christendom.

A regular race was announced during my stay; and it was impossible to omit the seeing a Spanish attempt to establish an "Epsom." The place selected was a sandy spot about four miles from Madrid, nearly opposite to the Prado and commanding a full and rather good view of the city. This was the chief and only recommendation of the site, which they said, was the best that could be selected. The day was unpromising and on my arrival I was obliged with a number of others to take shelter in a spacious venta, to avoid a furious thunder shower. There was a considerable crowd principally of persons on foot; and in a short time, although we were doing no sort of harm to any one, cries arose of "fuera los Caballos," to which the horsemen were obliged at last to yield, as the noise and excitement began to act on the fiery stallions and bring their heels into play. When it cleared off we repaired to the course, where some strong Spanish horses of the description fit for cavalry, were running at a

Digitized by Google

solemn and regular pace as equally placed one behind the other, as if they had been drilled to keep the distance of their respective squadrons. The principal exhibition of the day was the running for the grand prize, which was to be competed for by Spanish-bred horses. A rather fine looking thorough bred English horse was with great form and considerable difficulty brought out and saddled by English grooms; he was a vicious brute and apparently amiss behind; but he did his work very well. The only competitor he had was a very neat little hack mare, also English but which had not the slightest chance of winning, and the jockey pulled up more than once to let her come decently in with him; this horse belonged to the Duke of Osuna, the great patron of this new diversion and of course he won; it appeared that to qualify him to do so, his dam had been purchased in England and brought to Spain previous to her accouchement, so that he was qualified to run as being Spanish bred! At Doncaster or Newmarket they would have said the prize was made to fit the horse.

There were some carriages and horses out, but the greater part of the spectators were on foot and toldos or awnings were spread for their accommodation; although tolerably well attended, this exhibition could only be considered a failure; and there is little probability of its benefiting the breed of horses, for which it was patriotically intended.

The horses of Spain, however good in their way,

Digitized by Google

are not fitted for this sort of display, having neither the speed nor action required for racing; they must alter the system of breeding and produce other forms before this object can be attained. Another difficulty is in the way; few at present of the landed proprietors who are the natural breeders and purchasers of horses, can afford to give decent prices, like those in England, Russia, and Austria; and without a tolerable prospect of remuneration, it is useless for the labradores or farmers to breed those of superior quality.

Digitized by Google

CHAPTER II.

MADRID—GALLERIES—COLLECTIONS—NATURAL HISTORY—EASTER CEREMONIES—PALACE.

I FOUND little alteration in the Royal Museum, excepting that several of the pictures had been transposed, generally for the worse. The Italian gallery had received those of the Escorial, which are chiefly of the Venetian school; and several of them are hardly in a condition to place in such a collection as this. After an absence of ten years, during which time I had seen most of the best pictures in Europe, my admiration for this most noble collection not only held its original ground, but increased at every visit. The great improvement wanted for the Spanish galleries is to unroof the building and light it from the top, closing the windows, unless a part were left with shutters, to give a view of the Prado.

The celebrated equestrian portrait of Charles the Fifth, one of Titian's finest works was in the hands of the restorers; and it is impossible to conjecture what they may turn it out. The finest pictures of Murillo in this collection are, St. Ildefonso receiving the casulla, or priest's garment, from the Virgin, a legendary subject, bordering on the absurd; which, no doubt, was forced on the artist by the

Digitized by Google

spirit of the times, as the naked groups of Roman and Grecian heroes subsequently were upon David.

The other picture which is a companion to it in size and style, is yet more singular; the Virgin is seen in the clouds, pressing an Andalusian hand on the fullest and most beautiful bosom ever painted; the fluid exudes and falling in the form of a rainbow, is received in the mouth of St. Bernabe, a monk, who is kneeling in extacy as he imbibes it! Strange contrast to the Italians, who, either from prejudice or from their models being deficient, painted the Madonna invariably without this attraction, which they considered as too earthly and material. Both these pictures are of the same character; very large, the subjects treated in a bold and masterly style, with vast masses of light and shade, perfectly harmonized, though strongly opposed.—I scarcely know where these pictures would rank at Bologna, to which school they most nearly approach; it is doubtful whether they would yield the place to any of the productions of that splendid collection.

The most beautiful of his works here is the small Conception, of which the model was his daughter; she has a clear complexion, very dark brown hair, and deep blue eyes; he perfectly understood the blending the white and blue, both cold colours, with the mass of dark flowing hair, and in thus harmonizing colour no artist ever excelled him in his finer works. This daughter is quite different from the dark matron of maturer age, who served as model

Digitized by Google

for the Virgin in many of his Holy Families. The best portrait, for such it is, of this splendid specimen of ripe Spanish beauty and modesty combined, is probably that which, by some means or other found its way to Paris, and is now placed in the Italian gallery at the Louvre. It is very probable that his wife served for this model, and the likeness is so exactly kept, that the down on the upper lip is even given. Such is the power of the picture at the Louvre, that although placed amongst the best Italian paintings, it destroys the effect of every one near it; it has the rare fortune at Paris of being untouched and of not having undergone any of the harlequin processes, by which the great Italian pictures were, with the best possible intentions, materially injured.

However our more fastidious tastes may criticise the singular representations which were forced on the artists for the application of their talents, no idea of indelicacy was attached by the promoters of them. The monk, in his curious employment, is meant to represent divine love and charity in its most expressive form—and in examining these master-pieces, we should always follow the maxims of the Italians the greatest connoisseurs of all, and look to the *painting* and the manner it is wrought, more than to the subject, with which we are always reproached, thus substituting the cold application of reason and calculation for the innate love of art they instinctively possess. In general there

Digitized by Google

is little indelicacy to be seen amongst the Spanish masters, from the strict and vigilant eye kept by the commission of the inquisition over the easels of the painters.

After the dreadful and most barbarous destruction of the works in the convents which was carried on during the whole war of independence and the successive spoliation of 1820, when almost every work which could be sold was converted into money, there still remained so large a collection in Madrid that it was impossible to find room for them at the Prado. It was then determined to appropriate the magnificent convent of the Trinidad to their reception which was named the National Museum, to distinguish it from the other galleries which belong to the Crown, and was finally opened to the public, by order of the Regent, on the 2nd of May, 1843. So numerous is the collection, that the immense locality is scarcely sufficient to contain it. The first objects on entering the upper quadrangle, are the works of Carducho, which were brought from the great Carthusian convent of the Paular, which stands amid the snow and gloomy forests of the Guadarrama. These pictures which are very good, generally represent the history of the Order and a considerable portion that of the sufferings, real and fabulous of the refractory monks on the suppression of the monasteries by Henry VIII. and the harsh proceedings towards that fervent but most useless body of Cenobites.

Digitized by Google

Some very fine specimens of Rubens and other masters, were contributed by the sequestered properties of Don Carlos and the other Infantes. Amongst those of either Don Francisco or Don Sebastian is the celebrated altar-piece of the Capuchins at Seville, by Murillo. This picture which has been too much restored, is well placed and even in its present state is a magnificent specimen of the master and ranks amongst his finest productions.

There is a most splendid portrait of a literary character with spectacles by Ribera. There are good specimens of Munoz, of the Ricci, of Pantoja de la Cruz whose best portraits resemble those of Titian. A portrait of Melendez by himself is like a work of Murillo. A large and forcible, but coarse picture of a Franciscan monk administering the sacrament to a female I believe Sta. Maria Egiziaca, on the sea-shore, by Camilo, an artist with whose works I had little previous acquaintance. A large altar-piece of Greco-(Theotocopuli) like a Bolognese picture is also in one of the rooms, and is better than almost any thing I have seen of that master.

Amongst the more interesting works in this vast repository are those of Correa, an artist of the sixteenth century who painted very little that is known besides those in this collection which were brought from the convent of St. Martin Val de Iglesias, a large convent of Bernardos in the same district as that of the Paular. These works are

Digitized by Google

very curious and would be immediately taken by an inexperienced eye to be by Juanes in his early time, as the painter would appear to have studied the works of Raphael almost as closely as the great Valencian himself. One I saw in the "restauracion," had parts extremely like a Raphael of the second manner.

There were two paintings of his in one of the rooms which are held by the authorities to be by his hand; but on examination it was clear they were by quite a different one. After looking at them I came to the conclusion they were by Van Eyck and very fine specimens of that most interesting master, of whom I never saw any thing before in Spain. They are upright pictures and the form and general effect had caused their being assigned to the same hand. There is a sala de restauracion, which I almost dreaded entering, but their work appeared to be carried on with moderation and to most of the pictures in hand was absolutely necessary; nor was there any deficiency in the usual attention and civility on the part of those engaged.

It is unnecessary to remark on the great value and interest of this collection in every point of view. It has been the means of collecting and keeping together the works of many artists whose names would shortly only have been found in the records of former visitors to the convents. I have enumerated some of the leading works, but no de-

Digitized by Google

scription unless in extreme and uninteresting detail would suffice to do it adequately. No catalogue is yet ready and many valuable and interesting works were not placed, and it is to be hoped when it is published they will give the genealogy of the pictures most of which ought to be known. There is little of the elder Rizi who was a good artist and died a bishop, but I have seen the fragments of some of his best works which had been cut to pieces by the French soldiers on account of their representing monkish subjects, which his disposition like that of Fra Bartolomeo led him to prefer. There is no doubt, when the collection is completed, that in it and the Royal Gallery nearly all the masters of the great school of Castile will be exhibited; and no effort should be spared to supply any names which may be deficient. I was very much surprised at the number of good and fair pictures assembled in this interesting exhibition which must rank in Spain next to those of the Royal Gallery and of the academy at Seville.

The celebrated sculpture by Leon which was removed from the convent of Val de Iglesias was said to be in this museum, but I found that it was at the University. After some trouble, by the kindness of the Duke de Gor I procured an order to see it, but they were so particular that I was accompanied by the rector himself. The convent of the noviciate of the Jesuits, who must have been in high favour

Digitized by Google

at the time of its foundation, is on the height above the palace and on the hill which according to the original plan of Juvara was to have been occupied by that structure. Unfortunately on account of the expense they preferred the present site which is far inferior to it. No site can be better chosen for a university as it is high and well ventilated, in a retired quarter but near the public library and is by far the best in the capital for the purpose. The building, which was magnificent like most of those of the order, was undergoing vast alterations and the plans appeared to be excellent. The church which is to serve for the purpose of conferring degrees and other solemnities was being fitted up. It had a high and narrow dome over the transept which was in process of being lowered, in order to give room for the admission of sufficient light and when finished it will apparently have the proportions of the Pantheon.

We were conducted into a spacious vault in the lower part of the building where the sculpture was deposited, which had apparently been a sort of magazine. There was an immense quantity all unarranged and packed as most convenient to make room. Not only the works of Leon were there but a quantity by other artists belonging to the same convent; and also from St. Felipe el Real, and others in the town, every thing worth preserving having been sent to this establishment. It is chiefly of oak and walnut, and some foreign wood and is unpainted.

Digitized by Google

It was difficult to judge of the effect of Leon's work whilst the statues were lying on the ground, and I had to raise many of them from their prostrate position in order to examine them. On the whole I was disappointed with his part, which although certainly good sculpture, cannot rank in the first order in this classic land of the chisel, the figures being small and the style older and drier than I expected to find it. There are upper and under silleria or seats for the monks and some of the ornamented carved work is extremely good. No doubt when placed in the church where they are intended to be, the effect will be much better than that produced by the dry examination of the loose and disjointed statues; but even then the locality is so different from that of the choir they were originally intended for, that I am not very sanguine as to the result of the exhibition of them. I was the more satisfied at having seen them even in their present state, as in the long list of the great Spanish sculptors whose works are described in my former work, he was the only artist with whose works I was not previously acquainted, and the only regret I had was not having seen them in the original site.

There is little change in the collection at the Academy, of which the celebrated paintings of Murillo, relating to the foundation of Santa Maria Maggiore at Rome, and the Sta. Isabel which was formerly at St. Jorge in Seville and was removed to Paris, are the principal ornaments. There are

Digitized by Google

also valuable works of Pereyra, Ribera and others. The chief addition is a curious set of small figures in groupes representing the Massacre of the Innocents. They were the property of Don Carlos and are in barro or clay painted in a correct and spirited manner, but by some artist subsequent to the great time of Spanish sculpture, and rather in the classic or Italian style than that which characterizes the best productions of the native school.

The public collections of natural history remain much in the same condition as before, the civil war having by calling for the exclusive attention of the government as well as the great and constant deficiency of the finances, prevented any steps being taken to raise them to a position more worthy the nation than that they now occupy. The school of mines is in the best condition and is well conducted under the able management of Senor Pardo, who not only in his own department but in general knowledge is one of the first men in Madrid. From the great activity in mining speculations in every part of Spain, the demands for the analysis of specimens and for superintending engineers in new districts are such that they can hardly be supplied.

We visited this establishment which appears to contain every thing necessary in the way of instruments and collections. The latter however are chiefly exotic; but they have commenced a regular series of Spanish mineralogy and geology which will one

Digitized by Google

day offer a very great attraction to the scientific world. The former professor at the Museum of Natural History who was extremely incompetent to fill his station, is dead and has been replaced by a gentleman named Graells from Catalonia, the superintendant of the baths of Caldas in that province, under whose care if funds could be found, the museum would soon assume a different appearance. As far as is practicable the science is taught on the most modern principles and the lectures are well attended. They shewed me with great glee the Ichneumon (Herpestes Widdringtonii of Mr. Gray), without the most distant hint that the discovery was owing to any one but themselves; although, had it not been for the insertion of a notice in the Spanish papers by my friend Colonel Elorza at my request, in order to stimulate the exertions of others, in all probability they would to this hour have been ignorant of the existence of this singular specimen of the European fauna. The only specimen they had was a very small one and it was said to have been brought from northern Estremadura near the frontier of Portugal; I do not mean to say that it was not found there, but I had subsequently ample means of inquiry and no one had ever heard of its existing in that province; and as Temminck and others have the habit of assigning every species of doubtful or fabulous existence to Spain generally; so at Madrid they appear to quarter all such on Estremadura—

Digitized by Google

"Omne ignotum pro Estremense"—which the vast and unexplored districts of that province gave ample room to do. Dr. Daubeny had a commission to make some inquiries respecting certain bones of the great Megatherium which is the chief ornament of the Museum. It was hermetically closed in a glass-case with no door or means of getting to it, and the room is so dark where it is placed that without its being opened we could not properly examine it. They had, however, no wish that we should do so; but with national jealousy, which was not only pardonable but laudable in this instance, said they would send a regular report themselves. Professor Graells told me he had discovered a new genus, a sort of amphisbena in form but from his account more like one of the annelidæ in anatomy. It was found in a high dry mountainous situation as I understood and had been sent to Paris for examination.

M. Boissier had been at Madrid and had made in company with Senor Graells, a very successful botanical excursion in the Guadarrama range, discovering not only new species but a genus or two. Some of the Paris professors had also visited the capital, and I suspect that to this was owing some part of the arrangements we saw, and the information we received. It is however gratifying to find some move made at last in a department which has been so supinely neglected for the last fifty years as that of natural history. They had a few decent specimens

Digitized by Google

of Felidæ, which chiefly proceeded from the deaths at the menagerie of Ferdinand at the Retiro; the principal part of which have passed in the course of nature to the Museum. There is a rather good collection of American birds which came from the apartments of one of the Infantes at the palace.

The mineralogical cabinet and lectures I was glad to find still in the management of my friend Professor Garcia who, although now a great age, is fresh and vigorous and likely to survive many more changes than those which have already passed over his head.

The Public Library, which is in a convent near the palace has been considerably augmented in bulk by the suppression of the convents, the contents of the libraries of which have been transferred to it. Indeed they told me that they were overflowing and had not near the space requisite for the books in their possession. The greater part of these additions unfortunately are monkish theology, and other lore which have now few readers; whilst, from the want of funds the great desiderata of modern books of science and reference present many dreary blanks. Nothing can be conducted with greater attention, liberality and kindness than this establishment nor with more order and regularity. The head, when I was there was Senor Martin de los Heros who was a refugee in this country, and who was also intendant of the Queen's household under the government of the Regent.

Digitized by Google

Easter occurred during my stay, and was kept in the usual manner with at least as much solemnity as in the ancient time, though with less luxury of expense and parade. There was a full and most zealous attendance on the part of the clergy by whom nothing was omitted to keep the people in the ancient line of devotion, nor were their exertions left unheeded. I visited a great number of churches and in every instance found them crowded. There was a great deal of music and as it generally is in Spain, excellent, especially in the splendid chapel at the palace which I attended regularly and never heard better selections or better performance: the music there is in files belonging to the establishment and has been chiefly composed by the different masters who have presided in it.

A circumstance occurred during the festival, shewing how little the religious and decorous habits of the people have been altered by the late changes which, you are sometimes told, have destroyed all sense of them. The same etiquette as to carriages prevails as at Naples and none are allowed to perambulate the streets during the most solemn part of the week, with the exception of the couriers and public diligences for which a special order of exemption was issued. A lady of the highest rank, attached to the court who lives in a retired quarter near the palace, thought that her station and position in society would excuse her departing from the order, and set out in her carriage to proceed to

Digitized by Google

the palace. She had hardly left her house before cries were heard in the street; the populace assembled, threatening to stop the carriage, and she had the greatest difficulty to pass without being compelled to turn back and proceed on foot like the rest of the community.

From the want of a cathedral and a rich cabildo Easter was never kept at Madrid with the same solemnity as at Seville, Toledo, Valencia, Zaragoza, Santiago, and other places with large ecclesiastical establishments. Owing to the sequestration of the church property, funds were wanting to celebrate the ceremonies with the usual solemnity in those towns; but so far was the Government of the Regent from discontinuing the old custom, that the civil authorities were ordered from the public funds to supply certain sums to make up the deficiency; and from what I heard the festival was kept with the greatest solemnity in every part of the country.

In the Corte or metropolis the principal external ceremony was a grand procession on Good-Friday, which started from St. Thomas the great church of the national guard before mentioned. After perambulating the principal streets it halted at the armoury, which forms the side of the quadrangle opposite the great front of the palace. On a signal given by the Queen who with her sister was on the balcony, it advanced and the figures successively defiled before them.

Digitized by Google

It was composed of seven groupes or pasos, representing the Passion, which were borne on men's shoulders in the following order, 1. The Mount of Olives, represented by a rocky mount, with part of an olive tree in the front, and the Saviour clad. 2. The scourging; two lusty soldiers performed the operation, who being nearly naked and extremely good sculpture and well painted, were perhaps not the most delicate subjects for the inspection of young ladies. 3. The leading to crucifixion; 4. the Saviour alone and mourning. The expression in this figure was very great and even painful to look at. 5. The crucifixion; 6. the descent; 7. the Virgin alone and mourning over the event. These pasos successively halted and faced round as they came under the balcony, making a short pause which must have rather relieved the bearers who were evidently suffering under the weight of their burdens.

The assemblage of people was very great and their demeanour orderly and quiet in the extreme. The day was fine but towards the close of it a dense mass of cloud which had been forming to the west began to discharge its contents, obliging the crowd to fly for shelter to the arcades of the palace. So magnificent is the scale of this edifice that there was ample room for the whole concourse and abundance to spare. No precaution was taken excepting to place a sufficient number of men at the foot of the great staircase which leads to the royal

Digitized by Google

apartments, to prevent the crowd rushing up in case of its taking that direction. The whole vast area of the interior was left entirely free, and I could not help being struck with the contrast between this real royal magnificence and the wretched abortions we call palaces in London, and the careful exclusion of even a single individual, should our uncertain climate make it necessary to seek a temporary shelter near them.

My attention was called by an illustrated advertiser published every morning to a curious chapel, known by the name of the Obisbo, (Bishop.) It adjoins the parish church of St. Andrews in a remote district to the south of the palace. It is a good building and with the exception of the church of St. Geronimo in the Prado, is the only edifice of pointed architecture in Madrid. The retablo of the great altar is of wood and of indifferent sculpture. The tomb of the bishop appeared to be of alabaster and the principal figure is good, but the accessaries bad. The prelate was of a noble family at Placencia and figured in the council of the Catholic kings. I could not ascertain the date of the chapel but it was probably built before the notable idea occurred of making this wretched site the capital of the monarchy.

The whole of the palace with the exception of the small portion occupied by the Queen and her sister, is now shewn to strangers by an order. There was formerly a difficulty in seeing the suites of

Digitized by Google

apartments in possession of the younger branches of the royal family, which, being removed by their absence the general effect of the spacious edifice is better seen. It is more than doubtful, on the whole, whether any palace in Europe can be compared with it; Caserta, to which it bears some resemblance in scale, is very far inferior to it in the interior. There is a general style, proportion and keeping truly royal throughout, which give it the most decided advantage over all I have seen. There are some good frescos of Mengs; and they pointed out the portrait of the celebrated Madrileña who served latterly as model and subject in many of his best pictures. She is painted as a nymph with very little drapery and her form must have been as perfect as a Grecian model ever produced. The story they tell is that she was the daughter of a washerwoman at Madrid and that he was married to her; but I find no account in his life of his having had a Spanish wife.

In one of the suites there is a grotto and garden with artificial plants of considerable size which, although cockney to the last degree, must be a delicious retreat in the sultry days of summer. All the paintings of value formerly in this and the other palaces, have by the most laudable generosity of the late king been removed to the Museum, leaving comparatively little excepting tables and furniture which require little exertion to examine. The tour of the vast and numerous suites which form this

Digitized by Google

splendid residence requires both time and attention.

One of the greatest curiosities in this palace was undoubtedly the Countess of Mina, who was aya or governess to the Queen and charged with the principal superintendence of her education. The seeing the simple and unpretending daughter of a merchant installed in the office of preceptress to the representative of the proud race of Spanish Bourbons would have been probably a legitimate excuse for seeking an introduction to her; but I should have hardly broke in upon the scanty leisure afforded by her very serious occupations, without some previous claim to do so. I had made the acquaintance of her husband and herself when he was living in a small house at Plymouth, an exile from the country he had served better than perhaps any cotemporary, suffering from the wounds he had received in making the only real resistance offered to the iniquitous invasion of 1823, of which he never entirely recovered and finally died in the flower of his age. I found the Countess much improved in health and appearance since that time, when the sufferings and ill-usage of her husband had deeply marked her countenance. Her stature is rather below the middle size and her person stout, with an abundance of the blackest hair simply dressed; eyes very large, dark and fuller than usual even in this classic land of them and beaming with intelligence. Her forehead and lower part of the face are re-

Digitized by Google

markable for their development, and an admirable study for the phrenologists, who would pronounce them models as indicating firmness of character. Her constant costume is the deepest black, which completely covers her person, and when she accepted the appointment it was stipulated that she should never be required to lay it aside. The only ornament she wore was a simple but rather massy gold chain and cross, which had a singularly good effect in relieving the mass of deep black; and her manner, noble and serious, bordering on the severe at first sight, made her the beau ideal of a lady abbess. Such is the portrait of this distinguished lady, whom as an historical personage and in her public capacity, it may be allowed to sketch. The conversations I had with her, turned on general subjects, as I of course avoided making any allusion to the Queen, or her own very arduous situation, and I obtained the particulars respecting that part, from other sources. One subject, however, was not tabooed, that of the "noche triste," as it may well be called, when the Queen was attacked in the palace.

Madame Mina was very fortunately present the whole time; and I never listened with greater or more deep-felt interest to any thing, than to her plain, unaffected and pathetic recital of that strange event. As no regular account that I am aware of, has been given of that most curious specimen of the history of these times, some details of it will be given in the subsequent chapter.

Digitized by Google

Besides occasional receptions of those persons whom she had occasion to see, Madame Mina had a small tertulia or reception, for an hour in the evening, after she had in the regular routine, left her royal charge for the night. It must be observed, that her situation was purely that of governess and superintendent of the education, quite independent of the regular attendants who waited on the Queen in the usual manner of court etiquette. These receptions were unluckily suspended soon after my arrival, owing to the illness of the teniente aya or under governess. This lady was the daughter of General Blake, so well known in the war of independence; her functions then devolved on the head of the department, in addition to those which were properly her own. From her kindness I had every opportunity of seeing the Infantas although they held no public receptions, nor were there any personal introductions to them, and by an order from her to the alcalde of that part of the Alcazar as it is still officially called, I was shewn the scene of operations of the attack of October.

Her confidential attendant was exactly such a person as might be expected to be attached to such a mistress. She was a Navarra, or native of Navarre and introduced by the General himself; the Countess being a native of Coruña. As the Countess was frequently with the Queen, I occasionally saw this person who was a model of her class, of the old Spaniard and of a cast of character peculiar to the country.

Digitized by Google

One day I was waiting for the return of a messenger who had been sent to the alcalde and engaged in conversation with this person, when suddenly without the least warning the casement of the window, which opened on the leads of the palace, burst open, and in "popped" a Spanish "Paul Pry" about the most cool and impudent fellow I ever saw, decently dressed, but in style so "indefinido," that I could not even conjecture to what class of life he belonged. I am not aware who he expected to find there or what was his object; but he knew no one and had not the slightest ground for his most impertinent intrusion; being a little disconcerted by way of recovering himself he drew the damsel to one side and began talking to her in a low voice. She listened very patiently and as soon as she had heard his address, replied aloud: "I know nothing at all about you; you say you are a Navarro and may be so; but you have not the manners of one. In that country they are frank and honest and do not seek to gain their ends and circumvent people by employing flattering and unmeaning compliments." A dialogue then ensued between them, exactly like a scene in one of their comedies; and it is almost unnecessary to add entirely at the expense of the intruder, whom the railleries of the female made to cut a most ridiculous figure. I was so much amused that my anger soon subsided. The first impulse was to interfere, and order the fellow out; but this, although

Digitized by Google

it might be practised in other countries, would not have been Spanish fashion and it was more incumbent on me in a strange house to wait the result before meddling in it. At length he withdrew; but to carry through his part completely, he hovered about and when I had entered the apartments, he addressed the alcalde, and contrived to obtain permission to follow in the rear. With this I of course had nothing to do, nor do I know what arguments he used. No doubts he represented himself as a friend of Madame Mina, or possibly of myself.

Whatever may have been the faults and failings of General Mina during his chequered and varied career, they are now buried with him; whilst his great services will secure him a long and bright page in Spanish history; and no Spaniard probably in any station assisted so materially in producing that splendid event in our history—the expulsion of Napoleon from Spain. The virulent and mistaken abuse with which he was assailed in this country, fell with greater severity from his great sensibility to the kind and noble manner in which he was treated during his residence here. Such was the effect of it, that the Countess told me (almost prophetically) if any thing should cause her to leave her country, she hoped to pass the remainder of her days in England. This sentiment is very general amongst the Spanish refugees who were here, and different from those of the French,

Digitized by Google

who had much greater reason to be grateful, and who in general, the instant they returned to Paris, ranged themselves amongst the most bitter of the Anglophobists.

General Mina died, and was buried in great pomp at Barcelona. Nothing could be more flattering than this mode of paying the last earthly honour, and it would have amply satisfied the relatives in most countries, but it failed in this instance. The peculiar feeling of local attachment which I pointed out in my previous work, as one of the leading characteristics of the genuine Spaniard, burned with more than usual ardour in the heart of his widow. She determined that after a time the hallowed remains of her adored consort should be transferred to her native town and deposited in a chapel to be built by her for the purpose of receiving them. There were very great difficulties in effecting this purpose as the Catalans declared that his remains belonged to them, and could not be removed. They said he had not only defended the province against the French troops, in 1823, but had not yielded until overpowered and nearly wounded to death; that in the war of Don Carlos he had taken command of it, when from the Pyrenees to the sea it was one scene of pillage, of rapine, murder, violation, and every horror that could be committed; and in a very few months by his talents and energy, it was reduced to perfect order and tranquillity. In short, they said that his history was

Digitized by Google

indelibly written and mixed up in the records of Catalonia and that his remains ought to rest there. The ecclesiastical authorities were of the same opinion, and from other reasons opposed the exhumation, because neither records nor traditions afforded any precedent for it. The people of Navarre also put forward a claim, probably stronger in fact than any other, to the bones of their distinguished countryman; but her perseverance was at length crowned by success, and the sacred deposit was removed to Galicia.

The appointment of Madame Mina to the responsible situation she held, took place after the accession of the Duke of Victoria to the Regency. During the early part of the time, after the death of Ferdinand, it was held by the Dowager Duchess of Santa Cruz. The objections to this lady were, that she was of the old school—an advocate of absolute power—and in the French interest. A certain neighbouring personage was known to be extremely sensitive as to the bias the royal mind should receive; and the Gobernadora (Queen-mother), during her management, was considered to be strongly inclined to support his views. It must be admitted by all who know them, that the old school of female education of grandees of Spain and of Infantas of the Spanish Bourbons, was not exactly suited to a very young lady, who had the prospect of governing a rather curious country, constitutionally, at an early period of her life; and it

Digitized by Google

is not very much to be wondered at that the able men who were connected with the Regent, thought it advisable to step out of the beaten track, and secure, while there was yet time, a little foundation of solid knowledge for a person by whom such arduous functions were shortly to be discharged. It must also be allowed that if the charges against the personage alluded to in this particular be true, and that he wished his connection to be brought up in the peculiar manner which was the fashion during the time of the "Re neto," when the court confessor had the chief hand in governing the monarchy, that the course he recommended for his poor relatives differs widely from that he pursues with his own family. They are brought up very differently: and it certainly does appear that in the office he has taken on himself of "Protector" of the Spanish branch, much as Napoleon was "Protector" of the Germans, he might have put them into better hands than those they have now reverted to, this being a leading object in effecting the revolution of 1843. He knows far too much about education to have placed his own daughters under such gouvernantes as he provides for these poor Infantas. Probably he may have considered that the providing a suitable companion educated on his own plan, would make up any deficiency in the female branch, and that as dissimilar tempers are said often to produce the most lasting friendships, he may have thought the same principle in education might

Digitized by Google

be applied to royal consorts. Certain it is, that the neglecting or rather improperly educating her children, was one of the heaviest and too well-founded charges against Christina, and it was not only a subject of serious and just consideration to the *Spanish* party at Madrid, but strong representations were made to government upon it.

The receiving such an appointment, unsolicited and unexpected, will always reflect the greatest honour, not only on Madame Mina herself, but on those who conferred it on her. It was given solely from the perfect knowledge every one had of her unshaken attachment and fidelity to her husband, and to the natural and acquired talents and solidity of mind she was universally known to possess. As to rank, her husband when he died, was grandee of Spain, although born a simple labrador or yeoman. Of course Madame Mina was principally charged with the female part of the Queen's education; the more regular studies were under the superintendence of Arguelles, of whom it is unnecessary to speak, as he is well known in this country and is the ablest and best probably of all the Spaniards. The mathematical preceptor was Senor Lujan, a very distinguished officer of artillery, a leading man in the ministry at the time I was there.

Like every other person in similar circumstances, the aya was assailed by the most bitter calumnies, and other emanations of jealousy and ill-will when her appointment took place. I had opportunities

Digitized by Google

of hearing pretty nearly all that could be urged on the subject from those opposed to her who were rather numerous, and no charge worth repeating ever came to my knowledge. One specimen may be given to shew the nature of them. It will be admitted that there was nothing very objectionable or unreasonable, in a woman who had gone through the vicissitudes she had experienced, of a serious frame of mind and cherishing the strongest feeling of attachment and respect for the memory of her husband, choosing to wear black for the remainder of her life. This was construed into a misdemeanour, and I have heard her called a "Santarona," or affected saint, as we should call it. Of course the people who make these accusations, in general estimate others by their own feeling and acting, were they in similar situations, and they are by no means noticed as peculiar to Spain, but unfortunately are too common everywhere.

Digitized by Google

CHAPTER III.

TRANSACTIONS AT THE PALACE, IN OCTOBER 1841.

THE particulars about to be related, respecting the attack on the palace, were obtained from many sources, chiefly official; those relating to the Queen and the persons shut up with her, from Madame Mina herself.

I had the advantage of seeing the scene of action exactly as it had been left after the event; not the smallest repair having taken place. No doubt as the parties who figured on that occasion are now in dutiful attendance upon her Majesty, they have taken care that these rather awkward reminiscences, which are on the direct road to the besa mano, are externally at least, obliterated.

After the termination of the civil war, when the charge and education of the Queen had devolved on the Duke of Victoria, one of the first objects was to select an efficient guard for the royal person. Most of those formerly employed about the palace were worn out, or compromised in various ways, and it was only natural and right for such a service to have a body on whom personal dependence could be placed, as well as on their attachment to the new order of things. With this view, two hundred serjeants were

Digitized by Google

picked from the whole army, and the sacred duty imposed on them with the title of alabarderos (halberdiers). They were placed under two officers, Colonel Dulce, of the cavalry, and Lieutenant-Colonel Barrientos, who had only the respective ranks of lieutenant and serjeant in this sacred band, and their duty was the immediate guard of the royal apartments and avenues leading to them. Their guard-room, which is the ante-room first entered from the head of the grand staircase, is called the Sala de Armas. By the regulations, one-third of this little corps ought always to have been on duty; but "Cosas de España," when the disturbance broke out, there were only the two officers and seventeen privates present! The rest were in the town, some at supper or various other engagements. It was about the time of relieving guard, which in any other country would have caused an extra number rather than a deficient one to be in attendance.

At half-past seven in the evening of the 7th of October, 1841, the sentinels reported vivas and other noises in the inner patio or quadrangle of the palace. Colonel Dulce immediately descended the stairs to ascertain what was the cause; but before he reached the lower landing he was met by a detachment of the regiment of the Princesa headed by a subaltern, who were marching up. He immediately questioned the officer as to his object but received an evasive and insignificant answer. He then ordered him instantly to halt his men or he would

Digitized by Google

run him through. The answer was the opening a fire by the soldiers, when he retreated to his post in the Sala de Armas and prepared for defence. The great staircase leads up directly from one of the principal entrances of the palace; it is wide and noble something like that at Naples, and has a double flight of steps; at the top it is crossed by a spacious landing-place partly glazed, in the rear of which is the door of the Sala de Armas. This door is in the centre and is of considerable size, with marble jambs, and is covered by a "mampara," or moveable stuffed screen, similar to those used in the churches to exclude the cold wind. They left the mampara in its place and closed the wooden door so as to leave just the room necessary to fire through. As soon as Colonel Dulce was inside, the firing commenced and continued on both sides for some time. The soldiers retired to the bottom of the stairs, whence they kept up a heavy fire at the door-way, the sides of which and the mampara prove very decidedly that they were in earnest, which the incredibly small damage done to the persons on either side, would scarcely lead one to suppose they were. The reasons for the loss being so trifling were these: the centre part between the two flights at the top of the stairs, is covered by a stone balustrade; this, and the angle made by the floor, prevented the shots of the alabarderos striking the men at the bottom, who were below the line of fire. On the other side, the alabarderos were completely

Digitized by Google

screened by the mampara through which they fired, and not a particle of them was visible; had they attempted to storm the head of the stairs under the steady fire of old soldiers like these who were masters of their weapons, every man must have fallen as soon as he shewed himself on the upper steps. The assailants, no doubt, were ignorant of the number actually inside; and had the whole guard of sixty such men been present, they were capable of defending that locality against almost any number. The incessant fire kept up was not calculated to remove any doubts they might have on the subject, as it made the number appear much greater than it really was.

There are other considerations which probably may have influenced the storming party on this occasion. Colonel Napier very properly urges, as one of the causes of the failure of the army of Napoleon, "the iniquity of the cause;" this may possibly have occurred to some of them when the fire was opened, which was, for reasons hereafter to be mentioned, hardly expected. The greatest military calculator of this or any age, has left for the benefit of posterity, a formula, gained by long experience, of the results of the various iniquitous enterprises he was engaged in during his eventful career. In this document the ratio the moral and physical force of an army bear to each other are assigned; but I do not recollect, and it cannot now be propounded for his decision, what is the proportion in case of soldiers attacking their

Digitized by Google

Sovereign, in his or her own palace. It would no doubt, be given considerably against them, and in favour of the defenders; but whatever be the causes and it is probable those assigned may have formed a material part of them, the soldiers of the Princesa, who have left their names in Spanish history as the actors in this outrageous scene, did not persevere in attempting to force the staircase, contenting themselves with doing the best they could from below. The fire was kept up with such vigour that after twelve, when General Leon arrived, he could not make himself heard by the alabarderos, even with the assistance of a trumpet. After that, however, it slackened and only occasional shots were fired during the latter part of the night, and those principally from the inside, to shew that the defenders were still ready in case of the attack being resumed.

In the mean time the noises in the patio which had alarmed the guard, were caused by the arrival of the regiment of the Princesa, to whom it appears the outer gates of the palace had been opened by the concerted retreat of the guards who occupied them, under the command of an officer called Marquezi. General Concha was in plain clothes but had his sword drawn, and gave all the orders; simultaneously with the attack on the staircase he occupied, with part of the regiment, the great glass gallery, (galeria de cristales). This is a spacious glazed gallery, which runs all round the interior patio, or court of the palace on the principal floor;

Digitized by Google

upon this some windows open from the royal apartments, but they are strongly barred with iron and excepting some shot marks, one of which penetrated, it does not appear that any real attempt was made to force them.

General Concha made one of the alabarderos prisoner, who was out at supper and kept him by his side for some time, when he contrived to escape, and repaired to the barracks, as it was impossible to effect his entrance into the Sala de Armas. This man heard him give orders to certain companies to occupy the Sala de Armas, which he then felt confident of forcing. Soon after twelve General Leon arrived, in the showy scarlet uniform of hussars of the Princesa, fully decorated, and took command. According to his own account, he went to the foot of the great staircase and called to the alabarderos to discontinue firing, lest they should alarm the Queen! The result of his consulting with Concha was, however, that they both very soon took to flight; Leon effected his escape into the country, but was taken at Colmenar, a few miles distant. Concha hid himself under a dry arch of one of the bridges over the Manzanares,—a use the planners of that structure little thought it would be applied to. As his cautious character led him to calculate might be the case, being in plain clothes he passed unnoticed, and took refuge at the Danish embassy, whence in a few days he emerged and was conveyed from another embassy to "head-quarters" at Paris.

Digitized by Google

The casualties on this occasion were very small; and if, as already observed, there were not abundant proofs that the parties were serious, these operations might be ranked with some which occurred during the war, or with those in fashion with Neapolitan troops. One of the alabarderos was wounded, one or two of the men of the Princesa, and a captain of the national guard mortally.

We must now pass to the interior of the royal apartments to hear what happened there whilst these scenes were taking place outside.

Madame Mina had retired to her rooms for the night, rather earlier than usual, when she heard the cries in the patio, which had alarmed the guard. Too familiar with such sounds from her long attendance on her husband to doubt the nature of them, she instantly descended the stairs leading to the glass gallery and made her way to the great entrance of the royal apartments, arriving at the staircase just as the first volley was fired from below and the alabarderos were forming for the defence. She made for a private door which opens on a side gallery to the left, but there was considerable difficulty in making those inside hear her, and whilst she was knocking at it, the shots were flying and breaking the glass of the windows which enclose that gallery and are seen from the lower landing, so that she was in the most imminent danger of being struck. At last they heard her, and she was admitted. She found the Princesses and all the

Digitized by Google

ladies in-waiting with the music-master; the only man who appears to have been of the party. The Infantas were in the greatest alarm, not having the least idea, nor had any of the party, of the nature or object of the firing. After some little time they succeeded in calming their agitation, when, on the proposal of the younger sister, they knelt down to prayers. They then placed them both in the Queen's alcoba, and at half past ten prevailed on them to lie down, but without undressing.

Very fortunately the ladies had, at the commencement of the disturbance, closed and bolted all the doors and windows. Soon after they had lain down, a shot came in from the glass gallery, breaking the hinge of the casement and lodging in the wooden shutter. The direction was exactly that of the Queen's bed, and had the shutters not been closed, fatal consequences might have been the result. The Queen and her sister were frightened by this, and rose from their beds, going into the saloon. They were completely isolated and cut off in the apartments, being unable to move in any direction and tried a door which communicates with the suite belonging to the Infante Don Francisco; but it was closed so completely, that without instruments, with which they were unprovided, it was impossible to open it. They then placed mattresses upon the floor, at the angle of the alcoba, so that the Infantas having the protection of both walls lay down, and after some time becoming composed, fell asleep.

Digitized by Google

The poor children were hungry, and asked for supper; but there was nothing to give them, and from two in the afternoon of the 7th, until eight in the morning of the 8th, they had not tasted any food.

At two another shot came into the adjoining room, and alarmed the party; but no mischief was done. They had some communication through the key-holes with Colonel Dulce and the alabarderos on duty, who wished the door to be opened, that they might defend the royal person more effectually; but Madame Mina thought this imprudent, and that in case of extremities the Queen would, by such arrangement be still more exposed to danger, and declined the generous offer.

The windows which open on the glass gallery enabled them to see the troops of Concha distinctly as they passed and repassed but the most imminent danger they were placed in, is yet to be described. Below the grand floor of the palace is an entresol from which there is a private staircase, leading directly up to the royal apartments, which access had been closed up previously; I rather think by the desire of Madame Mina herself. The revolters were aware of it existence, and when the attack in the front had failed, tried to effect an entrance by that. They were distinctly heard sawing a partition which was part of the barrier to the entrance below, and at one time they thought the discovery of the stairs inevitable. At this time the Countess told me she felt it her duty to rouse the Queen and pre-

Digitized by Google

pare her for the worst, dictating to her the manner in which those who should enter were to be addressed. The intention was, when they should arrive at the inner door, to open it for fear of greater violence, and admit them.

Soon after six, all firing having ceased and the galleries having been cleared, the Intendente of the palace arrived, and afterwards the Regent and other authorities. The Queen was then conducted to the hall of Ambassadors, to receive the compliments of the crowd, who had assembled from all quarters; and it is said the scene when she appeared on the balcony, was one of the most interesting ever witnessed.

There are several observations to be made on this extraordinary transaction. The real leader and director was General Concha, the ostensible head, but in reality the tool, was General Leon, who was a brave and active soldier, a sort of Murat, with many of the qualities and failings of that personage, being vain and credulous, and chivalric in his bearing. Being extremely liked in the army, and after the Regent himself, about the most prominent character in it, he was selected as the best object to put in the front. The crafty set who managed this most nefarious business, well knew his weakness and persuaded him that the Regent was jealous of him and wished to take his life, consequently he rarely went out, and always fully armed. He appears to have laboured under a yet stranger delu-

Digitized by Google

sion, and to have thought that they intended to abduct him, carry him off from Madrid, and shoot him on the road! He not only received anonymous letters to that effect, but met people who, he declares in his defence, communicated it orally to him. So little was the Regent inimical to him, that a very short time before the event took place, he sent for him and remonstrated on his not coming to the levees as usual and his fallen manner, which he attributed to losses at play, a weakness he shared in common with too many of the Spanish officers, saying, "I know you have been losing lately, and may be put to inconvenience; here is money, and do not let it distress you." This shews the character of the Regent exactly, and I believe it was the last personal intercourse they had. Independently of the part he took on the night of the 7th, by appearing in full state to take command of the revolted troops, a despatch he addressed to the Regent made his execution a matter of inevitable necessity, as it would in any country in the world. In this curious document he calls on him to yield quietly to the army which had passed to O'Donnel in the northern provinces, and was about to follow in all the rest of Spain. After the most insulting and opprobrious language, he ends by saying that this letter is the last proof of his friendship! He complains of this being produced against him in evidence, being rather a private communication than a public one! His claim to acquittal was founded

Digitized by Google

very much on his having called to the alabarderos, as mentioned before, lest they should alarm the Queen! This appeal was made at half past twelve, when the attack had failed and the firing had lasted more than four hours! It appears he set out from some retired quarter where he lived incognito, and sent for his horse on his road to the palace. He gives a good military reason for being in uniform, that he thought it the proper costume on such an occasion; but Concha was of a different opinion, and no better trait need be given of the different characters of the men.

His defence was conducted by Roncali, who is now figuring as Captain-General of Valencia, and has been ordered in the Carlist fashion, to execute his prisoners by the present government; every thing was done to save his life; but pardoning him was quite out of the question. Petitions were drawn up and sent to the battalions of the national guard; but they were torn across, and the only signature I believe obtained, was that of Captain Guardia, who, with a feeling natural and laudable in his dying moments, affixed it; not another man would do so, although that numerous body represents every shade of political and other opinions.

He had for some time been rather more than strongly suspected by the Government and had obtained leave to reside in France for four months, on condition of his not going beyond Bordeaux. He was making arrangements for thispurpose, when the

Digitized by Google

business broke out, which was probably precipitated by that very cause.

It will naturally be asked, Where was the Regent during the attack? The head of the Government and of the military force, why was he not at the palace to succour and relieve the Queen? The answer is very simple. Although the Government were aware that something was in course of preparation, and that General Leon was concerned, they neither knew the extent nor precise object of it. It broke out in the night, and was entirely in the hands of the military; nor could it be known which corps were to be engaged or which to be depended on. There is no doubt that one of the first objects in case of their success, would have been to put the Regent out of the way, and if he had sallied out into the streets, his life might have been taken by the first detachment he met with, possibly by one posted for the purpose. Common prudence, his duty to the Queen and the responsibility which entirely rested on himself, dictated his remaining and giving orders from his palace, until more certain information and the approach of daylight enabled him to leave it with propriety.

To shew the difficulty of his situation under the circumstances he was placed in, it is only necessary to state that General Concha was the leader of the insurrection. Who is General Concha? The brother-in-law of Espartero, married to the sister of his

Digitized by Google

wife; living on terms of the greatest intimacy with him, as it is the custom of relations to do in Spain; an inmate of his house, planning the scheme at least his part of it under the very roof, probably turning over the details when seated at his own table!

Another singular circumstance took place. Buenavista was soon filled with fugitives, amongst whom were parties who had been in the most bitter opposition to the Regent, and had indirectly given encouragement to the attempts against his authority, though probably without any intention of so doing. Others were there, who had really taken part in the proceedings, and some ex-officers of the guards, who had used all their influence to induce their men to join the mutiny, after it failed, fled for shelter to the house of the Regent himself! They were actually arrested in his palace, warrants having been issued after their criminality was discovered!

These are strange occurrences; but it is a strange country, and light and shade are frequently in strong opposition. It is like a picture of Caravaggio. We have the parties just described on one side of the canvas; and on the other, Madame Mina, Colonel Dulce and the alabarderos.—Spain afrancesada; and Spain ancient, pure and national.

The reason of the regiment of the Princesa being so much compromised, was, that General Concha had commanded it in the civil war. He was a brave and good officer, the men were much

Digitized by Google

attached to him, and with the ignorance and credulity of the lower class of Spaniards, too readily yielded to his solicitations, to join in this enterprise. Strange as the transaction is, the arguments used to persuade them to join are not less so. They were told that the Queen was in the greatest danger, that those in charge of her person had, or were about to sell or transfer her to the Carlists; and they went to the attack under the idea of rescuing her sacred person from such treasonable attempts!!

With the exception of that regiment and the guards on duty, few other troops were concerned. The government were previously aware of the disaffection of the officers in some battalions of the guards, and several of them were removed in consequence. These officers went to the barracks in plain clothes, and endeavoured to prevail on the men to join them, but were badly received, and on their return upon the same mission, were either fired on, or threatened to be so by the soldiers. These were the parties alluded to, who took refuge at Buenavista. There were others, however, whose conduct was rather suspicious, and who it may be supposed would have joined the mutineers, had the attack succeeded.

General Leon, who was well acquainted with the guards, was entrusted with the charge of bringing them over to the conspiracy. I believe from what has been stated, it is not at all improbable this office had been imposed on him from the difficulty and risk it was attended with, as it was known that the men were

Digitized by Google

not disaffected. To shew how completely the government thought the blame was exclusively with the officers, none of the soldiers, or even of the sergeants of the Princesa were tried—very few examples were made; amongst them were the commandant of the Princesa, and I think the officer who was ascertained to be privy to the mounting the Queen on horseback.

Poor Leon, whom it is impossible not to pity after the account I have given of him, passed his last days at St. Thomas, under charge of the national guard, and died as he had lived, like a brave man.

The plan of the conspirators was, that the Queen, after being taken out of the Palace, should be covered with a capa! and mounted on the crupper of a horse behind an officer called Fulgosio, one of those who surrendered with Maroto at the Convenio of Bergara! In this strange fashion the poor child was to have been carried off to Pamplona, or some part of the northern Provinces! It might be supposed the contrivers of this scheme, were well read in the history of the Kuzzilbashes and Turcomans, or that they were in the habit of reading assize reports of a certain country, where it still occasionally happens, that young ladies are mounted in the dead of night behind cavaliers, and carried off to distant quarters, with a view to their conveying their future portions to some other parties, who take no personal share in the business—leaving it to their friends, who manage it for them.

Digitized by Google

Amongst the other singularities of this melancholy and disastrous night was the appearance on the scene of a grandee of Spain, of Ducal rank, who was also a Major-General. He was put there no doubt with a view, in case of success, of his rank giving somewhat greater eclat to the proceeding, by his officiating as Mayor Domo to the poor little Queen. I have heard that he attempted at first to carry a high hand, and give orders to those on duty; but the answer was precisely similar to that in the famous scene between Sir R. Wilson, and the officer of the Blues, at the funeral of Queen Caroline.

He made his escape, and was for some days dodging about the houses in the Alcala, and probably would have made a last retreat to some foreign embassy. He finally got out of Spain, and rejoined his companions in another land.

It would certainly have been more decorous had they proposed to mount the Queen behind this personage, than behind a subaltern officer to whom she was unknown, and his followers might have provided more suitable covering for her than a military capa, probably just out of a guard-room, and not in the best condition to cover the royal person. He was tried, and only sentenced to imprisonment, but he had a narrow escape; for I have heard that Colonel Dulce declared after the trial, that if he had been asked ONE MORE question, the answer must have been fatal to him.

Digitized by Google

The defence set up for him is almost as singular as the transaction. His friends said he had as grandee of Spain, the entrée of the palace, and had a right to be there at any time, leaving the inference that he was passing by and might have dropped in by accident. He was a harmless, good-natured man, no doubt brought into the scrape by his vanity, and no sort of importance was attached to his conviction, otherwise he would probably not have escaped so easily. A singular history to have inserted in the records of an illustrious race, if it had turned out otherwise; the chief executed for attacking the Sovereign in her own palace! In that case, like the Doge of Venice, his portrait must have been represented by a blank.

Another noble family, (the Santa Cruz) were very seriously implicated in this business, although, I believe, none of them were personally engaged in the attack. The Marchioness had, for reasons already stated, been removed from the station of preceptress to the Queen, and her restoration to office was a leading feature in the plot. It was understood she was to take charge of her former duty, the instant the Queen was out of the palace, or as soon after as possible.

Other individuals of the family were concerned and obliged to fly; they were in the north of Spain some time, and were pardoned, as I have heard, at the personal request of our Minister.

Another question naturally offers itself, Should

Digitized by Google

the foreign embassies be considered sanctuaries in such cases as these?—It was the ancient usage in the more uncivilized times of Europe, and is still, no doubt, necessary amongst Mahometans and other barbarians; but it seems doubtful whether, on the whole, this practice produces more good or evil. Beyond all doubt in many cases the system favours intriguers and planners of such schemes as this, more than the quiet and regular part of the community. The hope of escape to one of these places in the last resource, acts as a powerful encouragement to many, who, if they had the laws of their own country merely to look to, would consider before they engaged in conspiracies, in which their own lives, as well as those of others, are concerned.

To any one who knows this people, with all their absurdities and inconsistencies, it is hardly necessary to observe, that this strange scheme is more exotic than Spanish in its character. There is no instance in the modern history of Spain of any personal violence being offered to the royal family; and in all their dealings, the same respect for persons is still preserved, and they are even jealous of any disrespect to the head of the State. The nature of it savours much more of the proceedings in a country where they are further advanced in civilization than the Spaniards, and where storming of palaces is mere matter of course, and the last example not of very remote date. There is no question the orders came from Paris. The

Digitized by Google

cries of the mutineers, when they advanced to the attack, as proved by the witnesses at the trials, were "Viva Isabel, 2ª y *la Reyna Gobernadora.*" Leon admitted having had communications from her, although he seems principally to have been in connection with a kind of junta of officers; and his last despatch was written in her name. After the abduction of the Queen, the restoration of her authority was beyond all doubt the object of the conspiracy, and it is well known that she only waited the result to start for the frontiers.

It has been said that Leon was to be proclaimed Regent. It is possible that for a time they may have held out such a scheme, as a lure to his vanity, but he was used throughout merely as a tool, which his weakness made it comparatively easy to effect. As he was not of a character to have served the purposes of the planners of the scheme for any time, there is little doubt that after having attained them, he would have been laid aside and his place taken by some of those now at Madrid.

The next thing is, had the Gobernadora foreign advice or assistance in this scheme, in which she is historically the principal mover and object?—but this is sacred ground, we cannot enter on it,—every one must form their own opinions and conclusions. As the late Lord Eldon said, when he was accused of participating in the famous "strike:" there is no evidence that any jury would convict upon. It is pretty much the case here; and in absence of

Digitized by Google

proof we cannot give suspicions and conjectures. Those who succeed us may possibly know something more about it.

The comparative bloodless result of the contest, is in great measure to be attributed to the firmness and moderation of the Regent. Soon after the nature of the disturbance was known, the whole national guard assembled and marched to the palace. This body was composed of at least 10,000 men, with cavalry and artillery, and stood firmly and unanimously by the government. Besides this there were artillery and other troops to be depended on, and nothing could have been easier than to force the inner patio, which was in possession of the mutineers, and make a dreadful example of them, as they certainly deserved. Madame Mina herself told me, she certainly expected to hear some cañonazos, or discharges of artillery to clear the gateways, and was surprised at their silence. Independently of the extreme moderation and averseness to blood-shedding, and the determination to govern only by the law, which is the essence of the character of the Duke of Victoria, there were other reasons, which no doubt influenced him; the sanctity of the place, and the indecency of shedding blood in the palace, of which I believe there is no precedent in the modern history of Spain; moreover the security of the Queen's person. From the description given of the locality, it is clear that the insurgents having possession of the avenues to the royal apart-

Digitized by Google

ments on three sides, it was impossible to know how long the alabarderos might be able to maintain their post, and if they had succeeded at any time in gaining possession of the Queen's person, it is difficult to say what might have been the result, had a successful attack and the probability of a massacre, which they almost deserved, driven them to desperation. At all events, the situation of the Queen, which was sufficiently painful, must have been very much aggravated by a general and desperate fight immediately under her apartments.

Digitized by Google

CHAPTER IV.

PREPARATIONS FOR THE JOURNEY TO ESTREMADURA, AND ROUTE—ALMARAZ—TRUXILLO.

Whilst engaged in making these inquiries, we had not neglected the main object of our journey. I had been in constant communication with the authorities respecting the assistance we might require, and the information we could hope to obtain. After every inquiry had been made, and we had ransacked the library and other sources, we remained much in the same condition as to actual knowledge of the extent and situation of the phosphorite, as when we left England. We had, between written and oral accounts, every sort of choice to make, as to forming opinions on the probable state of the formation. The changes were rung upon veins, beds, primary and secondary formation, small deposits, or whole mountains, and towns built out of it. The very best authority in Madrid, and who gave me all the information in his power, stated, that he believed it to be a filon, or vein in the granite. Amongst these discordant statements, as no one had ever visited the spot, we soon came to the conclusion, that, in the total absence of all certain data, we must remain with our minds in the

Digitized by Google

happy state of a minister taking office, who declared his mind was a blank sheet of paper, ready for any sort of impression. I was convinced, which turned out to be the fact, that the whole superstructure of these accounts, many of which are absolutely fabulous, had been raised on the scanty materials left by Bowles, who travelled nearly a century ago, and made such reports as the state of chemical and other knowledge at that time admitted him to give. In this happy state of ignorance, which was so far agreeable as it left every thing to depend upon our own investigation, we prepared to set out. It was also satisfactory, as it shewed whatever might prove to be the economical value of the rock, that Dr. Daubeny had been justified in proposing a personal examination of it.

The best information I received was through the Countess Mina, who, immediately as I mentioned the object of my journey, recommended me to speak to Senor Lujan, who was a native of Estremadura and knew a great deal about the geology and other matters belonging to it, and who also she believed had some fossils.

I accordingly procured an introduction to him; and in an hour, which was as much as I ventured to trespass on the time of one who had very numerous functions to discharge, obtained more valuable information respecting his native province than from all the other sources I had tried at Madrid. The fossils he had were however not of much importance; and

Digitized by Google

like all the others he had not been at Logrosan, and was quite unacquainted with the situation of the phosphorite.

In consequence of what I learned from him I was enabled to make final arrangements with the authorities. With every wish for security and assistance, I had determined to ask for very little, and to give the least possible trouble to the government, who had quite enough to do, and who were acting under the most strict and malevolent surveillance in any thing where Englishmen were concerned.

I was quite satisfied by the accounts that the province generally was in its usual state of tranquillity; and that the quarter I was most apprehensive of to the south-east of Logrosan, towards La Mancha, was also quiet. This last district had even after the war, continued to be the scene of operation of the largest body of banditti which has appeared in Europe since the middle ages, under the name of the Army of the Centre of Don Carlos; and although I knew their little military organization had long ceased, and that the mass was quite broken up, I had apprehensions that some roving detachments might still exist; and as they were murderers as well as robbers and accustomed to every sort of rapine and violence, it was only right to take the necessary measures for our security in case of meeting with them.

As it was quite uncertain whither our investiga-

Digitized by Google

tion might carry us, and as Dr. Daubeny wished particularly to follow the formation in any direction which might lead nearer to the sea or to the Tagus, so that greater facilities might be given for the exportation, we had letters to the several heads of provinces on all sides. I also requested that they would write to the alcaldes of the villages in the neighbourhood to request their assistance in case we should require it. One reason for this was that in my former travels I have known a robbery take place at the gates of a place, and when the parties went to the alcalde that he might take some steps to arrest its perpetrators, it was found he was at his siesta and must not be disturbed. The consequence was, that by the time he was awake and had collected the realistas, some of whom were very probably the parties concerned and had selected their time for the purpose, all pursuit was out of the question.

A discussion took place one day at a party as to the policy of being armed or not in expeditions of this sort; there were a variety of opinions, some holding that the having arms was not unlikely to produce greater evils, by inducing the robbers to put themselves in ambush and fire without summons, and without giving the pleasant alternative of "a tierra! boca abajo!" before they commenced operations. There is a good deal of truth in this reasoning where regular banditti are concerned: like those before mentioned and those in Valencia, the

Digitized by Google

remains of the savages of Cabrera, and perhaps some of the Catalan bands who are quite as bad.

In the case of meeting gangs like these, of course no prudent person would risk throwing away his life for no purpose but to save a little baggage or a few dollars; but where ordinary travelling is concerned two or three muskets in a party will secure a free and unmolested passage anywhere, and reduces the chance of being robbed to a very small odds in the greater part of Spain, where rateros in little parties are most to be apprehended. This was my opinion formed after some little experience and knowledge of the country, and the sequel will prove the correctness of it. Arms accordingly formed part of our outfit. I had brought a gun with me, and Dr. Daubeny purchased one, which was given in charge of a servant we hired, who had served five years in the Queen's army during the war, and had been discharged from the effect of desperate wounds received at the battle of Chiva in Valencia, one of the performances of Cabrera. Our baggage was divided, the heavy part being left at Madrid and some sent forward to meet us at Seville.

Besides the official recommendations, we had some private letters for the places we expected to visit; and others were promised but somehow omitted to be sent, a circumstance which sometimes happens at Madrid. The important subject of the finances was not forgotten. The plan I followed during my former travels was to have a letter to a

Digitized by Google

principal house at Madrid where my operations centered. From thence they gave me recommendatory letters and orders, in case of need, to all the places they corresponded with; and if more were wanted they were supplied on the spot by the nearest local correspondent. I always followed this mode and should recommend it to any one who was a stranger and intended making any stay in Spain; as these branch letters are very often of great use in the remote districts; and I always found the people remarkably civil and obliging even when I did not require their pecuniary aid.

My old and valued friends, MM. Balmaseda, had retired from business during the civil war; but their house was continued by a successor M. Santiago Goya and Co., whose attentions were equally great and efficacious. Dr. Daubeny was less fortunate, and partly by my fault. I thought that in the unfrequented parts of the country two channels might be better than one; and that, in case of one correspondent being deficient, or not so intelligent and active as the other, he might be replaced on the other side. With this view I mentioned the house of O'Shea, and he was particularly introduced to them by his London Banker. As he followed exactly the same routine as myself he ought to have been equally well served; but at Cordova the merchant he was recommended to refused to give him money on his orders, although it had been already drawn at Madrid; and without a letter of

Digitized by Google

introduction I had procured for him when we parted at Almaden, he would have been put to delay and serious inconvenience. At Seville we were both referred, as it happened, to the house of Agreda, old friends of mine and the principal establishment there. The head told me that as he knew me, and I had introduced him, he would give him money, but that otherwise he would not have done so. How it happened I know not, but so it was as I have stated; and it is only to warn those who may adopt the same mode, which is the best, to be sure their letters are well given, and their directions properly attended to. It was of course extremely disagreeable, both to Dr. Daubeny and even more so to myself, who was the innocent cause by recommending those people.

There are two modes of managing this plan; one is by drawing in a lump at Madrid, and then simply taking orders for the amount. That was adopted in this instance and is probably better for a short tour, saving trouble and expense; but if you are upon one of long duration, like those I formerly made, it is better to take a letter from the house at Madrid to their correspondents, empowering them to cash your drafts in the usual manner. I think the country bankers prefer this mode of business, although they were always tied to send the bills to Madrid for negotiation there by the head house.

We left Madrid by the diligence of Badajoz at

Digitized by Google

an early hour, having taken our places to Truxillo, where we were to arrive on the evening of the third day. The distance is only 41 leagues, and ought to be made in much less time; but the road is bad and the administration the worst in Spain; they were never very good, but they had both retrograded considerably since I travelled on the line in 1831.

The coach is now scarcely ever filled, and as they informed me, the scanty profits are eaten up by a swarm of empleados. We had only two tiros, or relays of mules, for each day's work; and the mode of travelling was to start about two in the morning, pushing on as far as the first set could travel; we then halted to breakfast, when the next tiro took the coach, proceeding with it until the time of the evening halt; consequently we hardly ever went out of a walk. Every thing was on a proportionate scale; the coach wretched, being of small dimensions, in two divisions and without a coupe. It was quite full and we were extremely crowded; the party however were pleasant and agreeable people; and my opposite neighbour, a proprietor at Badajoz, one of the best informed men I met with in Spain; he was of the old school, and knew Lord Hill and other officers of that time.

Nothing can be more dreary than the country for many leagues on this road; the villages are badly built and far distant from each other; but the land is fertile, and there are signs of improvement in the agriculture. The women were

Digitized by Google

weeding the corn, a useful practice seen in few parts of Spain. There are a few spots, which with a little care on the part of the proprietors might assume a very different appearance. The fields in some parts are enclosed, an entirely new practice, which is commencing in many parts of Spain; and the advantages they derive from it are found to be considerable.

On the right as we advanced, were magnificent mountain views of the great central range which formed the back ground to fine open forest scenery of encinas (Spanish Ilex), and cork and other trees. In these parts the country could scarcely be exceeded in natural beauty or fertility; but excepting here and there a cortijo or farm and hunting place, this splendid region, of which the climate is almost if not the very best in Spain, and the soil fit for any sort of produce, is now only despoblado or uninhabited desert.

The produce consists of wheat, rye, barley, and garbanzos, the pulse of the country; wine and oil are in abundance, and nothing is wanted but a good government to assist the bounteous hand with which the gifts of providence have been showered on this beautiful region.

We dined at Talavera on the market day, but notwithstanding its being the natural capital of the finest part of this splendid valley, it is even beyond the usual lot of this country of wretched towns, poor, decayed and miserable, and as yet has not

Digitized by Google

participated in the movement visible in most other places under the new order of things; the pillage and devastation of the civil war cannot be pleaded in excuse, for the valley of the Tagus suffered comparatively little from them.

We passed a magnificent estate of the monks of the Escorial, just then advertised for sale; it is principally monte or forest, and is valued at three millions of reals, but will most probably produce double that sum, or 50 to 60,000 pounds.

The road was very bad throughout, but it became much worse as we approached the passage of the Tagus and large open cuts to carry off the water frequently crossed it. The approved mode of passing these places is by the Mayoral as he approaches them quickening the pace of the mules and jumping the carriage through them: the first time this operation was performed, when the low fore body entered the drain we were projected upwards like skyrockets, and our heads struck the roof with the greatest violence. Afterwards of course we took warning and held on when the quick pace announced what was to happen: the whole of the baggage and other materials deposited on the roof were displaced, and rolled over our heads like thunder in a country theatre.

On the third day we breakfasted at Almaraz, in a very bad posada as they all are on this road, and then proceeded to the ferry of the Tagus, where we were delayed some time. The diligence was

Digitized by Google

embarked without difficulty, but in the very landing place opposite, a huge galera was stranded on a sand bank thrown up by the river during a recent flood, which presented an insurmountable obstacle to our vehicle being debarked until it should be removed. The mayoral attached to it had attempted to drag his unwieldy machine up the steepest part of the bank and after imbedding his forewheels beyond the power of extrication, had unyoked his tiro and discharging a part of his cargo had gone coolly to "descansar" or repose in the huts at the back. The numerous passengers who were seated on their baggage in the shade, which the power of the sun made very agreeable, told me they had already been there three hours.

Our own mayoral having landed his tiro, set quietly to work to cobble the main axletree which was seriously damaged by the jolts of the preceding morning. A few herculean ferrymen, whose negligence in not clearing the landing place had caused the whole delay, were very deliberately scooping with their huge hands scanty portions of sand into small baskets and slowly emptying it into the river at some distance from the spot, and whilst thus engaged they gave us ample time to contemplate the scene around. The noble river was flowing past, a deep sea green, through bold rocks covered with cistus and other beautiful plants, and lighted up by a brilliant and unclouded sun. Contrasted with this splendour of nature were the works of Spanish

Digitized by Google

man. The stranded galera, and the occupation of our own mayoral with his crazy vehicle in hardly better plight; strings of bullock carts, mules and asses, which were arriving on both sides of the river and patiently waiting the denouement; a set of houses intended to be a town, founded many years since by the Prince of Peace, Godoyville as they would name it in the "States," but of which not a roof had ever been laid on; a ragged and half starved escort waiting to conduct us across the mountains; the noble bridge, not yet repaired although it had been broken down 30 years since, and is one of the arteries of the kingdom, now represented by a tiny floating bridge to convey the merinos across; a very large flock of these animals scampering across the rocks on the way to their summer pasturage in Old Castile, with their mayoral, zagales and dogs, followed no doubt at due distance by attendant wolves in readiness to pick up stragglers. These objects of nature and art grouped so well and were so entirely and exclusively Spanish that it was impossible not to be struck with them, and I made the observation to my fellow passengers, who like all the educated Spaniards are keenly alive to the absurd and ridiculous of their own country if properly brought before them; they entered warmly into it, and we agreed that whatever changes may have taken place elsewhere, they had not penetrated much into Estremadura. It was ancient Spain unchanged and unchanging.

Digitized by Google

At length the bank began to yield to the Liliputian labours of the huge Charons, and the respective authorities after holding a consultation, agreed to put the two tiros together and so clear the pass of the encumbrance which blocked it up. This operation lasted nearly an hour, and we fully expected it would end in breaking the harness and causing further delay; very fortunately however scarcely two of the 16 mules which were in a string could be made to work together, so that the strain on the gear amounted to very little, and after a shower of expletives had been expended the cumbrous machine moved on to the rocks, which was the line they had selected to conduct it by, and from thence it was conveyed to the road.

The bank which caused all this delay must have been there at least three or four weeks, and we were all of opinion that it was left purposely to favour the sale of bacallao drams of brandy and similar dainties which are kept in the miserable huts adjoining. The sand was exactly like that of the sea, being large grained almost pure and perfectly clean, and no doubt was brought down by the Alberche, a considerable feeder which we had crossed near Talavera. This stream and the Tietar which falls into the Tagus a little below Almaraz, drain this part of the great central chain which is chiefly of granite and certainly furnishes the quartz of which the sand is chiefly composed.

After many schemes and considerations, the Go-

Digitized by Google

vernment had determined to rebuild this celebrated bridge on the original plan which was bold and noble, although the arches were not of the improved modern form: the time of the contractors was of course limited, and was nearly expired, without one thing being done to carry it into effect, excepting the collecting some stones; it remained to be seen what steps would be taken to compel them. The mode now in general use in such cases is to let the repairs to individuals or companies of share-holders, who are indemnified by a toll levied on the bridge equal to that previously paid to the ferry. I did not hear the reason of the contract not being fulfilled, which is very seldom the case; but it probably proceeded from the parties finding they had made a bad bargain, and that the repairs had been estimated below the sum necessary to complete them.

The communication with Placencia, Coria, and other places lower down the country is from Almaraz, and part of the passengers left us there. They were young people of good family, and their relations came with horses and attendants to conduct them. The road was described as being extremely bad, being hardly practicable excepting for horses and there is a high range to cross before arriving at Placencia, which is generally unsafe like the whole of that neighbourhood, the robbers being harboured by the shepherds who attend the merinos and other flocks at their summer stations in the central range.

Digitized by Google

There is also a direct communication with Guadalupe and Logrosan, to which this is a good point of access from Madrid; the road is however very bad and little frequented, and we had several reasons for making Truxillo the point of departure from the great line of route.

Almaraz is a wretched village, and in this fine position commanding many roads and in a most magnificent country, is the sole representative of the noble city which in any other kingdom would occupy such a situation.

The road beyond the Tagus is excellent, and we soon ascended to the Puerto de Miravete, one of the wildest mountain passes in Spain and always famed as the resort of robbers, the vast forests and despoblados on every side fitting it admirably for the purpose. Our escort, composed of young soldiers of the line managed to keep up with us; and although after passing the puerto, the pace was accelerated very much, actually contrived to be at Jaraicejo the place of relay, at the same time with the diligence.

The greater part of the route to the pass is through Xaral, or ground covered by cistus, an Arab term, from Xara, the cistus, and is well applied to the favourite land of the tribe which we had now entered. There were four sorts in flower; the gum cistus, a large white variety without spots, a smaller white and which I thought was the Libanotis and the purple of our gardens. A beautiful furze just breaking into

Digitized by Google

flower in the warmer parts; retama or brooms of various kinds, and other shrubs not yet developed varied this interesting collection. After we had passed the puerto and began to descend, extensive forests, chiefly of Encina, succeeded, and the distance towards the Sierra de Guadalupe was extremely beautiful. In the woods where the trees approached the road, I was glad once more to see the Blue Pie (mohiño), with its lively motion and beautiful plumage, having as yet seen little of ornithology worthy of notice since entering Spain. I had not met with this species in the lower valley of the Tagus, although it is common about Madrid, and I first observed it in the neighbourhood of the Escorial. I passed through this line of country in 1831, but in bad weather and in a dreary and inclement season, and was highly gratified to make a second visit under more favourable circumstances. We changed the tiro at Jaraicejo, which was formerly the sleeping station, but the better locality of Truxillo had been substituted for it and was the only real improvement made upon the road.

The country began to improve after we left this wretched place, the only decent object in which is a poor and now ruined nunnery, but in a noble position and commanding most beautiful views. Patches of corn were interspersed with the forest and brushwood, and as we approached Truxillo, it presented the bare and open appearance cultivation generally produces in this part of the country,

Digitized by Google

where the delight of the peasant is to see his fields without tree or enclosure.

The geology of the district we had passed through varied very much, vast deposits of detritus and recent matter occupying the first part of the region after leaving Madrid. These were succeeded by granite, and at Almaraz, masses of slate covered by recent formation form the gorge of the Tagus. On the mountain of Mirabete, quartzose rock, with detached blocks of serpentine in small quantities, which appeared to have come down from a lofty formation on the right, with slates, offered themselves to our rapid examination; nearer Truxillo slate and igneous rocks shewed themselves from under the more recent matter which covered a great part of the surface.

We found a spacious and excellent posada, kept by a most respectable old woman. It is purely Spanish, clean and commodious, and one of the very best in the kingdom. The only deficiency was in glass windows, of which there were very few, most of them being merely closed by wooden shutters.

We had arrived without accident, which was more than could reasonably be expected from the state of the vehicle. They told me that every journey to Madrid cost an extensive refit to the carriages which had ample need of it, but we were even fortunate in having the advantage of it, as the enterprise was not long expected to survive. The diligence travels once a week, and the mensageria or quick galera

Digitized by Google

with the same tiros once also, at a cheaper rate, but in the same time. When this diligence was first started there were branches from Badajos to Seville and Lisbon but Don Miguel and the civil war had put a stop to both these and the main line was expected to follow. They told me that during the whole time the communication with Lisbon was open, none but messengers and others on business and foreigners were ever seen in it, and scarcely a single person of the upper ranks there had ever passed to see the Spanish capital!

Digitized by Google

CHAPTER V.

TRUXILLO.

TRUXILLO occupies a noble and elevated situation on an extensive eminence formed by a knoll of granite which appears to have been protruded amongst the slates which form the basis of the country. It commands an extensive and fertile plain, bounded by chains and detached peaks of hills and mountains in every direction. The modern town occupies the eastern slope of this eminence; the western and northern are precipitous and admit of easy defence on those sides.

The summit of the ridge at the north end is occupied by a Roman fortress, and the middle and western part almost entirely by the remains of public and private buildings. Some few are still inhabited but the greater part are in ruins, caused by the successive misfortunes of the place, but principally by the transactions of the invading armies in the war of independence.

The upper town which is called the Villa, appears to have been the principal residence of the higher ranks of society at one time, but some are departed and others have migrated to lower and more commodious situations towards the base of the

Digitized by Google

hill. The examination of the ruins is extremely interesting, the principal part of the architecture being of the Norman period, and some fragments even resembling the Byzantine, or the style prevalent in Europe previous to the introduction of the pointed arch. I could detect nothing decidedly Moorish, but the fort at the west end which was blown up by the French has something of the character of their work.

The church of Sta. Maria is in this part of the town; it has one tower of Lombard structure, of which I suspect the whole church originally was, but it has been rebuilt in more modern style, being pointed architecture, light and good; one doorway is rather of early English manner with the columns receding, the arch plain, and there is a circular window at the west end. On the upper and north side are two beautiful lancet windows, and a doorway which is now built up. They told me this church had been injured by earthquakes, and it had also suffered by the explosion of a magazine in order to save it from the French, the people not being aware that water would answer the purpose equally well. I had some trouble to find the sacristan, but at last made him out in the upper part of one of these ancient buildings playing the piano, and he sent his son a very intelligent youth with the keys.

The Villa is bounded to the west by a wall of considerable strength, which runs along the top of

Digitized by Google

the ridge, overlooking the precipitous side of the hill and a vast extent of country beyond it.—In going round the outside, I found the shell of the beautiful conventual church of St. Domingo, apparently of 1400, which it was impossible not to regret seeing in that condition, although the position, being quite detached from the town, would have made the preservation of it difficult in those times; it had not been destroyed, but had fallen down from age and want of repair. The arch of Santiago, where is a decent relief of the Saint on horseback, forms the principal entrance to the Villa from the Ciudad, and close by it is a tower of Norman character which is connected with a small church, lately repaired, with a pure Norman doorway, without much ornament and circular windows. On the opposite side of the gateway is a tower of considerable height, which diminishes towards the top, where there is some work rather of Moorish character. It belongs to the house of the Duke of Noblexas, the entrance and lower part of which is of Norman design, but the upper part and front are rather of the Tudor character.

Near this there is a curious edifice with a lofty tower, and arches somewhat in Tudor form, but evidently of much greater antiquity than that epoch. Close by it is a neat portico quite modern, of the best classic form and style, introduced by Rodriguez in the last century.

The Alberca is a deep open cistern or pool full of

Digitized by Google

water, and not of inviting appearance, which is cleared out at long intervals. It is said to be of Moorish excavation, but is more probably of Roman origin, and not far from it, with some difficulty and much inquiry, I made out a regular and very good piscina or reservoir, which is now disused but very little injured, and could easily be put in repair. There are several small convents in the same district but they are quite unsaleable and have been shut up.

The Villa has been voted to be out of the town by the Ayuntamiento, in order to comply with the law, and a part of these ruined sites applied to the purpose of a Campo Santo, or public cemetery. The roads and streets are extremely narrow, in some places cut out of the solid granite, and in one part they had to be widened to allow room for the funerals to pass. Besides the very curious remains I have mentioned you stumble at every step on ancient gateways, resembling Cyclopean or Roman work, and some of the towers are ornamented with azulejos in the Moorish style. It is difficult to conceive the interest I felt in wandering about the ruined town, which reminded me of those in ancient and mediæval Italy where all ages and styles are frequently represented.

At the north end of the ridge, where it terminates abruptly over the plain in a corresponding situation to that mentioned as having been occupied by the ruined castle, stands the Roman fortress,

Digitized by Google

which is nearly entire, but has been repaired in places, some outworks added, and in the time of the civil war, it was put in a regular state of defence. It is smaller, but in form somewhat like that of Merida with small square flanking towers, and has two advanced ones quite detached, similar to one mentioned in my former work as existing at that place, forming a sort of outworks connected with the body of the fort by bridges. Although they correspond in some degree with the main fort, I considered them as more probably recent additions to increase the defence, the original flanks being too small for the purposes of modern war. They are no doubt very old, but there are no data to assign the time of their construction. The Roman work is composed of large irregular blocks of granite, filled in with lumps of black slate and cement. The more modern additions have considerably extended the size, and as it has an open esplanade in front of the entrance and is extremely high, solid and compact, requiring a very small force for defence, it is a useful work to have in the midst of these vast plains, where it commands several important roads and communications, and is, in fact, a sort of key to the country. It was unoccupied and we were admitted by a sleepy sort of half centinel, who was in the outer gateway, but asked no questions, and the inner part was filled with stores and was locked. Here they are under no apprehension of outbreak and the people are well affected to the new system,

Digitized by Google

otherwise the surprising it would be a matter of very little difficulty.

In the body of the Ciudad, but at the higher points adjoining the Villa, is the Plaza, which is of irregular form with arcades, and of respectable dimensions. There the scanty commerce of the place appears to be chiefly carried on, and in the vicinity are the principal public buildings and residences of the upper classes. San Martino, the principal church, is at one corner and is of early pointed style with only one nave. There is a round window at the west end and those at the side are circular in the upper part. The roof is of stone and of singular beauty of construction. The arches which support it are bold and about 30 feet apart and a single one springs from side to side; the groinings intersecting and others meeting them alternately, with open intervals. It is nearly flat and is protected by another roof above it, which is not seen from below. I could not ascertain the date of this beautiful edifice, but it appeared to me to be of 1300. There are some curious tombs in it, one of which is of sculptured granite with reliefs relating to the wars with the Moors, no doubt of some warrior who was engaged in them, but I could find no reference to the name. There are many lapidary inscriptions on the floor, and amongst them that of the Conqueror of Peru. The Ayuntamiento are installed in a building at the opposite corner of the Plaza, with the necessary conveniences and in

Digitized by Google

rather a good style. Near this is the residence of the descendants (but not in a direct line, which is extinct) of the celebrated Conqueror. It is a spacious edifice, apparently the largest now in the place, but as the family were absent we could not see the interior, which I believe contains nothing remarkable. There is a small patio where are painted the famous arms representing the subjugation of the Peruvians. This house or palace has no architectural pretensions, but to judge by the exterior, must be a much more comfortable residence than any of the others in the place.

The vast and unfinished palace which now belongs to the Duke of San Carlos is at another angle of the Plaza, near San Martino. It has only been partly finished, or rather commenced, and is remarkable for its bad contrivance. An enormous and very lofty patio, with columns, only fit for the reception of mules, forms the lower part; and the great staircase, about which I had heard a great deal said, is chiefly distinguished by the vast space uselessly sacrificed to it. There is an inner patio, round which the principal apartments are arranged; they are small and poor and must be insufferably hot and almost uninhabitable in summer. The spaces which ought to have been devoted to the living rooms in this burning climate have been thrown away in the foolish manner already mentioned, and all the real comfort of the house sacrificed to mere useless show. Another smaller house,

Digitized by Google

belonging to the Santa Marta, on the road up to the Villa, has the same defect of plan on a lesser scale, and I was much disappointed with the architecture of those palaces, which were built subsequently to the great era of Spanish art, when it had considerably declined. They have one arrangement, which I have seen in other places in Spain, which is worth noticing as it might suit in any climate. Above the upper rooms is a complete open attic, close to the eaves, which is brought into the design, and forms part of the elevation, with regular columns or pilasters; and so far from injuring the effect it adds to it at a trifling additional cost, giving greater elevation to the front. It serves as a magazine, for drying linen and for a number of other uses. Here the great object is to avoid the heat, but it would answer equally well in colder countries. The roof being above it, and the floor completely ceiled and done with stucco, it is a perfect barrier against either heat or cold, and might easily be made fire proof and the communication with the roof entirely cut off from the lower part of the building.

There is little worthy of notice in the part of the town below the Plaza, although it forms the greater part of the extent now inhabited. There were two extensive convents, San Francisco and the Merced, which have patios of good construction, especially the former one, and near the inn are the ruins of a noble house belonging to the family of Santa Martilla, which had a beautiful garden in front of it. This building, which was of better architecture

Digitized by Google

than any of the others, was destroyed by the French for the supply of materials to build a fort, and the family now inhabits a small house in the town.

In every part you meet with solid and handsome fragments, and parts of buildings;—many are of the Norman period and have been converted to very different uses from those for which they were originally intended.

We had letters for individuals in the place and received every kind of attention in their power to bestow. One of them who volunteered to serve as guide persevered to the last, but I saw it required the whole force of Spanish politeness to induce him to remain while I was perambulating the Villa, nor could he comprehend the cause of attractions in a place where no Truxillano would set his foot but from necessity. Senor Lujan had, contrary to the usage so frequent in capitals and amongst men fully engaged in official business, rather exceeded than fallen short of his promises, and we found every body in the district aware of our journey and its object. We had a number of visitors and saw several characters belonging to the place. I proposed to wait on the Alcalde, but he was ill and unable to see any one during our stay. I was surprised to find the population of this town, which ought to be a capital with at least ten times the number, now reduced to 4000. In my dealings with them I found them grave and polished in their manners and their dialect extremely pure.

Digitized by Google

CHAPTER VI.

JOURNEY TO LOGROSAN—PHOSPHORITE—GUADALUPE.

When we had to prepare for the journey to Logrosan, the first difficulty was to procure animals to convey us. There were no horses nor were saddle mules even to be heard of, and the only resource left was to take those used in ploughing, the best of which and in fact the only ones we could find, were very bad. We paid at the rate of one duro per head per day which was justly considered very high, but there was no alternative, and we had to submit to their demands. Of course this included the keep of the animals and the man's wages who attended them. Fearing that we might have equal or greater difficulty at Logrosan, I made a bargain that we should be allowed to keep them on, in case of requiring them. I was certainly surprised to find such a state of things in this noble province, which formerly was famed for breeding the best mules in Spain and has pastures and wastes and forage suited to rear every sort of animal in the greatest perfection. The answer invariably given was and no sort of doubt could be held of the truth of it, that the scarcity and bad quality of the animals

Digitized by Google

was owing to the distress and taxes of the farmers as well as to the exactions of the bands in the civil war, who made it a practice to carry off every one they could lay hands on, either for the purposes of sale and conversion into money, or to mount their followers and turn them into cavalry, an easy transition with the Spanish soldiers of most provinces. Most of the predatory expeditions which were sent from the head-quarters of Don Carlos at the latter part of the war were dispatched principally with a view to this sort of pillage, as well as kidnapping the young men and forcing them to serve in his army, no recruits being procured in any other way, excepting in the Basque provinces. The distance to Logrosan from Truxillo is seven leagues.

We soon left the granite of Truxillo and came to the slates of the great formation of Estremadura, with a small mass of granite interposed. We passed a half-ruined cortijo or country house, with the sounding title La Conquista (the Conquest), which was the property of the Pizarro; near which was a wretched village, and finding neither there nor in another we passed, any posada, we proceeded to a hermitage I had heard of a little out of the road, where we halted to dine and bait the mules. There we found a spacious ancient chapel, still kept up and frequented on certain days by the surrounding peasantry, with an extensive open porch or projection like those in the northern provinces which fur-

Digitized by Google

nished us an excellent site for our purpose. The hermit or person in charge, who was in peasant's costume, no capuchin dress being now allowed to be worn, lived in a cottage close by and was a civil and obliging person, and was provided with a small stock of necessaries, to supply the wants of the wayfarers that occasionally visit his quarters. There is a celebrated well on the spot, to which the foundation is no doubt owing, the architectural part of which was out of order, but the spring remained and the water could not be surpassed, whilst a flock of goats happening to arrive at the same time gave us a supply of delicious milk. From this point we had a choice of roads; the longer by the plain which is practicable for carts, or a shorter one by the hills. We preferred the latter as the more promising, and soon leaving the corn lands, entered a tract of xaral and open forest, chiefly encina, which continued without much interruption until we reached the defile in which Logrosan is situated. Crossing the stream which flows below the town and at this season was copiously supplied, we ascended by the steep and broken banks, with some gardens and cultivated ground, entering the town by the western end.

Letters having been written before hand and all the necessary steps taken, we found preparations not only made to receive us, but a party had gone out by the other road, in the Spanish fashion, to meet us. We were immediately conducted to a house

Digitized by Google

which I had requested might be prepared, as I knew there would be no posada fit to receive us. We there found several people, among others Señor Luna of Caceres, the proprietor of the principal part of the mine which formed the object of our journey.

We were shewn to a small but comfortable room, with alcobas or recesses for beds and provided with a glass window, which I believe was the only one in the town. After accompanying us to our apartment and we had exchanged the usual civilities, with the tact so characteristic of this people instead of continuing to watch and inspect our movements, which is the custom in many countries, I heard them say amongst themselves, "We had better retire now and leave them to rest awhile." As the weather was very fine (it rained when we left Truxillo, and for some time afterwards) and some daylight remained, we did not avail ourselves of this kind and considerate suggestion, but proposed to walk to the mine. This was of course agreed to, and we set out on a preliminary examination in a rather numerous procession, many of the people in the town having followed in the rear.

After going through the town in its full length we entered on a line of road at the extremity, which after passing through vineyards for about half a mile brought us to the spot. Here all doubts and uncertainties were soon dispelled. Instead of mountains

Digitized by Google

and hills and all the other varieties, we found a single vein crossed by the road, and strange to say, differing entirely in its features from the whole of the accounts both written and oral we had consulted, not one of which came at all near either the true position or of any one thing connected with it.

The part which is traversed by the road is seven feet wide, and having formed a ridge must have been extremely inconvenient to those who passed, but it had long since been blasted or broken down to level and make it less incommodious. The fragments which resulted from the operation had been used to repair the walls of the adjacent gardens and olive grounds, and on this had been raised the superstructure that the town was built of it! From this point, which is near the centre, it runs diagonally across the line of road in a direction nearly S.S.W. and N.N.E. The upper end or that running to the S.S.W. is near the surface and extends through some olive grounds in a direction to the open country, leaving an extensive knoll of granite considerably to the right, and is finally lost among some open corn land. It is easily traced in this direction by the light straw which is the prevailing colour, and by the scantiness of the crop upon it. This was a curious observation to make on a substance expected to fertilize other lands, but it is easily accounted for. The rock in its natural state is very hard, and nearly indestructible by the atmosphere. I could not

Digitized by Google

detect the smallest appearance of disintegration, exfoliation or decomposition of any kind in the numerous fragments which had been long turned up by the plough and were lying about in all directions, nor even in those encased in the buildings, some of which have long been entirely exposed to the weather. The corn, which was now fully grown, made it impossible to follow the line further than where it disappears at about a mile from the point of intersection of the road, but if ever it should be found worth while to excavate more than is seen in the line now shewn, I think it probable it may be traced further in this direction. In the lower division or that to the left of the road the vein is traced in a descending direction towards the valley in which the stream flows below the town; lying rather more below the surface on this side, but may be easily followed by the bearings of the points where it comes out and by the fragments lying on the surface. It disappears in a marshy meadow ground covered with rank vegetation near the level of the stream, probably 250 or 300 feet below that of the highest part of the vein. Opposite to the part where the sight of the vein terminates at this end rises a bold range of hill, part of the external flank of the Sierra de Guadalupe, covered with monte baxo or brush-wood, the remains of the forest which once clothed it, some of the trees of which are still standing on the very summit. The situation of the ground makes it impracticable

Digitized by Google

to follow the formation further at this end, but there is no reason to suppose it terminates where we lost sight of it.

The town of Logrosan stands upon and is chiefly built out of a mass of very hard and compact schist mostly black, with large veins of quartz. The beds of this slate are nearly vertical and run from S.S.W. to N.N.E. being in fact part of the great system of Estremadura.

The vein or bed of phosphorite appeared to me to be conformable with these slates, and from observation at the junction near the road where it is best seen, would appear to have been raised together with them; at least I could come to no other conclusion. It appeared to me quite independent of the granite and other formations, and to belong entirely to the slate. The vein is of unknown depth, the quality improving as you descend, according to the accounts of the people borne out by our own observations. In general it is about six or seven feet in thickness, but in the lower division rather more; and also at the higher extremity appeared to widen very considerably. It is however not pure throughout this width but passes into silex, and some pieces were sufficiently hard to form flints before the introduction of percussion locks. In some parts it has a chalcedonic appearance, and I received a cut in my hand by a fragment whilst working with the hammer quite as clean as if done with a knife.

Digitized by Google

By the great kindness of Señor Luna we were allowed to dig or do what we liked and to carry away any quantity of the mineral Doctor Daubeny might wish, with a view to the future analysis. We accordingly determined to take four mule loads, each load or carga being calculated at eight arrobas or 200 lbs., which quantity was put into two strong bags made of the coarse linen, woven in all these towns. From the specific weight being very great, the cargas when made up had the appearance of lead or other heavy mineral. The distance to Seville is about five days' journey, and the contract was made to convey it at so much per carga, return of course included. The terms were extravagantly high and quite out of the question for any thing except experiment, but we had no remedy: should any quantity ever be required it must be sent by cars round by the high road of Merida.

The place first assigned to us to excavate was in a corn field near the upper extremity of the formation. After a considerable time had been expended with little result, for the bed was at some distance from the surface and some hard ferruginous slate was in the way, I took on me to stop the workmen and order them to commence lower down near the road where there was greater facility for working and the mineral appeared to be as pure as in any other locality. When this was communicated to Señor Luna I heard him say, "Very well! Be it so! I had *reasons* for wishing the other locality to be

Digitized by Google

tried." He appeared perfectly satisfied and I never ascertained what his motives were, probably it was only that he might avail himself of the opportunity to try a new working.

After the requisite quantity had been quarried, which was soon done, we selected the most pure samples for packing up, and although this appeared to be the best site for quarrying the mineral, at least one half was useless from its being so siliceous. The finer parts have a purple and white laminated and reniform structure, like some depositions of carbonate of lime. It is extremely phosphorescent when pulverised and thrown on coals or charcoal, and there is no doubt the accidental discovery of this circumstance, and its very different appearance from any of the adjacent rocks, originally led to the discovery of its existence in this remote and little frequented district.

The town is built on a sort of shelving plateau between the watercourse and a lofty eminence to the south-west of it, which reminded me of the Malvern Hills. This mount is of granite, being a knoll on a smaller scale, like that of Truxillo, and like that has probably been protruded through the slates, but we saw no data to decide that question. I passed over the summit and along the greater part of the ridge, which is covered with shrubs and other vegetation. The view from the top is of vast extent, and I distinctly saw the gorge of the Guadiana and a place called Espiritu Santo, which is at the im-

Digitized by Google

mediate entrance of the territory of Almaden. The Sierra de Guadalupe, at least the principal mass was concealed by the ridge opposite to us, which forms a flank of it as mentioned previously. Far to the east is a curious table-land running from the Sierra towards the Guadiana, the summit of which, they told me, was perfectly bare and destitute of vegetation.

We were extremely fortunate in having the lodging which had been provided for us by the kindness of Señor Luna. The family of La Peña, to whom it belonged, were amongst the best in the place. The head was a young man of most superior manners, and extremely intelligent and well informed on every subject which he could by any means have been cognizant of, although he appeared hardly ever to have left this remote and unfrequented spot and nothing could exceed the kindness with which he attended to our wishes in every way. The family was composed of his mother and sister and some relations who assisted in the management of the house.

Logrosan is an ill built and dirty place; the streets are narrow and inconvenient, the masses of slate on which it stands protruding and making the passsage through narrow and ill-kept streets excessively incommodious, and when they are flooded by the descent of the water from the higher grounds some of them are nearly impassable. The population is about 4000, and it is a perfect speci-

Digitized by Google

men of that class of towns called of labradores or farmers and agricultural labourers. There are a few houses with escutcheons over the doors, to which are attached small mayorazgos or independent properties, but they are little distinguished from those of their neighbours, and there appears to be nearly the sort of equality amongst them so often found in such places in Spain. There are no shops and scarcely any commerce, the whole business of the people being with the cultivation of the land. There are three large estates belonging to the town, in which every inhabitant has a share, two of which are in cultivation and the other in monte or woodland, to supply fuel and pasture. The custom is, once a year to divide or portion out the arable land, and lots are then drawn for each parcel, a single one being allotted to each man who has not a yoke of oxen, a double one to those provided with it. These lands, in fact, form the basis of their existence and afford a fair sample of one of the most curious and little noticed parts of Spanish economy. It is perfectly evident that in this system the lands must be badly cultivated; as they are of necessity changed every year, no one has a further interest than to make all he can during his occupation and do as little as possible in the way of improvement. I suggested whether the allowing each man to retain his portion would not be a better plan than this annual change, by which the good cultivator is made to suffer by the mismanagement or selfishness of his predecessor. This they instantly

Digitized by Google

admitted would be the better system, but it cannot be adopted without some legislative enactment, and then there would be great practical difficulty in carrying it into effect. The abuses in the management of these town lands are amongst the oldest, most inveterate, most extended, and most incurable in the whole economy of Spain. An immense portion of land, the extent of which I know not that any account exists, is held by this sort of tenure. It is one cause both of the poverty and of the independence and dignity so striking in the demeanor of the Spanish peasant. By his share in the common lands he is a proprietor and nearly above absolute want, being in the situation of a small freeholder. By being on an equality with his neighbours at the distribution and other arrangements, which are made in full assembly by the Alcaldes and other authorities of the place, and with the right of checking and controlling, or opposing any plan which is a departure from ancient usage or which does not meet with his approbation, he has many of the advantages of freedom, prescriptively and quite abstracted from any political or constitutional right. This system is drawn from the most remote antiquity, and there is little doubt chiefly from the Visigothic customs, whence many of the traditional liberties of Spain are derived.

In most parts of Spain the towns would be not only thriving, but would be extremely rich, were their lands under proper management, and nothing in all their economy will require more careful

Digitized by Google

or attentive examination from Government than this great question, nor will any, although it is imperatively called for, be more difficult to deal with. A portion of the land in most of the large townships is let out and the proceeds go to payment of hospitals and other public expenses, under the name of "propios." Others are let in a sort of perpetual rent, like our leasehold property, but without fines, of which I never heard an instance. These lead to great abuses from there being no restrictions in general as to the cultivation, and there is a great deal of jobbing as may be supposed. At present there are considerable checks against any malpractices, as will be explained more fully hereafter.

In the constitution of Logrosan, if the expression may be used, there are no "propios" or power of allotting part of the lands for any purpose whatever, and the whole is divided amongst the people. In consequence of this and their bad management the place is extremely poor. There is no transit, no commerce of any kind, although all the land in the neighbourhood is tolerably fertile and every thing ought to abound. The chief produce at present is oil and corn, very little wine is made, but it is of excellent quality, and they say the orange would thrive in the sheltered grounds, of which, from what I saw at Guadalupe, I have not the smallest doubt. There is a noble unfinished church, which looks like a cathedral compared to the buildings around, standing on the brink of the hill, above the stream

Digitized by Google

at the west entrance of the town. It is of the pointed style, and very much like that of the church of Guadalupe being probably of the same date. There is a beautiful apsis, or media maranja (half orange) at the east end, and the walls are supported by vast buttresses, but only about one-half has been finished, the tradition of the place being, that the architect came to an untimely end, from some cause they could not explain. In the sacristy I found a curious pointed retablo, and on an altar in the church, two decent statues of the painted style. There are three or four priests attached to it and I think two or three chapels of ease. We called on the Alcalde before taking our departure, but found he was in bed, taking the siesta, and the doctor, an elderly man was ill and hors de combat.

The houses are built entirely of rough masses of the very hard black slate, but some of the better ones had large doorways of the grey granite from the hill above, in the form so much seen at Truxillo and Valladolid, a sort of Roman, making a curious disproportion in beauty and solidity with the main bodies of the buildings they belonged to.

We found very little of botanical interest in the vicinity, most of the land within a moderate distance being under cultivation. Dr. Daubeny sent out two men successively in different directions, one of whom was a sort of market-gardener, employed occasionally in collecting plants for the apothecary, but they returned with a very scanty

Digitized by Google

collection. One day I ascended and passed over the greater part of the granite knoll, which was entirely uncultivated, but I met with nothing worth notice.

The Mohiño (Pica cyanea) is common in the olive grounds, and as it was the season I availed myself of the opportunity to investigate the mode of nidification. With the help of the urchins in the place I soon found plenty of nests quite ready, but the laying had not generally commenced and we had some difficulty to obtain the eggs. I had anticipated a miniature, or at least some analogous construction to the elaborate work of our common pie, the congener, but it is so distinct that the builders would never be supposed to be connected with each other. That of the Mohiño is flat, shallow, and spread very wide, being generally placed at the bifurcation of the main branches of a tree, like the situation often chosen by the missel thrush and a very little above a man's height from the ground. It is comfortably lined and the outside covered with lichen and moss, in the manner of the chaffinch, but less neatly finished than the work of that bird. From its position and the manner it is levelled out, leaving no side elevation visible, it is not easy of detection, notwithstanding the simplicity of the site. The eggs are five or six in number, small and very thin in the shell, they are a sort of dirty pale olive colour, with small and irregular brown spots.

I found little else worth notice in ornithology,

Digitized by Google

and amongst a number of birds I killed were only some of our most common warblers. On the road from Truxillo in the hill forest, I shot a small bunting which I was unacquainted with and believe it was one of the rare species in the south of Europe, but the skin was unfortunately lost, with some others, before I had time to examine it in detail.

When we had transacted most of our business at Logrosan we took mules from that place and made an excursion to Guadalupe. At first they said there would be great difficulty in obtaining them and advised me to keep those we had brought with us; but after examining them, they said they thought, badly off as they were, they could beat those of Truxillo, and I sent them back. We set out with three mules, the servant and ourselves being mounted and a guide on foot. At a short distance we were followed by another fat, jolly and rather sensual looking man. As soon as I saw he had regularly joined the party I inquired who he was, and was informed he was the owner of one of the mules and was going, if we had no objection, to accompany us to Guadalupe. I could not well object to this, though I foresaw some inconvenience might result from it, and it soon turned out that his object was to see some relations he had in the place and to fill his capacious stomach at our expense.

The distance from Logrosan to Guadalupe is seven leagues, of which three are in the plain and four in the Sierra or mountains. After passing the

Digitized by Google

corn lands to the east of the town we entered a xaral, which with a few open patches of corn here and there extended to near the large and straggling village of Cañomero. It is hardly possible to imagine any thing more lovely than the situation of this place, standing at the mouth of an open gorge, down which flows a beautiful feeder of the Ruecas, abundantly supplied with water from the mountain above. A bold ridge runs to the east, being a buttress of the great Sierra, and the vast plain of Upper Estremadura, which resembles, but on a larger scale, the Campagna of Rome, with masses of detached hills and mountains like the Alban Mount and the Sabine and other ranges much enlarged, as is every thing here, is distinctly seen in every combination of classic landscape. The foregrounds are broken naturally like those of Frascati and Tivoli, but the village is wretched and poverty-stricken amidst this bounty of nature, as is so commonly the case in this ill-starred region. Immediately above the village we entered the defiles of the Sierra de Guadalupe, and at a short distance came to the most picturesque and beautiful scenery, skirting on a wild and alpine road the roaring stream of the Ruecas. The rocks were covered with cistus, heaths and brooms of many sorts, the effect of which was heightened by the colouring of the quartzose and other rocks on which the weather had produced the most varied and beautiful hues.

At a league higher up, the valley became more

Digitized by Google

open and less picturesque, and crossing the main stream, we ascended by a lateral branch to an elevated and open plateau where some patches of corn changed the scenery. From this table, which is probably about 3000 feet above the sea, is a most extensive and magnificent view over Eastern Estremadura, and we looked down upon the country I had seen above me from the comparatively low height above Logrosan.

After crossing this level we began to descend through a scrap of forest with a few trees still standing, and soon got sight of the town and convent of Guadalupe.

We passed at a short distance to the right of a beautiful cortijo or farm-house belonging to the convent, which stands in a most lovely situation near the summit of the pass; it is built exactly in the manner of those of the Campagna, as seen in the paintings of the Poussins. The descent to Guadalupe and the general view of the place reminded me somewhat of that from the Carter Fell to Jedburgh, but the vegetation is rather distinct from that of our hyperborean region, and the road in a very different condition from that of our communications. At the foot of the pass we crossed the Guadalupe, which runs through a narrow gorge below the town, and turning to the right by a bad and precipitous road reached the narrow streets and ill built houses of the far-famed sanctuary. When I spoke to our volunteer guide, in a short time he hinted

Digitized by Google

that posadas in Guadalupe were very bad and that much better accommodation might be had in private houses. I gave full credence to this part of his statement and yielded to his desire of quartering us upon the relations he was on the way to visit, which was part of his scheme, and we were conducted to a most comfortable and cheerful room with alcobas looking on to the Plaza. We had made Francisco the servant, major-domo, giving him charge of superintending the culinary department, so that we fared very well and with little trouble or loss of time; but from the bills which were brought I suspected we had furnished a carouse to the whole house and probably some of the neighbours, and on the way back I never had occasion to speak to any of the suite without finding them engaged in discussing sausages or other relishes or with the bota (wine-skin) uplifted.

The façade of the church and adjacent buildings of the convent rise in noble style over the Plaza, which is immediately below them. A balustrade had been commenced in the olden time which, had it been finished, would have produced a still finer effect. The eye is immediately struck with the mixture of ancient towers with the pointed front of the church, which gives it an extremely picturesque outline. The reason of this is, that the convent was formed out of a fortress of the middle ages and the towers which resemble the lesser ones of the Alhambra were allowed to stand, and are

Digitized by Google

worked into the general mass of the building. This gives the magnificent edifice a peculiar and unique effect, and it is not lessened by a group of buildings on the left, of which the library is the principal, with round turrets and other forms of picturesque architecture. The whole is varied by the works thrown up to convert it into a fortress by the robber bands of Palillos, who were some time in possession of it during the civil war, and the inscription "Plaza de Isabel II^a. y de la Constitucion" complete the jumble of chronology and epochs. The communication with the body of the convent is by the left, amongst the mass of buildings above mentioned, and that to the church is directly from the front.

The principal entrance is by a noble vestibule with a regular Moorish arch on the left, and here is the sagrario or chapel for administering the sacrament to the people of the town, whilst in a chapel adjoining was held the first general council in Spain, A. D. 1415, of which there is a sort of representation. The style of the church is pointed, of 1400, and is heavy and massy, like most of the Spanish pointed architecture, wanting the lightness and elegance we generally expect in buildings of that date. The cupola is octagonal and the capitals are gilt, and there is an immense reja or iron pallisade dividing the part of the church retained by the monks from that given up to the public as usual in these establishments, which is about forty feet high, and was the work of some of the order. This and the coro or

Digitized by Google

gallery where the friars attended the service give the church a heavy and somewhat gloomy effect. In the silleria or seats of the order is good sculpture of the early time, about the style of Perugino. The retablo of the great altar is an imposing mass of the classic design, but totally incongruous with the rest of the edifice, and is disfigured by a quite modern addition or interpolation of the worst taste, which I rather think was inserted to celebrate the glorious restoration of 1823.

Immediately adjoining the church is a vast series of chapels, sacristies, anti-sacristies, and other buildings usually found in those establishments. The great sacristy is one of the very finest in Spain, and it is impossible not to regret the inevitable ruin impending, after the vast expense which has been bestowed on it. There are some of the best works of Zurbaran, which are as yet untouched and uninjured, but they are badly seen from the disposition of the windows and the room facing the north. They are completely lost here, and after my return to Madrid I suggested their being removed to the Museum, which they said would probably be done; if so they will fill up a great vacuum in those collections, none of which possess a good specimen of that great master.

The tombs of the Kings as they are called, although Dionysius and Dona Juana were merely of the royal blood of Portugal and never ascended the throne, are still there and in perfect order, as is the tomb of Dona Maria de Guadalupe Lancaster y

Digitized by Google

served, and they promised to write to the xefe politico of the province respecting it.

As you leave the Plaza to turn to the left after passing the main entrance to the convent, you meet with a vast mass of stabling and other offices immediately attached to the principal edifices. This was the accommodation for oxen, mules, horses, &c. with their respective leaders, who lived in this quarter, built on purpose for them, under charge of a monk who was the bursar and had the superintendence of that department, more especially the important office of regulating the expenditure of forage in the vast establishment.

The regular number of the monks was about sixty-five and at the time of the break up it was quite full. Nearly the whole yet survive, as I was informed by one of the body, a sensible and gentlemanly man, who accompanied us and who now serves the church as cura or parish priest. I can only attribute this unusual and extraordinary circumstance of its being complete to two circumstances; one, that from the enormous wealth and the comfort attached to it recruits were readily found to fill the vacant ranks; the other, that from the great favour and renown this sanctuary had always enjoyed it was hoped it might survive other less-favoured ones, and its inmates be allowed to live on for another generation or two. Vain hope! It is not only suppressed, but with the exception above mentioned, not a vestige of a monk is to be

Digitized by Google

seen. The only residents are an ancient military character called the governor, with his family and an attendant or two, who has charge of the keys and lives in the prior's apartments.

At the time of the foundation in the middle of the fourteenth century the whole Sierra was little less than a vast forest. The name (Valley of wolves) was given by the Moors to shew the condition of it in their time and there is no scarcity at present of that noxious animal.

After the miraculous discovery of the image, as usual in such cases the first operation was to build an ermita or small chapel, which gradually grew into the enormous establishment and remained untouched until the French invasion. It was successively endowed with various property to such an extent that the funds, in arable lands, forests, pastures, flocks of sheep, bullocks, and other stock and houses, including the plate, alhajas and other personal property, were valued at about a million sterling! I rather think it was the richest of all the monasteries in Spain. Their flocks were so numerous that even Prince Esterhazy might allow them the rank as Shepherd Princes, which he denied to Lord Leicester. Fifty years since, according to the Spanish writers, they possessed 80,000 sheep, 3,000 head of oxen, and other animals in proportion. I believe none of the vast possessions are yet sold, and they were anxious for an English company to buy the whole. Were it possible to effect such a purchase

Digitized by Google

and have it put under proper management with an active and industrious colony planted in it, there is no doubt it might open a field for speculation. The lands would be sold very cheap, as there would be little or no competition and there is certainly every thing necessary to form the basis of a principality. It reminded me a good deal of the Serrania de Ronda. An elevated mass in the centre of considerable height is the nucleus from which streams run in all directions, one part to the Tagus and the other to the Guadiana. In the former rivers trout are found but not in the latter tributaries, although both abound in fish of many sorts. Game is still in great abundance, though they informed me the quantity was diminished of late years. There are no doubt minerals to be found, but those discovered as yet are not of much importance.

The streams of the Guadalupe and Ruecas afford abundance of water for machinery, but little use is made of it. We visited a small martinet where they were working copper into cooking utensils of the most common quality, and the copper is brought from great distances, even from Andalusia for the purpose; our attention had been particularly called to this establishment, which is of the most ordinary description, but I believe it represents the whole manufacturing industry of the district.

The town is badly built and the streets narrow and dirty, the inconvenience of which is increased by the rapid descent on which it is placed. The

Digitized by Google

lower stories are occupied by stabling and other offices and the people live above; the front rooms project, resting on a rude colonnade, which affords shelter to the passenger. In general scale and effect it reminded me somewhat of Einsiedlen in Switzerland, where the convent towering above the diminutive houses was compared by an old writer to a giant surrounded by pigmies. At Guadalupe the pigmies are living but the giant is dead!

The town principally, if not wholly, belonged to the convent, and the subsistence of the inhabitants depended on the money put in circulation by the monks and the large sums expended by the pilgrims who resorted to the shrine. The only living part of the establishment at present is the church which, as it appears to be the sole parroquia of the town, is certain of being preserved: in fact it is exactly in the same state as before and hardly any thing has been removed or disturbed belonging to it. Another remnant is also left, the pharmacy, which is under the charge of an elderly and respectable man, a native of Burgos, who after a variety of adventures and vicissitudes consequent on the wars of Spain has retired to this sequestered spot. He had some information about the country, but most of his scientific knowledge was rather of an antiquated style, such as might have been learned at Salamanca in his day. Such as it was, he complained that he had not a creature to converse with

Digitized by Google

on such subjects and our society appeared to be quite a relief to him.

The question now naturally arises, have the Government done wisely to shut up this vast establishment of Guadalupe? Would it not have been better to leave the fraternity in possession of the buildings and certain parts of the estate, paying a rental for them as is the practice at Camaldoli and many other foundations of the same description, which have in their respective countries undergone the same operation of confiscation and suppression? The answer would appear to be a very simple one, and no one unacquainted with the country would hesitate to give it; but in Spain there are some trifling practical difficulties in the way. In the first place, in Spanish administration little or no rent would ever find its way to the treasury. All or nearly so would be absorbed by the pillage of the occupants and of the administration, or by juntas created and employed to check and controul them; the remainder would be devoured by the vampires at Madrid and the state would derive no benefit from it. As to the probable results of monkish administration the only answer that need be given, is to point out the state of the vast territory belonging to them, which remains nearly in the condition they left it. Almost all the forests were levelled many years ago and the site of them reduced to the situation of monte baxo, only fit to maintain sheep and goats, and it is any thing but consolatory to

Digitized by Google

the eye of the economical traveller, or calculated to give confidence, or even hopes for the future in case they should be reinstated. Another most serious and important consideration is the political character of the body. No doubt can exist that if restored in any shape they would employ every means in their power to alter the present state of Government in Spain, which purpose, from what has been stated of the locality, it is well calculated to effect. These reasons have operated on the ministers who have disposed of the establishment, and no doubt they will equally guide their successors.

The order was of St. Jerome (Geronimos), a branch of Benedictines, the most wealthy and respectable of the fraternity in Spain, the same as that of the Escorial, to which in scale they bore the nearest resemblance.

I was fortunately able to make out the forest or arboreal vegetation of this interesting region, but with some difficulty, for the successive generations of barbarians, at the head of whom must be placed the monks of Guadulupe, have almost made it impossible, and out of the remains of the magnificent forests which clothed it have left only scanty patches to guide the observer.

The plain or level district at the base of the Sierra is occupied by the encina, the cork or Alcornoque (at Logrosan and Cañomero) and the Quercus Quexigo, an undescribed and most interesting and extended feature in Spanish botany, of

Digitized by Google

which a more particular account will be given in the Appendix. Above these, in the altitude of which there is little difference, is the Quercus alvar of these people, the Q. tosa of French botanists, and this is topped by the Pinaster, of which there are some remains at the cortijo mentioned near the summit of the pass between Guadalupe and Logrosan. It occupies a precisely similar place in this range as in the great central ridge on the other side the Tagus, and in the Serrania de Ronda above Marbella.

The lower part of the passes between Logrosan and Guadalupe is covered with cistus, heaths, and other beautiful plants belonging to this latitude and elevation. The E. arborea (tree heath) was very abundant and of both colours. There is a dark yellow cistus, of very great beauty, I do not recollect seeing elsewhere. On the very summit of the pass we found the wild pœony, and some extremely pretty orchis, but the season was too little advanced to shew the vegetation of the upper region.

There is a vast abundance of game of every description, from the stag to the partridge, in every part of the range, notwithstanding their complaint of its diminution. There are wild boars, deer, the larger species and the roe, wolves, lynxes, genets, foxes in great numbers, and hares and rabbits also abound. Although it was a season of the year when partridges do not shew themselves much, we saw numbers in every xaral. I inquired about the

Digitized by Google

ichneumon, but no one had ever seen or heard of it.

Amongst the changes which this celebrated sanctuary has undergone, it narrowly escaped being converted into a regular den of robbers on the largest scale. Finding Cabrera's sanctum at Canta Vieja in Valencia, where the prisoners he did not execute and the fruits of his pillage were kept, answer so good a purpose, Palillos, the General-in-Chief of the army of the centre who, I have heard, was originally a presidiario or convict, determined to make Guadalupe his fortress and centre of operations. It was taken possession of and some progress made, but the plan was obliged to be given up, in consequence of the checks he received as soon as the Government was able to devote a little attention to him. There is no doubt it would have been a formidable position for such a purpose, but there are strong doubts whether he could ever have effected the same result as his brethren in Valencia. From what has been stated, the country is accessible, and no difficulty would have existed in getting artillery and cavalry up at any time. The hardship of horses working in the mountains of Valencia from the want of forage and the badness of the roads, was one great cause of the success of Cabrera. Another obstacle was, that the people in Estremadura, and on all sides of the Sierra de Guadalupe were not disposed to support such brigands as these, and would have cordially assisted the Queen's

Digitized by Google

troops at any time in putting them down : nor are there opulent towns in the neighbourhood to pillage and ransom as is the case in Valencia. It is fortunate they did not succeed even for a time in establishing themselves, as from this position with cavalry they would have commanded the valley of the Tagus, as well as the great roads of Andalusia, and have been even a more dreadful scourge to the country than they were in La Mancha. I had heard most exaggerated accounts of the badness of the road through the pass above Cañomero and really expected some difficulty on it, but it turned out quite the contrary. It is a mere mule path as usual in these mountains, but is firm and hard the whole way : the worst is the descent to Guadalupe, but that is also safe and only tiresome from the slow pace at which you are obliged to proceed.

SERRANIA DE GUADALUPE.

This vast mass of mountain land may be compared to that of the Serrania de Ronda in Andalusia, which it resembles in general form and elevation, but not in Geology and in the Flora, which are considerably different. The highest part of it is immediately behind the convent, and attains an elevation of probably 7000 feet. It is a part of the mass of mountain to the south of the Tagus, the eastern division of which is called in the maps the mountains of Toledo. It rises rather precipitously

Digitized by Google

from the Tagus, and the water-shed dividing the streams pretty equally between that river and the Guadiana.

Should this vast district ever be converted to any really useful purpose, it is doubtful whether Guadalupe should be the capital, on account of the confined locality and the scarcity of arable land near it. Supposing it however to be so, there are four great lines of communication besides that already mentioned, all of which could be easily made practicable for carriages. That from Talavera de la Reyna, by wild despoblados and wretched villages inhabited by an indifferent set of people. This is the most direct and shortest road to Madrid, but is the least desirable and would probably cost the most to make with the least return. That by the Ibor, which communicates with Talavera la Vieja above Almaraz and would reach the great line of Estremadura by the Puente del Arzobisbo. This is a good line, but with the last has the disadvantage of passing over the Villuercas and the highest part of the chain. The line to Truxillo: this, they assured me, and from what I saw of the country I have every reason to believe correctly, would be easily made and at a small expense, the country by the valleys being nearly level. Lastly, the great line to the S. E. or that leading to Upper Estremadura. There is no sort of difficulty in making a road in this direction, but the object is of much less importance in the present state of the

Digitized by Google

CHAPTER VII.

PREPARATIONS FOR JOURNEY TO ALMADEN—JOURNEY—TALARRUBIAS—ESPIRITU SANTO—ROBBERS—ALMADEN.

After our return from Guadalupe we concluded our observations on the phosphorite and then made the necessary arrangements to send off the quantity Dr. Daubeny thought necessary to Seville for embarkation.

We then prepared to set out for Almaden, a point we were extremely desirous of reaching. We found the mules of Logrosan not a particle better than those of Truxillo, notwithstanding their boasting to the contrary, and Dr. Daubeny disliked the motion so much that he begged they would provide him with a horse, which was done; but although it had a decent exterior it was considerably worse than his long-eared steed, and when fairly on the road turned out by far the worst animal of the cavalcade.

We engaged the same muleteer who had accompanied us to Guadalupe and who also undertook to convey the mineral to Seville. We adopted the only practicable mode at that season and contracted for mules to convey it directly across the country. Should any quantity ever be required it must be taken in bullock carts, engaged at Merida, or some

Digitized by Google

place on that road, where great numbers are kept, and there is one place, I think Miajadas, where they form the chief subsistence of the inhabitants who carry the wool of this province to all parts of Spain. These people only travel in company, generally in large troops, and to hire one or two is difficult and expensive, unless their townsmen happen to be moving in the same direction.

Our guide was recommended as the best in this place; to know the roads and to be fit to go over all Spain. He was a fine looking man, and as we paid him far too much for his mules, instead of walking he provided one for himself. I had desired him to bring a musket, and when we set out, excepting the important part of the cavalry, we had rather a respectable appearance.

After passing the cultivated grounds immediately adjoining Logrosan, we entered an open district and in about a league came to the Ruecas, which we crossed by a rude bridge. It is at this season a full and beautiful stream, having collected all the waters from this side of the Serrania. It is called in the map the Guadalupe, but that stream is merely a feeder, as before mentioned, and is of great consequence to Logrosan, as their own rivulet is dry in the summer. When we had crossed the river we ascended a small ridge and kept to the right. After we had proceeded some distance, the guide begged us to turn back; that he had mistaken the road! In fact it was evident that at a

Digitized by Google

little more than a league he was at the limit of his geographical knowledge. The excuse was that the old road had been ploughed up and obliterated since he had travelled in that direction.

It was any thing but consolatory to make such a start, especially as I knew the greater part of our road to Almaden was of the same description and equally difficult to hit off, but there was no remedy and we made the best of it. After turning and retrograding some considerable distance, we struck into a line, through broken xaral and corn lands, which turned out to be the true one. In about an hour a few olive trees made their appearance, and the sight of Rollers and Mohiños announced the approach to human habitation. It was the Cortijo or Caserio del Rincon, a spacious and commodious farm-house, with every sort of convenience attached, belonging to the convent of Guadalupe, and there is a tract of cultivated ground about it, with abundance of pasturage. We had little time to spare and it was too early in the day to halt, otherwise it would have been an excellent station for the purpose of dining; but we obtained some instructions from the men for our route, which the state of the guide department made peculiarly acceptable. The Rollers were the first I had seen this year. They arrive in April and I think rather later than some of the other migratory birds, and I was glad once more to see their almost tropical plumage glittering in the sun amidst the olive trees. This is one of

Digitized by Google

the many instances of Temminck's great want of true information about the habits of the birds of the south of Europe, more especially of Spain. He describes this bird as frequenting the extensive forests and never mentions Spain as a locality, whilst in that country, where they are more abundant than in any other, they live like the jackdaw and seem to prefer the society of man. I never met with them in the great forests, but always near towns and villages or cortijos, and the instant I saw one I looked out for a habitation. Even in Germany I have seen them close to the city of Munich.

I observed the Quercus Quexigo and the species named by Loudon, Q. Cookii and which was found near Gibraltar, growing at the cortijo, and under a wall, the Teucrium bicolor, the pretty species with sea-green leaves and blue flowers, which is not uncommon in the warm and sheltered part of this district, but it was the first time I had seen it in a wild state.

From a rising ground above the Caserio I took leave of the Sierra de Guadalupe, the central mass of which with noble outline towers above these plains as the St. Cristobal, the corresponding member of the Serrania de Ronda does over the plain of Lower Andalusia. On the other side, to the west, is a fine view of the mountain of Naval Villar, a beautifully formed mass, resembling the Alban Mount, but with form equally good and very similar in outline, it is of considerably larger dimensions

Digitized by Google

and is better developed on this side than from the hill of Logrosan where I had first observed it.

Soon after we left this oasis we entered a xaral, the finest and largest I ever traversed. It is nearly twenty miles in extent and is one vast and almost unbroken mass of the gum cistus, which is generally about eight or nine feet high and so thickly planted by the hand of nature that there is scarcely room for any other shrubs to exist with it. It was now in full bloom and it is impossible to imagine any thing more beautiful than the effect of the brilliant flowers. A very few of the plain white were interspersed, and in some spots where there was any open space for them the C. purpureus and C. roseus varied the scene. The Teucrium above mentioned, the arbutus (unedo), myrtle, white lentiscus, and other shrubs were also occasionally seen in the moister places and water-courses. The ground is nearly level, crossed by a few streams whose sluggish and miry course, and occasional overflows, made the riding in places extremely bad. A very large and beautiful snake (the Natrix elaphis) crossed my path, but after making out his species I left him in peace to devour the frogs which abound in the vicinity and were croaking in all directions.

After crossing a rather deep and muddy water-course which the cavalry had some trouble in effecting, we ascended a rising ground and emerged from this curious tract, shortly entering some open corn and woodlands which indicated the vicinity of a

Digitized by Google

village or town. We soon arrived at the Casas de Don Pedro, a tolerably good but not large village belonging to the Duke of Ossuna. We found a decent posada kept by an old soldier of gigantic stature who talked of the war of independence, and were served by a daughter of corresponding height and as masculine features and figure as the veteran himself.

We had now the choice of taking to the right and going by Puebla de Alcocer, or directly to Talarrubias. I should have preferred the former route from the appearance of the town, which was distinctly seen, but the progress of our cavalry, especially of the animal Dr. Daubeny rode, caused the saving a league in distance to be an object and we made directly for the latter place. At a league from the Casas we crossed the Guadiana in a ferry boat. The river here is a beautiful and copious stream, larger than the Severn, but the banks are entirely desert, instead of exhibiting the fertility and cultivation they ought to do in such a climate as this. After crossing two leagues of corn land we entered the town of Talarrubias, which is well built, clean, and of tolerable extent. We had inquired about the inn at the Casas and our host recommended us to some relations of his, who he said were rich and had beds with abundance of everything to accommodate us. We soon made out the house and hastened to it, but met with a most churlish and

Digitized by Google

unwelcome reception. They said they had only one small room, a sort of pajar or straw bin with no window, which was close to the general kitchen and they had no beds. After considering a little they said they thought they could make up ONE, which no doubt they thought would serve the whole party. After this ultimatum we soon took our departure and making further inquiries found a very decent posada, with a good room on the ground floor and two alcobas with beds. The people were very civil and respectable and the accommodation as good as could be expected in the heart of Estremadura, which is one of the worst districts in Spain for inns. The only inconvenience was, that as we were obliged to have the windows open the children of the place and others came in successive groups to amuse themselves by inspecting our movements. The wine in this district is excellent, a kind of light Malvasia, and I was informed that in some of the places west of this they made wines of the same description, which are perfectly delicious but are unknown out of their own locality. I heard afterwards that there is a copper mine near and a small establishment belonging to it in the town, but we were not aware of it at the time, and I believe it is of small importance. Puebla de Alcocer is opposite to this place on the side of a hill and is considerably larger than Talarrubias, with convents and other large buildings. The height above it is

Digitized by Google

crowned with a Moorish castle in a most commanding position, which had been repaired and put in a state of defence during the civil war.

The country here is finely broken by small ranges and detached masses of hills, and would be extremely picturesque but for the ruthless destruction of the timber and the reduction of the whole to the state of a dreary and monotonous sameness. There is a fine and rather bold range to the north of the Guadiana which we had turned when we emerged from the xaral. The gorge of the Guadiana which we saw distinctly, is rather bold and appears to afford good sections of the range it cuts through.

We left Talarrubias very early, as we had a long journey before us and the cavalry were not improved by the passage of the xaral the preceding day; their condition by no means fitting them for long journeys at this season, as the grass is coming into use, and they are deprived of hard food, which is generally expended before the vernal vegetation appears.

At a short distance we entered the beautiful and highly-cultivated valley of the Guadalema, the sides of which were covered with a most splendid crop of wheat and other grain. We ascended to the summit of the valley where there is a small village called Espiritu Santo, but more properly Sancti Espiritus, commanding a most extensive view in every direction. I rode forward to speak to some people who were outside and found them to be the Alcalde and other notables of the village.

Digitized by Google

After they had given me directions about the road, &c. they said, "Are you French?" "No! Ingles, para servir a V," which is the usual and courteous reply to such a question amongst all ranks in Spain. They then said, "Oh, then you are the travellers respecting whom we have received orders from Madrid. We are desired to afford you any assistance you may require and everything we have is at your command. Pray enter the village and 'descansar,' rest yourselves." As there was nothing to see there and we had barely time sufficient to reach Almaden I declined the courteous offer, the acceptance of which, to do the thing properly, would have required some time. Whilst I was speaking to them a woman came out and demanded toll for the mules, which I was the more surprised at as there was no road but merely a common bad track. After paying her demand I inquired how so unusual an occurrence happened as a toll in such a site. They said it was an old right belonging to the place, which is a commandery of one of the great orders, either Calatrava or Alcantara, belonging to Don Carlos; that the property was now under sequestration, and the toll was received with the other rents by Government.

Beyond this place the road or rather track is extremely difficult to find or keep, and without the instructions we had received it would have been almost impossible to make out. The country is very much broken, with patches of monte, xaral

Digitized by Google

and corn lands. Locusts of a small dark species were very numerous and had almost entirely destroyed the grass and other low herbage, but the corn was quite untouched by them.

When we had crossed about two leagues of this sort of ground, we descended into a small hoya or basin, at the extremity of which was a considerable quantity of oleander and other shrubs, the first time I had seen this inhabitant of the south. I was riding forward and on the look out, as this was the worst part of the road we had to pass, when, through an opening of the thicket, I saw three men descending through a corn field to the opposite side of it. I had just time to see that they had guns, but no dogs or other animal of any kind with them, and were ill dressed. I also saw that I had the advantage of them and that they had not observed me. From their appearance I had not an instant's hesitation in deciding what description of characters they were and immediately called our party up, desiring them to be ready. We were rather in open order and Dr. Daubeny was botanizing and so far in the rear, that if we had been attacked in flank he might have been cut off. We formed in order to be able to receive them when they should emerge from the thicket, as I naturally expected they would do.

We had three guns and of course if they were alone we had no ground of apprehension, but from the nature of the ground and the view I had of

Digitized by Google

them, their party might have been more numerous, and those only the rear-guard.

After waiting a little time in silence, there was no appearance of their emerging from the thicket which was very close, and as it would have been very imprudent in us to enter it, we called out to them to advance. They were still quite invisible, but a voice answered, "Come on, we shall not meddle with you." We then rode through and found them on the banks of a pretty stream which flowed through the ravine preparing to breakfast, some beautiful bread, far better than any we could find in the villages being part of their intended repast. The man who had answered was nearest to the ford and the others a little higher up. Of course we passed them at the "recover," and the simple salute of V. V. con Dios! was interchanged. Had we omitted exchanging this compliment even to the people we were now dealing with, we should have risked being thought unpolished. I never saw two more ill-looking specimens in the whole of my travels in Spain than the two principal rateros. They were very tall, gaunt, ill-dressed and worse favoured; the other had a less unpleasing exterior.

Here was a practical solution of my reasoning as to travelling armed, already mentioned. Had we been without the means of defence, we should have been at the mercy of these fellows. There was also a possible application of the order requested to be given to the authorities, for if it had so happened,

Digitized by Google

that we had been robbed by a more numerous party, we should have immediately returned to Espiritu Santo, and called on the Alcalde to send his myrmidons in pursuit.

They were evidently returning from some expedition in the exercise of their vocation. The guide thought they belonged to Talarrubias, but I saw no ground he could have for such an opinion. No doubt they were from some of the villages we had left in the rear.

We passed some pretty barraneos with the oleander and other shrubs, and some old and beautiful specimens of the Fraxinus lentiscifolia, which had by some accident been allowed to remain, and were extremely ornamental. Near one of the streams a very respectable party were at breakfast, travelling in the direction we had come from. Dr. Daubeny suggested we should inform them of the people we had seen, but after some consideration I considered it better not to do so. I had been repeatedly annoyed by reports of this sort on former occasions and never met with the parties announced. So timid are the Spaniards in general, that to a certainty they would have turned back and probably from an alarm which might turn out groundless, lose their journey. In such a country as that we were in, unless they were laying wait, the chances were very much against their seeing any thing of them. In these matters sufficient for the day, &c. is the best

Digitized by Google

maxim; if any one listen to the tales he may hear upon the road, especially if his guides and others find that he is credulous, he may bid adieu to all comfort of travelling in Spain. I had to caution my companion on this subject, who, not knowing the country, was disposed constantly to inquire whether there were any robbers on the road he was going. Two evils may very probably result from the exercise of this habit, the inducing a belief that you are timid, which will encourage marauders to take liberties which they would not otherwise think of doing; if you avoid this, you may fall into a greater inconvenience, by leading them to suppose you have, to use their phrase, onzas in the bolsillos, that is, you have a good deal of money with you, and that it may be worth collecting a gang to assist in easing you of it. There is no difficulty in effecting this in any part of the south of Spain, where in all the villages are characters who, though not regularly on the highway, are quite ready to turn out for an expedition, and there are always about the posadas a set of loose hangers on, picking up news about travellers, and quite ready to communicate with those whose habits they may know will turn it to account. For these reasons no traveller in these districts should ask questions but with great reserve and caution, knowing who he is dealing with, and always, if possible, concealing his direction and time of departure.

Digitized by Google

We passed some ruined cortijos and other buildings which figure in the maps as a village, but they appeared to be uninhabited, and dined by the side of a stream in an open spot selected for the purpose. Soon afterwards we opened a beautiful reach of the Zuja, which conveys all the waters in this district and a great way eastward to the Guadiana. At this season it was full and of a clear deep blue, and being backed by the chain to the south of it had a noble effect. From the waters being partly dammed back by the rocks, it looked quite as large as the main river to which it is one of the most important tributaries.

We had now fairly entered the defiles of Almaden and enjoyed the sight of very beautiful views. The ground is finely broken and nothing is wanting but wood, as some encinas and a very few olive trees are all that remain of the ancient forests. In character it reminded me of parts of the Abruzzi, the resemblance to which was increased by masses of clouds settling on the higher peaks and throwing down broken masses of light and deep blue, so characteristic of the effects in the Apennines.

There is scarcely any cultivated ground in this beautiful valley, but patches of corn are seen here and there on the flats near the river, and a few olive trees on the sloping sides of the hills.

I met with a few ornithological specimens in this part. A pair of the nut-crackers (Nucifraga caryo-

Digitized by Google

catactes) lit in a field near Espiritu Santo, but they were very wild; it was the only time I ever saw it in Spain. The beautiful Saxicola stapazina was not uncommon on the dry grounds, and the Dartford warbler, Sylvia provincialis, near the streams. I followed a small owl, either the Scops or Passerina for some time, but he beat me by always diving through the thick evergreens and making his escape on the opposite side.

After skirting the Zuja for some distance and enjoying the pretty views, we turned to the left and ascended a long barraneo or ravine, covered with cistus and many other beautiful shrubs, and abounding in game, which was so attractive to the attendants that I was obliged to interfere with their amusement. At the summit we entered an extensive xaral, which extended to near Chillon, where it is relieved by patches of corn land. This xaral is kept for the use of the furnaces of Almaden and they were cutting down and stacking a portion of it to dry and be in readiness for use. Chillon is a small town, a sort of miniature adjunct to Almaden, from which it is distant a long league, but neither is seen from the other and is chiefly inhabited by workmen and others belonging to the mine. We descended into a valley and after a steep ascent came in sight of Almaden, to which the approach is long, tedious and circuitous and the entrance on this side is neither commodious nor very easy to

Digitized by Google

find. At length we made our way to the Plaza, where I was informed the inn was placed.

We had previously made inquiries about this essential and very uncertain portion of material comfort in these regions. I was told that there was only one posada in the place; that it was very good and was kept by a foreigner, a Frenchman by birth. On hearing the latter part I felt quite at ease, anticipating a certain quantum of conveniences and at least comfortable living. I had even calculated the possibility of meeting with that favourite luxury of our neighbours—a warm bath, which would have been doubly welcome after our late travelling. The first glance at the locality soon dispelled these illusions.

After passing an archway, close to the Casa del Ayuntamiento, I descended and found myself in a caravansera of the genuine Spanish style. An ample space was covered by a rude and irregular roof; portions of which appeared to have been added at different times. Under this were arranged every description of package, alabardas, or pack-saddles, tinaxas or jars carried on asses; bales made to balance each other, bags of salt, and every sort of merchandize carried by the arrieros. Baggage was laid out and the muskets of the parties near it; cooking was going on at an open fire; the most unsavoury odours were exhaled by the rancid oil, forming the basis of it, which would have been insup-

Digitized by Google

portable, but from their being tempered and softened by the ammonia and other correctives issuing from the stables, which opened into it. Mantas were being spread and the respective mozos were preparing to pass the early part of night in this elysium, lulled by the tinkling of the bells attached to their steeds, and only likely to be occasionally disturbed by the amorous whinings of some and the more amorous responses of others, with an occasional battle in consequence. In short it was so true a specimen of a haunt of arrieros that you might travel from Cadiz to Pamplona, or from Coruña to Barcelona without meeting any thing more perfect in the line.

This was No. 1 of three houses I had heard composed the establishment; whilst I was contemplating it, lost in admiration and musing on the prospects it opened to us and on the failure of my speculations as to the French hotel of the famed Almaden, the host arrived. He shewed me a sort of room, which was instantly disapproved of and he said, then we must try the next house. This was the counterpart of its neighbour, but less fully occupied. We looked at some quarters more like pajares or repositories of the cut straw than receptacles for human beings, which were also shortly disapproved of. He then went to a door, which he opened with some ceremony, observing that it was his last resource.

This was a dungeon, about twelve feet square,

Digitized by Google

lighted by a small aperture near the roof, several feet from the ground and closed by a wooden shutter, like a scuttle on board a ship. In it was seated on a dwarf chair, by a pigmy table, on which he was inditing his accounts, the huge Cosario, or leader of one of the strings of mules and asses which occupied the place. He evidently had no wish to be disturbed in his retreat and I was equally indisposed to put him to inconvenience by dislodging him. The master promised to make it quite comfortable, meaning that it should serve for both dining and sleeping room for us both, and that we should have abundance of furniture and every thing to make it pleasant during our stay.

After listening to his programme with the requisite patience, I told him it was quite out of the question the taking up our abode in such a place. He considered a while, and then said, "there is only one thing more I have to offer you and that is my own apartment." He accordingly led the way to his "harem," which was placed at the bottom of a large yard, quite detached from the caravansera and made the third house. There were two chambers in it, with glass windows and rather comfortable; the inner one a bed-room and the other a sort of ante or sitting room, partly furnished with the rude fittings of the country. We might have made a tolerable shift in this part, but there were unfortunately other parties to consult in the arrangement; his wife and children, who, the instant they heard the

Digitized by Google

plan, set up a loud lamentation, which increased until it became a howl, with which the place resounded. Of course I remained silent and took no part, leaving it to themselves to determine the result. The master said nothing for a time; but then spoke a few expressive words ending in a "command;" on which they were silent and leaving us together, he went to aid and assist in maintaining order amidst his numerous guests biped and quadruped, in the caravansera.

The helpmate was a Spanish woman, and as she was evidently in a state of great irritation I set about calming and making her easy as to the proposed arrangement and had very nearly succeeded, as she was becoming quite tranquil and resigned, when a character walked in abruptly with his hat and capa and sat down without the smallest ceremony, or taking the least notice of me. This was a "crony," or "amigo de casa;" and the landlady entered instantly on a relation of her family grievances, and the various hardships she had to undergo, not forgetting of course the present very prominent one which was brought out in bold relief.

She talked with great volubility and had soon run through a rather long catalogue of grievances, none of which appeared to be very heavy. When I thought time enough had been expended in this stage of the business and that it was advisable to proceed to another, I rose and gave a hint, which

Digitized by Google

was instantly taken and the visitor withdrew. As her equilibrium after being so nearly restored was again quite discomposed, I had neither time nor inclination to begin afresh, and as there was something about the poor woman which made me rather feel for her, I was far from liking that part of the plan which was to unseat her, so I determined to leave her to the care of Dr. Daubeny, with whom as neither party understood the other there was little danger of any disagreement, and to sally out in search of further accommodations.

I first went to the Sala de Ayuntamiento in search of the Alcalde, to inquire whether he could do any thing for us. They told me, that being the principal surgeon of the place and in extensive practice, he was just gone to make his evening round of visits and they could neither say exactly where he might be nor when he was likely to return. There was now only one resource left, that of going to the governor and laying the case before him, which after a little consideration I determined to do. The difficulty and delicacy I felt about it, proceeded from our not having the regular introduction to him which we ought to have had and were promised should be sent; but on leaving Madrid by some means or other was overlooked. I accordingly made my way to the palace, as they call it, which is at the extremity of the town and a considerable distance from the Plaza; entering by a corps de garde, and after ascending the great

Digitized by Google

staircase, which was occupied by petitioners and pensioners, the greater part of them of most miserable appearance, I was ushered into a cabinet, where, to my no small surprise and pleasure, I found not only his excellency, but Señor Prado, the director of the mining establishment at Madrid, as already mentioned, with my friend Colonel Elorza of Seville, who had come on purpose to meet me. After some very agreeable conversation, as the evening was fast wearing away I was preparing to return home to my companion, when they said, "Wait a few minutes." I accordingly resumed my seat, when shortly afterwards a messenger arrived and made some communication to the governor. They then said, "There is a house prepared for you in the town; we were only waiting to receive the information that all was ready to communicate it to you. It is impossible that you can stop at the posada, which is only fit for arrieros; the governor having only just been appointed and is a bachelor, has but a limited number of beds which are now occupied, otherwise he would have received you in his house. We will not detain you longer, because it is already late and you will be anxious to see your quarters and to decansar after your journey." I accordingly took my leave, accompanied by our intended host, who had come in person for the purpose of reporting his house ready. I was also informed that we were expected at dinner next day and during our stay and that every thing

Digitized by Google

was at our disposal. I returned to communicate this agreeable news to Dr. Daubeny, whom I found quite established for the night with every thing arranged to make our intended quarters as comfortable as possible; the landlady had disappeared and every thing was perfectly quiet. Then arose another difficulty; it was nine o'clock and would it not be better to remain for the night at the posada? but to this, which was the opinion of Dr. Daubeny, there was an obstacle. I did not like the idea of dispossessing the poor woman of her quarters and sending her to pass the night in the places I had seen, if it could be avoided: on the other hand, after the trouble he had taken and the extreme civility of the host, it was a little hard to leave him when he had done all he could to make us comfortable.

The proprietor of the other house was also to be considered, he having prepared his rooms for us and evidently, although he did not interfere in the discussion, would have been hurt had we preferred such a place to his more commodious apartments, got ready for us at the express command of the governor.

In this dilemma, I sent for the master of the house and laid the matter before him, endeavouring to obtain his consent to our leaving his house, on the ground of the inconvenience we put his family to by remaining. All that I could say, he would give no direct reply as to whether he would prefer our remaining, saying, that we were to do exactly as we

Digitized by Google

liked; but that so far as his family were concerned, they were accustomed to obey his wishes, and that their convenience was not of so much importance, having made the necessary arrangements for their lodging. At last, finding the impossibility of extracting an answer from him, punctilio carried it and we determined to move, of course making full amends for the trouble he had taken we left him perfectly satisfied. I do not recollect any individual I ever met in Spain or elsewhere who, in his sphere of life, left a more favourable or durable impression than this man, who was an excellent specimen of his country, after the curious metamorphosis he had made. He was a remarkably fine looking and pleasing mannered man, dressed in the majo or country style, and had acquired the grave, serious and courteous manner of the Spaniards. Having inquired about his wife, he told me that a few months since she had lost a favourite child and had been in a state of distraction bordering on derangement ever since. On remonstrating about the badness of his accommodations, saying, that "pour l'honneur de la France" he ought to have some decent means of lodging travellers, if in ever so small a number; he said it was very true, but that if he was to fit up any they would never be occupied, as travellers very seldom visited him and that his ordinary guests very much preferred being with their mules.

Digitized by Google

It may be as well to explain the precise meaning of the word Pajar, which is found in the description of the ventas in Don Quixote. I do not know how they translate it, being peculiarly Spanish and I know no word in any other language which will render it. They are the places in which is deposited the paja, or straw cut in the operation of thrashing, in readiness for serving the mules, &c. After some time of occupation, as they are never cleared out, a dust is formed in immense quantities, the most impalpable and penetrating that can be conceived, which rises in clouds every time they visit them, making it a perfect torment to be near, in place of the excellent quarters afforded by clean straw in a loft in other countries and the term gives peculiar force to some of the descriptions of Cervantes.

Digitized by Google

CHAPTER VIII.

ALMADEN—THE QUICKSILVER MINE—ESTABLISHMENT.

We found our new quarters most comfortable, the house was in the main street; and the host, a most worthy man, a merchant in general business. He was devoted to the governor, who, it was whispered, had assisted him in some difficulty which had occurred and his gratitude was unbounded.

We occupied the principal room in the upper part of the house and the family sat in a kind of divan below, where I went occasionally to chat with their various cronies who came in and no doubt were desirous to learn our proceedings.

The next day was Sunday, and with the exception of the furnaces which of course must be kept burning, there is a general cessation of work of all kinds in this royal establishment. We arrived just in time to see it in full occupation, as in a few days nearly all the workmen were to be discharged for the summer, at which season all the principal work in the mines is suspended. The chief reason of this is the want of ventilation in the mines at that time, and the powerful effect of the exhalations on the human frame, as well as the necessity of allowing the labourers a few weeks to recruit. Very few

Digitized by Google

indeed are uninjured by the noisome atmosphere of this celebrated mine.

The following day we descended into the works. The great adit is just outside the town, which is built over the mine itself and after traversing a gallery we came to the first ladder by which we descended and successively ten others of different lengths. They are very steep like common home ladders, and at the top and bottom the entrance and egress are sometimes a little difficult and incommodious, but there is little danger in the operation of descending. In places there are galleries of communication conducting to some distance from the perpendicular shaft to others of the series; of course the ascent of the vast number of steps was a little fatiguing and the heat made the egress extremely agreeable.

There is very little water in the workings and it is delivered by one of the rarest of machines, an original one by Watt, made about 1790, which was of course considered a marvel in its day. Fortunately the quantity of water is so trifling that as yet they have had no occasion to change, but they were talking about making improvements in it. The mineral is hoisted by mules up a magnificent shaft which is so near the engine that both purposes could be answered by the substitution of more modern mechanism.

There are three great veins, called S. Nicolas, S. Francisco, and S. Diego, the directions of which

Digitized by Google

are on the whole nearly parallel with each other, but they converge in places, and are connected by galleries below; the extent is considerable, the depth being rather more than equal to the length of the mine. We were very near the lowest level, having descended to the bottom working gallery, and below us was only the rough rock which the workmen were blasting.

The entire depth of the workings at present is about three hundred and two varas or yards, about nine hundred feet; they work in a perpendicular direction, or nearly so, in following the line of the mineral.

So little appearance is there of any diminution in this extraordinary deposit, that it increases both in quantity and quality as they descend and the finest qualities are quite at the lowest part. In consequence of accidents which happened long since, and probably the example of Idria, they have gradually given up the use of wood excepting for temporary support, when it is indispensable during the operations of the masons, and all the permanent works are now of stone. I saw one magnificent arch, about the finest I ever beheld, which was being turned very near the lowest level, for the purpose of supporting two galleries and allow the middle wall between them to be taken away. All the works are executed in a truly royal manner, and so capacious and enlarged are the views carried out in the management, that they only

Digitized by Google

take away about one half of the mineral, leaving the other as a legacy to the future possessors of it and to provide a supply in case of unforeseen accidents in the workings. On the same principle they regulate the consumption or vend, which is limited at present to about twenty thousand quintals, the Spanish quintal being about one hundred and five pounds English.

There are about five thousand men employed in and about the mine during the full season. Those who work below are divided into three watches, each of which works about six hours out of the twenty-four, the rest or cessation being from ten at night until four in the morning, when they recommence. I think the number of miners belonging to these parties is about eight hundred, besides pumpers, artificers and others engaged in the mechanical parts. There are no foreigners whatever in any department at present, but I saw amongst the population some physiognomies of undoubted German origin, whose ancestors no doubt had been employed here.

The storehouses and magazines are on a scale corresponding with the rest of this vast establishment; they are chiefly cut in the solid rock and contain an ample store of every thing. There are eight old furnaces and two new high ones on the plan of those at Idria. The sublimation is carried on upon the most simple and economical method, the furnaces being packed with mineral in different

Digitized by Google

proportions according to the quality; the first class which is almost pure, forms the nucleus, and on the outside are two other gradations, the poorest being the exterior lining. As it proceeds to calcination, the smoke given out is carried across a kind of roof, in short earthen tubes of very common manufacture on which the mineral is deposited, and issues through the openings at the junction of them, running into cisterns made to receive it. I could not help thinking there must be loss in this part of the process which is carried on in the open air, but they declared it was too trifling to enter into calculation. The furnaces are heated chiefly with the cistus and other aromatic herbs, the smell from which is delicious, so unlike the production of similar vents in other countries.

Almost every thing is made within the establishment; even the rope is manufactured there, although the hemp is brought from Granada. The timber chiefly employed is the encina, which is purchased by contract, but the best for construction where length is wanted is that of the Pinus Hispanica, which is brought a great distance from the Sierra de Cuenca; and I also saw some trunks of the Quexigo. The being obliged to purchase timber proceeds from the gross and scandalous neglect of former administrations, as they have a tract of ten or twelve miles square belonging to the establishment which would grow far more timber than they could ever require, the greater part of which is now unproductive or merely xaral.

Digitized by Google

The health of the men employed in extracting this most unwholesome mineral varies very much, but on the whole they are very seriously affected by the exhalations and the heat of the lower workings. This may easily be imagined when it is stated that at the lowest part to which we descended the quicksilver was running down the walls, and the heat was considerable, whilst the ventilation was naturally extremely deficient. Both Dr. Daubeny and myself sensibly felt the effect even in the short time we passed there, and I distinctly perceived the coppery taste of the mercury on the palate: how much more must the labourers be affected who are working hard, are heated and almost naked! The rock is excessively strong and compact in every part; there appeared to be very little difference in working it, the mine and the wall being equally tough and tenacious.

The workmen come from all parts, some even from Portugal, but I think chiefly from La Mancha and Estremadura. After the winter's work most of them are seriously altered in health and appearance, but the effect of their native air soon restores them and in most instances they return again. Every thing depends on care and attention to diet; those who live freely, especially who indulge in wine, rapidly fall victims to the disorders generated by the pernicious mineral, whilst those who are attentive in cleansing their persons immediately after leaving work and live temperately, using a

Digitized by Google

good deal of milk, attain the usual age of man in that country. Some instances of men of upwards of seventy were pointed out who had worked all their lives in the mine and were hale and strong, but these are rare examples. The men employed at the furnaces are quite healthy and it appears only the miners properly so called are much subject to the complaints generated by the mercury.

There are three principal divisions of this wonderful deposit. That we have described; one near and no doubt connected with it, and one at Almadenejos (little Almaden), at a league and a quarter distance, which is on the line of bearing, and no doubt is part of the same veins, but is of less value and not worked independently, being included in the general administration. They said the mineral ran rather more into the slate than in the great mine, but we did not visit it from the little interest the description excited. They state in some books that the present mine is the identical one worked by the Carthaginians and Romans, but it is entirely modern ; and the general opinion is, that the ancient mine was near Almadenejos, and that they were entirely ignorant of the present locality.

There was a German family, I believe from Augsburgh, of the barbarous name of Fuggers, which the Spaniards have euphonised into Fucares. These people were in Spain many years engaged in mining speculations, amongst others

Digitized by Google

in the great silver vein at Guadalcanal and at Almaden. After some time they retired extremely rich, and are accused of having drowned out the mines they wrought so as to make them impracticable to their successors: but it is more likely the abstraction of their capital and skill was the cause; however that may be the effect is certain, and the government found it impossible to resume their operations in the part they had worked; but by strict examination of the locality, the present extraordinary formation was discovered and has been wrought ever since.

In order to ascertain the exact reason of the failure, they are executing a considerable desague or tunnel, which is expected will lead right into the workings of the Fucares, and by clearing them of water, enable it to be discovered whether any mineral remains, and whether, as is very probable from the contiguity of the workings, they can open a communication with the present mine.

Extensive examinations have been made in all the surrounding district with the view of ascertaining whether any additional veins could be found at a lesser depth than the present mine, but as yet no traces whatever have been discovered beyond the localities already designated.

The administration has been recently altered and reformed; the governor was formerly a personage of great importance, holding not only the command of the mine, but uniting with it a great number of

Digitized by Google

anomalous functions, as usual in Spanish administration, which made him a kind of petty prince. An officer of engineers or artillery was supposed to be selected, but an appointment of this nature, one of the best in the kingdom, was naturally jobbed and not unfrequently conferred upon some creature of the Court. The patronage being very great, the abuses of it were of course in proportion; but the present government has reformed or rather commenced reforming the whole, with a view to eradicating the evils in which it abounded and putting it upon a footing more suitable to a branch which is one of the most certain and productive of the national resources. Señor Prado, the officer charged with it when we were there, was a Galician by birth, a plain, most zealous, and upright servant, apparently just fit to take command of such an establishment under the circumstances I have described. Unlike his predecessors he was above no part of his duty and was to be seen at all hours in his working dress examining every part of the mine, inspecting every branch of detail, with a view to introduce all necessary retrenchments and improvements. To those acquainted with Spain it is unnecessary to remark the opposition he must have met with from those accustomed to the old routine. One instance came under my own observation when he was conducting us through the mine; while passing a body of carpenters and others who were laying a platform, he suggested an alteration in the

Digitized by Google

mode of doing it, on which he was attacked with the most unmeasured insolence (excessively rare in any shape in Spain) by the quarterman or leading superintendent of the gang, who seemed determined to have his own way. This fellow, who was a very fine looking man and had a peculiarly loud and whistling voice, in consequence of his having a regular hare lip, addressed his most impertinent expressions purposely and in such a way that they might be heard by the whole body of workmen around, raising and pitching his voice and changing his position accordingly.

This behaviour, which took place before the whole party, was wholly uncalled for and prolonged to a most unpleasant extent. I did not much attend to the matter in dispute, but I thought the governor was right; he never checked him or said one word and I never saw the patient self-command so often observed in the Spaniards more necessary.

The superintendent is still called in the place by the ancient title already mentioned, but his official designation is the Inspector, the style being changed with the reduction of the establishment. I mentioned having seen a crowd of the halt, the maimed and the blind, for such they truly were, in my first visit to the governor's palace; these poor creatures appeared to be always in attendance and the number was increased by other pensioners and claimants of all sorts who besieged Señor Prado

Digitized by Google

during his stay. They were all martyrs or sufferers in some way by the mine, and many of them dreadful objects, worthy of every sort of commiseration; but they told me that great abuses had crept in, and the reforming them was a most difficult and ungracious task. The governor's establishment was filled to overflowing with hangers on and followers of all kinds, perfectly useless, whose services and persons he had inherited as they were handed down by his predecessors. The worst part is that many responsible and important situations were filled by persons totally incompetent to discharge the duties of them and the cleansing this Augean stable was an office both painful and disagreeable.

Every thing in this establishment partakes of royal magnificence even to the abuses, and they boast I believe with perfect truth that it is altogether the finest mine upon the globe. There are the means of instruction and support for schools of both the higher and lower orders of those engaged in it. There were some very fine young men in the higher department, who were lodged in a handsome building like a small college. The school for the practical mining is like a mechanics' institute; with every necessary to teach the workmen who may be desirous of instruction, and there is also an hospital for the wounded or sufferers from the diseases of the place, belonging to the administrator.

The product of the mine, that is the quantity allowed to be extracted by the entire establishment,

Digitized by Google

is at present 20,000 quintals. This is sold at a price agreed on and delivered at Seville, the Government very properly having considered that in this country it would never answer to have parties receiving the precious commodity on the spot. The expenditure being moderate the profits are very great and without any additional outlay being incurred, the price has been raised in a few years from 34 to 84 dollars the quintal. In 1843 there was a competition between some of the great capitalists of Spain with those abroad and it finally centred in the Rothschilds, the highest native bidder having ceded his bargain to the Colossus. It is evident as the mine produces a large portion of the quicksilver known to exist on the globe, that this mode of managing the business puts the whole system of silver mines, and of other branches of industry in which quicksilver is required, at the mercy of the holders of this contract.

In fact a certain portion of the industrial world is dependent on this singular place, and the contract once made, it is clear that excepting any qualms of conscience the lessee may be influenced by, there is no sort of check or restraint upon his cupidity. The difficulty or rather the temptation to exorbitant prices is increased by the habit of the Government requiring large sums to be paid down. This practice which was unavoidable during the civil war, when it frequently produced the only ready money they could lay their hands on, has continued

Digitized by Google

and must do so, unless a financial change take place. After all, the gain is only about £75,000 per annum, a small item if the affairs of the nation were properly conducted.

In its geological position this deposit must be referred to the vast formation for which I have suggested the name of the Estremadura slate, in which the vein of phosphorite is also situated. At Almaden there are three members of it: a common dark coloured slate, a fine quartzite and a rather curious conglomerate resembling to the eye a volcanic tufa, called from the prevailing colour which is a light grayish blue resembling the habit of that extinct order, the Franciscan rock. This is in the mine and with the quartzite may be said to form the matrix. The deposit in the great mine rather lies against the slate, but in the mine at Almadenejos runs into it; such at least was the impression in the cursory examination made of it. Some trilobites have been found near Almaden, but we were unable to detect any remains in the short examination there was time to make. From these trilobites they have at Madrid assigned the formation to the Silurian period, to which there is little doubt it belongs, but there do not appear at present data to assign the exact epoch, which will probably be done hereafter. A more extended notice of this formation will be given in the Appendix.

The town is tolerably well built, although the houses are smaller than usual in Spain: it is long

Digitized by Google

and narrow, being chiefly composed of one street running the whole length and occupying the summit of a ridge with the sides scarped away into rather deep barraneos; the access is bad in every direction. Beyond the valley heights of considerable elevation arise at different distances, forming a sort of amphitheatre, and reminding me a good deal of the position of Frossinone; I cannot say more in favour of its natural situation, and as the weather was stormy and unsettled whilst we were there, the effects at sunset were magnificent, calling to the recollection those seen at Olevano and other parts of that region.

In the olden time, some governor had expended a large sum of money in making an embankment or mound across one of the barraneos, with a magnificent road fit for an approach to the largest capital, but "Cosas de España," ending in a mule track at a very short distance. A small glorieta or public garden has recently been laid out on this road, and the lower part of the slopes behind the town where it was practicable, had once been planted with trees, the greater part of which had long been burnt and mutilated.

At the end, near the mine, the valley is extremely picturesque, large and broken masses of the rock being split off and dispersed, fitting them admirably for laying out in villa gardens, as they would be in any other country; but here they are

Digitized by Google

left as nature pleased and no sort of advantage is taken in turning them to account.

The population is about 7000, of course depending in one way or other upon the money put in circulation by the administration. There is little traffic excepting that connected with the mine, the place being a great distance from all the chief lines of road; but a plan has been talked of, making a direct one to Seville by the back of the Sierra Morena: if this ever be executed, of which there is little probability, Almaden will be a principal point in it.

The town was put in a state of defence by poor Flinter, one of the most active and best officers they had during the civil war, when attacked by Gomez, who burnt a part, but would not have taken it, had he been relieved in time by General Rodil, who from some unaccountable cause, left him to his fate. The Carlists took, of course, every thing they could lay hands upon, but did no mischief to the mine. The works are slight but well constructed, chiefly for musketry, and have been evidently drawn by some one well acquainted with the science.

Digitized by Google

CHAPTER IX.

DEPARTURE FROM ALMADEN—VELMEZ—FUENTE OVEJUNA—FABRICA DE PEDROSO.

HAVING concluded our observations at Almaden, we began to make arrangements for the remaining part of the route to Seville, which was the next point intended to be made. Dr. Daubeny very naturally wished to go by Cordova, both in order to see that interesting place and also because it offered the readiest means of meeting the diligence and other modes of conveyance, which are more agreeable to travellers in general but more especially to those unaccustomed to the rough work of traversing the wilder parts of Spain. I also intended to take the same line and we had engaged mules for the purpose, but my friend Colonel Elorza who was unexpectedly obliged to return to his establishment at Pedroso in the Sierra Morena and then to Seville, was so anxious that I should accompany him, which plan coincided perfectly with my own wishes, that I was in a complete dilemma, when Dr. Daubeny kindly begged I would not consider his convenience but take my own route.—Notwithstanding this very kind offer, I should not on any account have allowed my companion to pass

Digitized by Google

the wild tract between Almaden and Cordova, some parts of which are always unsafe, alone; but it very fortunately happened that the monthly escort which conducts the money to pay the men at the mines and which is obliged to have a guard of nearly thirty men to prevent the marauders from all sides collecting and pouncing upon it, was about to start for the purpose, and the governor very kindly offered to put Dr. Daubeny under the special care of the commanding officer, who, as I afterwards heard, performed his duty perfectly. It was also settled, that as I could do very well without an attendant, Francisco should follow the Doctor to provide for his wants, and since he spoke a little French, I was not absolutely required as interpreter. Independently of these important considerations, I felt perfectly confident of the hands to which the conveyance of the party had been confided.

Although Almaden is a sort of capital there are no mules kept in it; but there is an extensive establishment in one of the villages on the road to Cordova, the inhabitants of which live in a great measure by them. I had become acquainted with one of the chief muleteers, a capitalist who could undertake any operation in his line, however great, and he promised me to take every care of the Professor, to see him properly lodged and looked after. The distance being only eighteen leagues, ought to be done in two days, but the road being bad and not equally divided by halting places, it is

Digitized by Google

usual to make it in three short days. Of course, the escort being infantry were another obstacle in the way, as nine leagues, although only an ordinary march to Spanish soldiers if required, are more than they make, unless for some special reason. All this being settled, there was another point to consider; we had taken no money at Truxillo, having for obvious reasons allowed as little as possible to encumber our bolsillos, we had jointly brought just what I calculated would be required to carry us to Cordova, but being now to separate, a further supply was wanted. I had asked for credit at Almaden, but my banker knew no one there; in fact the money operations being chiefly carried on by the Government there is no private banker. Our host offered me money, but there would have been a difficulty about drawing; nor did I wish to trouble the governor if it could be avoided, although he would have supplied us immediately. Another plan was suggested and immediately tried; to borrow the sum wanted from the muleteer, to be repaid at Cordova. The man assented directly without a moment's hesitation, his intention being to give the money on arriving at his own house, and if it had been my own case, knowing the people so thoroughly, I should have been perfectly satisfied and required no further arrangement; however, Dr. Daubeny, as many others would have done under the same circumstances, was apprehensive that the muleteer might change his mind,

Digitized by Google

and wished to have the money paid down. I was extremely reluctant to ask for it; in fact it was a request of such a nature that with these people, unless very well managed and without the smallest hint at the motive, it would to a certainty have offended the man and put an end to the transaction.

However, on its being proposed to him he made no sort of difficulty, never suspecting the cause of it and returned very shortly with the money. I have here detailed this transaction because it throws further light on the character of this curious people; and here again is ancient and genuine Spain; I had never seen the man but in these interviews, and his conduct was certainly rather different from that of other traders of higher grade and considerably greater pretensions.

The plan of march of Colonel Elorza and myself was to make for Pedroso, which we were to reach on the third day, turning out of the direct road to visit a coal formation at Velmez, that he thought might be of use to the establishment under his charge. This route is one of the wildest in Spain and the first and last days the distance we were to ride was twelve and eleven leagues, circumstances rather recommending it to me than otherwise, as I was confident of seeing more of the country and of the people than I possibly could upon the great road.

Colonel Elorza was quite ready for the journey and had brought his own horse, and a servant on

Digitized by Google

a mule with sogas or large panniers, in which there was ample room for my light baggage, so that I only required one mule to ride. So great was the scarcity of them, I scarcely know how I should have accomplished this, but from the personal request of the governor to a man in the town, who let me have one as a special favour and not for hire, of which no mention was made. I really believe they expected no remuneration, and were surprised when they were presented with about double the usual price as a matter of course at the end of this part of the journey.

We left Almaden de Azogue (the mine of quicksilver, I believe in the Moorish nomenclature) to distinguish it from Almaden de la Plata (silver mine) in the Sierra Morena, at an early hour, and after passing about a league of defiles with broken mountain pasture and corn-land, watered by the various torrents forming some of the affluents of the Zuja, the river already mentioned which drains all this district; the country became more open and level, improving in appearance as we advanced. This was succeeded by a considerable tract of open forest covering a wide valley, where the united streams were confined by natural dams or stoppages in the bed, assuming the appearance of a spacious river. Mountains and hills of moderate height and beautiful form, about the scale of those in South Wales, partly covered with forest, terminated the distance in the most perfect harmony of

Digitized by Google

proportion. The ground was covered with luxuriant vegetation now bursting into its short-lived beauty, and the song of the nightingale, the hollow drumming of the hoopoe, with the shrill but melancholy whistle of the bee-eater, and the cooing of the turtle doves which were in prodigious numbers, aided by a fresh and delicious morning, composed a scene the most lovely it was possible to behold. Flocks were not wanting to enliven it, and the whole effect was never excelled in the most perfect pictures of Arcadia.

The road or rather track was excessively difficult to find and we had constantly to refer to the shepherds for instructions; we however set out with the knowledge that every one of the party was unacquainted with it, having no professed guide as on former occasions, to mislead us.

Far to the left we saw the ruined Moorish castle of Sta. Eufemia, and they said there was a large village at the foot of the lofty rock on which it is placed, but that was hidden from our view by the intervening hill. After a few miles of this beautiful country it gradually became more open and the monte or forest was succeeded by broken xaral in which there was a considerable tract covered entirely by the Cistus roseus in full flower, that had before chiefly occurred in small patches mixed with the other sorts. After this came open corn lands announcing the vicinity of Hinojosa where we were to make our mid-day halt, which after having tra-

Digitized by Google

velled eight leagues since leaving Almaden, neither ourselves nor our animals were indisposed to do. We found a spacious and decent posada though the rooms were in rather a dilapidated condition. Being known to be a large and wealthy place it was considered certain there would be no difficulty in procuring a horse or mule for the remainder of the journey, and we had arranged that I should send back that which had brought me from Almaden; however after making every inquiry we found it impossible to get one and the man in charge agreed under the circumstances without the smallest hesitation to go as far as Velmez, four leagues further, where we were to sleep. As he had already made eight leagues on foot and the heat was considerable, I thought it only fair to provide a donkey for him, which we managed with some difficulty, a stout peasant accompanying it instead of a boy for whom I had stipulated. I have no doubt the guide, who was the brother of the owner of the mule and above the rank of a common peasant, would have done the remainder of the journey without any complaint, being 50 miles in all, had I not made him the offer.

Hinojosa is a considerable town with wide streets and the houses are very small, clean and neat; being chiefly a place of labradores it appears to have little commerce. The weather being very fine and the sun rather powerful, the women were sitting at the doors in the shade engaged in various

Digitized by Google

occupations, whilst the men were taking their siesta.

Some of the females had a very prepossessing appearance, but the faces of those who were undergoing the operation of having the hair dressed were quite invisible from the magnificent locks which when down completely covered them in every direction. They were not displeased with being looked at in this rather interesting operation, and in the natural manner of the people of these remote and unfrequented districts, returned a most cheerful and hearty V. v. con Dios, to the occasional salutation offered them.

The rooms of the houses are generally on the ground floor, with a vista through the successive apartments terminating in a garden or small patio; the abundant use of whitewash, the general cleanliness, the character of the heads with their profusion of very dark hair, shewed that we were no longer in Estremadura but in Moorish Spain.

As soon as the arrangement of the donkey was concluded, which required some time, we started with our new addition to the cavalcade and after crossing a radius of corn land that surrounds the town on every side, entered an immense xaral abounding in game, which extends uninterruptedly to very near Velmez.

When we had proceeded some distance we heard a noise and groaning behind us, and on turning back to ascertain the cause we found Colonel Elorza's

Digitized by Google

servant lying on the ground and suffering very much from a violent blow on the head given him by the mule he rode, which after throwing him off had taken this mode of punishing him for his awkwardness. We were a good deal alarmed about the consequences at first, but after a little time he rallied and got up. The vicious brute had thrown him before, but without kicking afterwards, and it now became a serious matter. He was a fine young man and had been a soldier, but unlike the generality of Andalusians was excessively unskilful in keeping his seat upon the sogas, nor from his being behind, could we exactly ascertain the cause of his falling or how the brute managed to shoot him off, at which it was a perfect adept. The ground rose and imperceptibly we found ourselves on the summit of a sort of terrace, which divides the waters of the Guadiana and Guadalquivir and in the plain below us we made out the lofty isolated Castle of Velmez.

We arrived after dusk and found the posada very indifferently provided in the lodging department. There was one room opening out of the common hall, kitchen and stable, which were combined, as usual in these establishments. The people who were very civil and respectable in their way, said they could only make up one bed; it was then necessary to effect some other arrangement and Colonel Elorza proposed to sally out in search of one. I did not like the idea of occupying it and leaving him to lie on the floor as he intended, and I accompanied

Digitized by Google

him. He had a letter to a family in the place, but he thought it so slight that he expected it would be of little service in procuring the hospitality that in this part of the country is the usual result of an introduction; however we proceeded to the house which was the best in the town and were received by the lady who had been left a widow shortly before by the sudden and premature death of her husband, with nine children, the youngest about two years old. The elder were daughters of most prepossessing appearance and manners, though inferior to the mother, who amidst care and sorrow strongly marked in her countenance, still preserved the remains of very great beauty.

After sitting a good while chatting with them over the brasero, she apologised for not offering us lodging, because her spare rooms were entirely occupied by the produce of the estate and were unfurnished, but that she had no doubt her brother-in-law would give us beds and that she would be glad if we would sup at her house. The party soon arrived and it was settled according to her programme.

We had an excellent plain supper with apparently very little addition to their usual fare, and only the family party without form or restraint; towards the close, several of the household made their appearance to hear the conversation, as is frequently the custom in Spain, and every thing was carried on with the perfect ease and good breeding natural to the people.

Digitized by Google

A character was there, dressed in a sort of harlequin majo costume with very many colours about him, who stood behind whilst we were at supper and never sat down, but entered largely into the conversation which was going on. He was a relation and so determined a sportsman that he told me he shot every day in the year, and although it was the middle of May he had been out that morning! The grand feat of his life was the killing twenty-five partridges at three shots! This was accomplished by watching the birds at the pools in the xarales where they resort in the dry season for water, when the sportsmen fire into the covey upon the ground! This extraordinary performance had been related to the Bishop of the diocese, who in his visitation had partaken the hospitality of our hosts. The Bishop was incredulous and jocularly said he must produce a witness, who happened to be a monk, a connection of the family. They dropped their voices when this came out, being half ashamed of having such a clansman. No other proof need be adduced of the enormous quantity of game in this district, which we had observed by the numbers disturbed by a cur dog belonging to the peasant who had followed us from Hinojosa.

Besides the favourite subject, the conversation turned a good deal on England, and they asked many questions founded on strange theories and biographies of "the Duke" and others, some of them very unaccountable. The channels

Digitized by Google

through which they had travelled to this remote district was that of the Parisian press, and strange anecdotes and memoirs were here doled out in Spanish dress and with a few amplifications. Some of them were so extraordinary that I was obliged to rally the majo who supplied them, on his sources of information, to the great amusement of the party, more especially of the bystanders; he appeared to be perfectly good humoured and a true specimen of that description of character known amongst our neighbours as "bon diable."

After supper we adjourned to our intended quarters accompanied by a sort of suite to shew us the way and see us safely lodged. We found a small but most comfortable house; the master of it was a bachelor of certain age with a neat establishment and remarkably hospitable, nor could his cigars, of which he was very liberal be surpassed. He entered warmly into our views and prepared to accompany us to the mine in the morning.

We arose very early and proceeded down the plain to the south of the place and at about a mile and half distance came to the coal that had been recently worked, but they were not then engaged there. We were conducted by a very intelligent workman who had been employed in it. There is only one seam as yet discovered, and that lies nearly vertically between beds of regular grit like the common one of our coal measures. The coal is near the surface and is only covered by a few feet

Digitized by Google

of drifted materials, and in a barraneo or ravine at a short distance they work the grit for millstones.

The thickness of the vein is about three varas or yards; the coal is sulphurous and burns to a white ash, giving out great heat and might answer for common steam navigation. Colonel Elorza tried it in the crucible at Pedroso, when a very small residue remained, and it was almost entirely consumed. A very trifling quantity has been extracted, solely for the use of the blacksmiths of the vicinity and others who came from Estremadura, a considerable distance in quest of it; but of course the demand from these sources is very small and caused the working to be discontinued. We could see the smoke of Espiel, a village three leagues distance, where it is worked and made more use of; there is no doubt that the seam is the same from the bearing, and they believe is continued to Villaharta, still farther east than Espiel.

The ground is nearly level at the mine, but there is an upheaving of one of the beds of grit, which we thought, but were unable to say positively, was the underlying one.

A mass of limestone appears in the town, forming a bold and lofty pyramid which is crowned by the Moorish castle, and is very little seen, nor could we discover any good fossils; but in a wall there were some traces, and from the character and appearance we were of opinion it was young limestone, probably of the cretaceous period and over-

Digitized by Google

lying the coal formation: although from the position of the ground we could not assert positively that this is the case, we had very little doubt about it, but we never met with this bed to make farther observations on it.

After completing our survey we went to take leave of our hospitable hostess of the preceding evening, and found a summer apartment opening into a small garden which was quite gay with flowers, making the house a very comfortable and complete residence in this climate. The wine is good here and extraordinarily cheap, being white and of the same description as that in Estremadura.

The same difficulty occurred about horses as before and none were to be had, but our host soon settled it by insisting on my taking one of his, which he said would carry me perfectly. He apologised for not offering the best he had, as it was a colt half broken and of great value, and he thought that the other would suit better for our purpose of surveying the country, but that if I wished to take the young one it was at my service. Of course I declined this liberal proposal, mounting that he recommended, whilst he sent his servant to shew us the road to the next point and bring the horse back.

We crossed a portion of the plain above the town and reached some rising grounds, at the foot of which stands the straggling village of Peñaroya (Red rock), from the colour of some of the rock near it. After

Digitized by Google

delivering a letter we had procured to a party there, who accompanied us, we followed the stream down to a small ravine and found the coal. Being on the line of bearing it is very probably the same seam as that of Velmez and Espiel, but the strata adjoining are slightly different, there being a mass of shale and less grit than at the other place. This vein was wrought by order of government about the year 1790, in order to supply the mine of Almaden for the use of the steam engine lately introduced, but after considerable expense had been incurred it was given up, ostensibly on account of the expense of transport, which was certainly considerable, but most probably from the intrigues of those interested in supplying wood for the same purpose. A fatal accident occurred by the fall of the roof some time before, when a German miner called Jacob lost his life. I saw the commencement of a regular adit, well built of good masonry, but it was impossible to penetrate beyond the entrance.

Some small and rather stagnant streams unite near this place and form the head waters of the Guadiato, an affluent of the Guadalquivir; they make the lower part of the plain unhealthy, which was one objection to working the coal, but there is no doubt a little draining and clearing the courses would cure this very great impediment to the operation. The stream abounds in the Sabalo (Clupea alosa?) which attains a large size and is

Digitized by Google

much liked by the people. These mines were discovered in the following order: Peñaroya 1788, worked until 1799—Velmez 1790—Espiel more recently.

Our guide was a remarkably pleasing, gentlemanlike, intelligent young man and very good looking; his costume was a neat jacket, with pantaloons very curiously and rather fantastically embroidered all round the upper parts; he had gone out to Buenos Ayres with an uncle who was a wealthy merchant there, but dying, returned home. I was completely puzzled by his dress, which was rather military, but unlike any of volunteers or others, which had come under my observation, and on inquiring into his avocation I found that he was the Cura or parish priest of the place. We were both of opinion that in this part of the country it was not exactly the sort of life for such a young man to have chosen; and that amongst his parishioners he would very probably be exposed to considerable temptations.

We rode across the plain to Fuente Ovejuna, which is at the west end of it and followed the coal formation distinctly until very near the place, where it appeared to end. The distance from Fuente Ovejuna to Espiel is about 30 miles, and to Villaharta about ten miles further, which may be assumed as at least the length of the deposit.

Fuente Ovejuna is a rather large place, with 5 or 6,000 inhabitants and occupies the very crest

Digitized by Google

of a pyramidal hill which is flat on the summit, where are the Plaza, church and some of the buildings, but the greater part are on the sloping sides of the hill. The height is considerable and it commands a very extensive view; we could make out the Castle of Velmez and the situation even of Espiel beyond it.

The Plaza is on the bare black slaty rock, with veins of quartz on which no doubt the coal formation rests, and on the highest summit, like the acropolis of a Greek city, is placed the church, the exterior of which is somewhat Moorish in one part, and there are granite and other columns, evidently antique, about the entrances. The inside is rather low, otherwise the structure is of very good and even noble design. It is a collegiata or collegiate church with a cabildo, and there is a curious old retablo in the German manner with some mosaic work, which has a mediæval character.

I looked carefully about for Moorish remains, but found only one window in a house, of that character. There were two or three convents which of course are shut up and one near the church is old and dilapidated. Here are some resident families of rank, who have extremely good and comfortable houses, with the rooms chiefly on the ground floor. Colonel Elorza had a letter to the principal proprietor in the place, who served formerly in the artillery, and whom he described as a most desirable acquaintance, who would have immediately received

Digitized by Google

us, but he was unfortunately gone to Estremadura and his brother who lived with him had set out that very morning on a journey in some other direction, leaving only the servants in the house. I regretted this very much, because that class of men are amongst the best of all the Spaniards to deal with; the regular education at their military academies is excellent, and so well suited to the people that I have often suggested that were it possible, the whole of the gentlemen should undergo the routine and serve a time in the regular army after the Prussian mode, before settling on their estates as too many of them now do, fit for hardly anything. However there was no remedy and we were obliged to make the best of a very bad posada. No mules were to be heard of, and as I wished to send back my friend's horse we went to the Alcalde, who was extremely civil and sent for the only person he said was likely to let them, but after hearing our plan, he decidedly refused to quit the ploughing in which he was occupied. Another was then called, who although by no means disposed to leave home, yielded at last to the skill and address of my companion, which in the management of his countrymen was never surpassed, and by pointing out the advantages of a back freight of iron from the fabrica, he at last induced him to accompany us.

The servant whom I had wished should be bled previously, was now in very great pain, and as we were seriously afraid of concussion superven-

Digitized by Google

ing the sangrador was sent for, who performed on his foot and immediately relieved him. We were out during the time of the operation, which I regretted very much, nor did we see the chief, but his assistant, a very neat and superior youth was left in charge and supped with our attendants.

The houses in this rather singular place are chiefly built on one floor and are carried down the face of the hill on all sides, terminating in gardens and vineyards, most of which are bounded by walls and other strong fences, leaving the base of the hill entirely open. This situation with extremely steep and bad entrances gives great facility for defence, of which the inhabitants availed themselves during the civil war, and in all such circumstances the advantage a place with wealthy resident proprietors enjoys over those inhabited by mere labradores is very evident. They formed a corps of 150 national guards, armed at their own expense and fortified themselves, so that none of the robber bands of Carlists, who were constantly foraging about and pillaging the open villages and towns, carrying off the valuables and ill-using the wives and daughters of the inhabitants, ever effected an entrance into it. A sort of battle took place in this neighbourhood between Gomez and some troops which were hastily formed under a zealous and active judge of Cordova, who sallied out at the head of them and was killed, to the great regret of every one in the country.

The people appeared to be extremely healthy, as

Digitized by Google

they are in all the places in this district, out of the localities of stagnant water which generate the tercianas or intermittent fevers, and there were swarms of healthy and uproarious children, who were up nearly all night, making the place ring with their exuberant spirits.

The celebrated wells which give name to the place (Sheeps well) and have been known from the most remote antiquity, are at the bottom of the hill on the western side. These fountains gave also the Roman name Fons Mellaria, (not to be confounded with Melaria, near Tarifa) which adjunct no doubt proceeded from the abundance of honey that is produced in all this part of the country. There are considerable works of good masonry at the fountains, which have much of the Roman character about them, but they were very much dilapidated and I was not satisfied whether they were of that date, which is very probably the case, or of the good period of Spanish architecture when the masons' work very much resembles that of their predecessors.

There was only one small lodging room in the posada, in which they made up clean beds for us, but the access by the stairs was almost dangerous and every time we moved, a shower of materials descended into the area below, so that we were obliged to tread very lightly lest we should follow in the same direction. We supped in the kitchen in company with several characters, who were esta-

Digitized by Google

blished for the night with their mantas on benches round a quadrangle, in the centre of which was the fire. Amongst them was a very intelligent peasant from Estremadura, who gave an excellent account of the locusts which had appeared in very great numbers this year; contrary to usual custom, this plague had roused the authorities, who were taking most energetic steps to free the lands from the ravages of them and of the successors they were preparing to deposit in the ground.—See Agricultural report in the Appendix.

We had expended so much time in arranging about the mules and looking at the place, that it never occurred to Colonel Elorza he had a letter for the Cura of a town a league distance, where we should have found excellent quarters. I was on the point of proposing to move forward whilst we had time, but as I thought he knew the country and the arrangements necessary I did not do so, to our mutual regret and loss, as besides the advantage of being better lodged, we should have shortened the long ride of the ensuing day, and with the assistance of the Cura and the whole evening to arrange it, could have easily procured mules.

In the morning the servant was very much better and able to resume his journey, which we so little expected to be the case that arrangements were made for leaving him behind. He now only suffered from the determination of blood to the foot, consequent on the bleeding having taken place

Digitized by Google

in that part, and there was great difficulty in placing him upon the sogas, so as to afford him ease; but of course this inconvenience was trifling compared with that resulting from the wound in the head, and after our arrival at Pedroso he was quite well, although I believe the blow would have killed any but a native of this country, where like most of the southern nations they are little sensible of pain and remarkably tenacious of life. The mule appeared to be satisfied with his last performance and behaved very well during the remainder of the journey.

There were two lines of road before us, the choice of which was left to me; one to the right by the plain and the high road of Cazalla, which is the longest in distance, but being considerably better than the other is travelled in less time; the other is by the Sierra and the sources of the Huesna, on which the fabrica of Pedroso, the point of our destination is situated. I chose the latter road, not only as more promising in point of scenery and other interest, but because I had already seen great part of the other line of country in an excursion made to Guadalcanal in 1831, which is mentioned in my former work.

We skirted the plain on which the large villa or town of Azuaga was seen, with a spacious church and appearance of a ruined castle, and passed near a hamlet which stands on an island of granite. Most of the country at first transversed was broken

Digitized by Google

monte or forest belonging to the adjacent townships and in very much better order than usual, there being a proportion of encinas and other trees of full size to shelter and protect the herbage and underwood.

We crossed the Bembezar, a beautiful stream, near a mill, which with the adjacent scenery had a very picturesque effect, and then entered the true Sierra Morena, the flank of which we had been skirting, just on the confines of the territory of Guadalcanal. The soil here is a rich red loam, similar to that I had previously observed further to the west, and the deep foliage of the evergreens contrasted well with it, producing a very good effect. At a short distance we came to a village called by the singular name of Mal Cocida (badly dressed or cooked), for what reason I know not; it was impossible to think of dining at a place with such an inauspicious title and we passed on without halting. The village is almost entirely composed of new and well built houses, which gives it a better appearance than the name would lead the traveller to expect. This rare and prosperous condition is caused by the olive grounds, the produce of which is said to be the best in Andalusia. It stands upon a ridge, so that the ground falls on each side and the plantations are increasing rapidly and the soil being so good and so abundantly watered it will no doubt in a few years be an important place and may become the Lucca of Spain.

Digitized by Google

We descended to the valley below and then mounting a very steep cuesta or hill side came to the cortijo of San Miguel, which had been seen for some time previously. This is a large and beautiful farm or estate, formerly belonging to the great Carthusian convent of Cazalla, to which were attached large possessions all over this neighbourhood, and was now in the hands of a most respectable gentleman of Cazalla, a retired officer, who had purchased it; he was staying there with his wife, who arrived on her donkey from a visit to the town whilst we were halting, and he readily allowed us to dine in his rooms and feed the animals in the stables. In an evil hour they had made him Alcalde of his town, and some disturbances in the effervescing style of the Andalusians having taken place, he repressed them rather vigorously and had been in consequence attacked with such virulence in the newspapers that he took it to heart and was slowly recovering from a dangerous illness which it produced.

The situation of this place is most commanding and abounds in every thing necessary for comfort and enjoyment; having a noble and extensive view, a beautiful and copious spring of water with game in immense quantities. After having dined I went in pursuit of the mohiños which abound in the gardens and trees about the place.

At this cortijo we were very near the summit of the

Digitized by Google

water level and after crossing a small table reached the head streams of the Huesna or Guesna as it is called in some maps. As we descended, the valley closed in and the views improved, until it approached the perfection of quiet home scenery on a moderate scale. We left the road to see a mill and other buildings which are placed where the river makes a bend and flows through a deep narrow defile, and were amply repaid for the trouble, for on the scale of it nothing in any country could exceed the beauty of this pass. The hills were higher and bolder here and the river sufficiently increased in size to make the ford below rather difficult to cross: the water was clear as crystal and abundance of fish were to be seen, amongst them eels, which are seldom seen in daylight unless they have been disturbed, were making their way up the stream.

The mill and the country below recalled at once the pictures of Iriarte, some of the finest of whose landscapes must have been composed in this very locality. The hills covered with brush wood, the trees in the foreground, the scattered buildings, the water, the red patches on the sides of the mountain caused by partially clearing or burning the xaral, all these were in place exactly as they are given in his best works. We were here in his studio, as we should have been in that of Both at Pontremoli, the Poussins at Olevano and Aquapendiente, Salvator at Volterra or at Amalfi, Titian

Digitized by Google

in the Friuli, the Caracci in the Bolognese Apennines, or of Velasquez at the Escorial.

Shortly afterwards we entered a thick patch of monte, where were numerous oxen of most noble form and proportions, in condition to excite the envy of our graziers, their tinkling bells reminding one of Switzerland; these were draft animals employed in transporting the iron ore from the higher part of the mountain above us to the foundery, and this portion of the territory is given up as pasturage for them during this season, being part of the contract when they are hired. We passed an ermita or chapel with a celebrated well, which stands on an elevated terrace planted with cypresses and other evergreens, and the situation is so good that it may compete with the most beautiful scenery of similar character in the Campagna of Rome. It is a favourite spot for Romeria and pic nic excursions in the summer, being much frequented by the people of Cazalla.

During the latter part of the ride we were almost entirely in the territory of the establishment of Pedroso, to which we were directing our course, and soon passed a beautiful farm on the left with a copious and never failing spring, which had been lately purchased at a very moderate price.

The striking change which was visible the moment of entering this valley and the bustle and activity to which I had long been a stranger, were

Digitized by Google

entirely caused by the foundery and the money put in circulation by it. We turned to the right to avoid the fords, which in the dark were considered unsafe for my mules, and ascending a steep path through some xaral, descended to the fabrica or foundery of Pedroso.

Digitized by Google

CHAPTER X.

MINE AND FOUNDERY OF PEDROSO—FOREST LANDS —FOUNDERY—NATURAL HISTORY.

When I visited this establishment in 1831 it was in its very infancy, only a few temporary buildings having been erected for the accommodation of Colonel Elorza with the assistants who were employed under him to set it going, and all around was an uncultivated "brush." Since that period it had assumed the appearance of a regular colony, with extensive buildings of all sorts and there were about 500 workmen employed in the various operations of smelting and casting iron. Gardens, nurseries, and other cultivated ground had taken the place of the xaral and "scrub" which formerly occupied the site, and the whole place was teeming with life and activity. We walked out after supper to see the hot air blast, which was the last improvement introduced and which was in full operation.

The motion to the machinery is given by a very large water wheel of great power, of the best and most modern construction and moved by the waters of the Huesna, which are arrested by a dam of convex form, beautifully constructed and of great strength and solidity.

Digitized by Google

This establishment is the property of a company who principally reside at Seville and Cadiz. Colonel Elorza had lived several years on the spot whilst his presence was absolutely necessary, but the accommodation being inadequate to the wants of an increasing family, he had lately retired to Seville, his place here being taken by one of the company who acted under his orders.

The expense of creating the foundery had been very great, as may be supposed where there was absolutely nothing but brush wood, and the best mineral is obliged to be brought from some distance. A considerable sum had been expended in the purchase and rent of lands with a view to raise firewood and charcoal for the use of the smelting, which in a very few years will produce almost every necessary within its own estate. The delay however of paying dividends, which was the inevitable consequence, had produced much discontent amongst the shareholders, and dealing with them was no easy business. They described the principal holder and chairman, whose opinion guided the rest, as extremely difficult to manage and to the delay caused by an attack of illness which had prevented a meeting taking place at the time fixed, previous to the departure of Colonel Elorza for Germany, I was indebted for the fortunate accident of his being obliged to return to Seville.

The growth of trees in the valley of the river was quite extraordinary. Poplars planted within

Digitized by Google

ten years were forty feet high! The dam which is placed amidst rocks of rather good form, was overhung by a Babylonian willow of the same date, which had the appearance of at least half a century's standing. There is a walk to this spot along the side of the water-course, and the roaring of the fall which is of considerable height, with the transparency of the water at this beautiful season, made it a delicious lounge after the heat of the sun had abated.

One of the most curious parts of the establishment is a set of huts or wigwams of a conical shape, made in the rude manner of those seen in the Maremme of Tuscany. There were a great many of them and they were the habitations of a set of Manchegos or peasants of La Mancha, who had left their country with their penates to avoid the robberies and violations of Palillos during the civil war and had fled for safety to this remote and unfrequented spot. They had been kindly received and located in the manner described and as labourers were wanted, they were gradually absorbed into the establishment, where the report of them was extremely favourable and they appear to be permanently settled.

The draft establishment of the foundery itself consists of seventy pair of bullocks, that have been substituted for the miserable mules and asses which in the ordinary routine of the country would be employed in the heavy work. They are purchased in

Digitized by Google

Estremadura, and being very well kept and well bred, in a short time have a noble appearance. The present price is about thirty dollars each, and in the state some of them were in they would be worth at least three times that sum in London. Besides these which belong to it, great numbers are hired and I think they said a hundred and fifty yoke were employed in all at this season.

The extent of territory attached to the fabrica is now very considerable, being about eight miles or two leagues square. They commenced as already stated by a mere grant of the mine, which was denounced, according to Spanish custom, and at this time they had not an acre of ground, but had to struggle against the absurd and barbarous law of forests, by which certain juntas had the right of appropriating every tree or shrub they thought proper for the use of the navy, this spot being within the radius allowed for their operations, which were confined to a certain distance from the coast. This preposterous, absurd and ruinous law, one of the curses of the economy of Spain, had been abrogated by the first Cortes, restored as a matter of course by Ferdinand, again I believe abrogated and again restored, and was finally repealed in 1836; without its being done this interesting establishment, in the situation I have described it, could hardly have existed, and the undertaking it with this law in the way of every improvement, required no common courage and perseverance. The lands they now

Digitized by Google

possess have been acquired partly by purchases from individuals, but chiefly by means of the very important law which enables the ayuntamientos to dispose of part of their common lands; these are let at a low rent, like copyhold, but for ever, and may at any time be redeemed on payment of three per cent by the lessee, without any claim on the part of the proprietors for improvements which may have been made in the meantime. I do not recollect whether the law be old or new, but I think it is a revival of an ancient one, and not one has been made more likely under proper management to work deep and lasting improvement in Spain. In any country, but beyond all others in this, such a power would inevitably lead to great and extensive jobbing, were it not carefully guarded against. The first precaution is, that it is vested in the ayuntamiento, which is a public and elective body, the whole transactions of which ought to be open and in sight of those interested in preventing abuse; next the "deputacion provincial," a provincial council, also an elective body, whose sanction is indispensable; then the xefe politico or civil governor of the province, whose special duty is to check and controul all such proceedings; lastly the general government, whose approval must be obtained before the bargain be finally concluded.

It is unnecessary to remark to those acquainted with Spain the awful difficulties which inevitably occur in dealing with escribanos and ayuntami-

Digitized by Google

entos in matters like these. They were so strong in many instances, especially at the commencement, that only the firmness and ability with the greatest tact and skill, which are combined in the director, enabled him to triumph over them. Although the lands were comparatively valueless in their present state, it may easily be imagined the peasantry were reluctant to part with them and it is still less to be wondered at when you hear the prices paid for them, according to the value of such property in the country. A century ago in some of the northern parts of England, before roads were made, some parallels might probably be found for what would otherwise appear incredible.

The principal arguments used to carry the points at issue, were the benefit certain of accruing to the lands and to the population of the towns by the circulation of money, the making of roads and other advantages, sure to result to the public by the cession of the portions required. As these statements were borne out by the facts in daily operation and he was arguing in the hearing of those who were now receiving good pay for the use of their bullocks and other animals, and instead of starving as they used to do, were becoming every day richer, they fell with more force upon the nerves of his auditory. In one of our rides we called on the principal authority in a neighbouring town when these matters were under discussion and I heard a confidential conversation which let in a great light on the difficulties

Digitized by Google

and modes of overcoming them amongst this singular people. In the instance chiefly under consideration the bargain had been made but not finally ratified, and a set of dissentients had suddenly started up, most probably set in motion by some rival escribano who were trying to impede the conclusion of it.

Of course the prices in these purchases are regulated by the state the lands are in, as well as their intrinsic value and especially by their situation as to water, on which every thing depends in this sultry climate. In general the properties of individuals are much better managed than those of the public and they are proportionably more exorbitant in their demands. In one instance they had to pay extremely dear for a small piece of land close to the fabrica, the proprietor of which knew the importance of the situation and raised his price accordingly.

The lands thus acquired are generally in the form of dehesa or open waste, covered with a few cistus and other shrubs, with remnants of better trees which once clothed the soil. The first step taken is to reduce these "barrens" into a productive state, the creation of "monte" or forest being the grand object of the proprietors and the only parts reserved for cultivation are some good spots near the river, where sufficient corn and hay can be raised to feed the stock of the establishment.

There are various modes of effecting this purpose,

Digitized by Google

which are rather curious, all of which they shewed me in operation. In the most unproductive parts the practice is to burn up the residue of waste and take a crop of barley or wheat, with this are sown the seeds of pinaster, which by this treatment appear to succeed perfectly. They had sown two thousand bushels of pinaster seed in this manner and the larger trees were twelve feet high, and were already shewing cones, although they were only five or six years old! There was great difficulty in procuring seed at first, as they could not by any means prevail on the Andalusians to be at the trouble of collecting it, although they had, independently of liberal payment, a sort of lien or claim on the parts of some who could with a very little exertion very easily have supplied them. They next tried France, but the price and expense of carriage were found too high and they finally fixed on Galicia, with which province Colonel Elorza is connected; and there the people readily gather any quantity they require, so that in a very short time they will be quite independent of any extraneous assistance. The peasants in general are repaid by the crop of barley which results from this operation, and a few of the old trees which spring from the roots are taken care of and others introduced.

The next class of land is more easy to deal with, as it merely requires a part of the useless scrub to be cleared out and the best trees left and trimmed up. This operation is performed by the peasantry,

Digitized by Google

who are paid by agreement with the refuse which results from the clearing, so that, like the preceding operation, it costs the establishment nothing. As soon as the underwood is cleared it is succeeded by an abundant herbage, and as the trees rapidly gain strength it is soon fit to pasture bullocks, as was observed in descending the Huesna. A third class is that already covered with good trees, but the proportion of this is very small, and of course requires comparatively little care.

One of the canon laws at the establishment is the absolute and most rigorous prohibition of goats, which are the delight of the peasantry and a very great instrument in the destruction of the forests of Spain. They are so strict that as we were walking one day we observed one tied up at a cottage, and the superintendent immediately inquired how it happened and was answered that it was for the use of a sick person, when it was allowed to remain.

The progress made in these processes in this soil and climate is quite incredible and the profits are in proportion great. Independently of the wood for charcoal, which is the grand object, no less than three successions of animals are turned in at different seasons, as soon as the woods are fit to receive them. In the spring and summer bullocks occupy the ground, to the enormous benefit of themselves and their owners as well as the proprietors of the land; in the autumn droves of pigs are

Digitized by Google

driven in to eat up the bellotas and other fruits which suit them; and in the winter they are succeeded by sheep, who find abundant food during that season: for each of these occupations a rent is paid cheerfully and liberally, as it serves the purpose of all parties. The result of these improvements conducted without much expense and to the profit of all concerned in them in various ways is, that in some of the dehesa land one year's produce will in a short time pay the purchase money! In one instance only we saw the effects of ill-will on the part of the peasantry, who in an outlying property lately had burnt a purchased portion which had been alienated from the township to which they belonged and their goats and asses expelled. Little damage was done as it happened and it rather facilitated the clearing, nor were they in the least apprehensive of the bad example being followed by others.

In riding over this beautiful and in every respect interesting domain, we came to one tract which was a complete jungle of the larger shrubs, so that we had great difficulty to force the horses through it. In this there were a few forest trees, but they confessed having failed in fully establishing them as they wished to do, the luxuriance and rapidity of growth in the underwood having hitherto completely overpowered and prevented their getting up. This was a singular instance and was owing to the situation which was near the river, the soil good, sheltered and well watered. The stone pine is culti-

Digitized by Google

vated as well as the pinaster, but much less abundantly from the difficulty of procuring seed and the slower growth, which renders it less profitable for burning charcoal although the timber is considerably more valuable than that of its congener. They find considerable difficulty in first establishing the pine tribe, on account of the heat of summer which dries them up before the roots have sufficiently penetrated into the soil to protect the plant from the effects of it. I suggested the covering them with the cut straw used for the mules, which is the best non-conductor existing for many purposes. I had strongly recommended the Pinus Hispanica to be tried, but there is also some obstacle in obtaining seed, which the etiquette as to applying to the Naval Officers who have charge of the great forests of the Sierra de Segura described in my former work, is the principal, and there is no doubt will shortly be overcome. Independently of the interest my own pursuits led me to feel in all these interesting details, I had ever since my return from Spain been in constant correspondence with Colonel Elorza on the subject and I had the satisfaction of seeing trees I had sent and been the means of his procuring, especially the larch, growing and flourishing in his nurseries. So perfect is the skill in conducting this part of the business that the professors of the new forest department might well be sent to Pedroso in order to study parts of the science which they cannot learn in Germany or any foreign country.

Digitized by Google

The principal forest trees in the district are the Encina, the Cork or Alcornoque, the Quexigo, which is very common, the Fraxinus lentiscifolia or lentiscus-leaved ash, the alder and common elder, the last two species growing near the river. The Chopo or common white-leaved poplar and a narrow-leaved elm, are also I believe natives as well as extensively cultivated. The shrubs are the laurestinus in great quantities, the cistus, of the same sorts as in Estremadura, but in much less abundance, the lentiscus of two sorts, the alaternus and the genista linifolia which I never met with elsewhere and only in the jungle mentioned previously. The most beautiful flower at this season is called by the people "Flor de la Piña," from a general resemblance it bears to that plant when in flower. It appeared to me a Scilla and Professor Bouteloup of Seville called it S. Peruviana, but it is evidently a native of this district. I first saw it at the very summit of the pass the day we entered the Sierra Morena; it was abundant in the shady parts near the mill mentioned in descending the Huesna and I was collecting it, but my companion said we should find it in quantities at the fabrica; unfortunately the situation being lower they were quite gone off and I had no opportunity of procuring a good specimen. It is a splendid flower when growing in the moist shady woods, the colour being a beautiful blue and the umbellate head at least a foot in diameter. The ground is completely covered in parts of all this dis-

Digitized by Google

trict, with a small helianthemum, of which there are several species nearly allied to the H. guttatum and grow in such abundance that they exclude every other description from their locality. There are two principal deposits of mineral; the original one which is I think partly in Serpentine and is of coarse and inferior quality and not far distant from the foundery; the other, which is much superior and in great quantities, is at S. Nicolas, to the left of the Huesna, as mentioned in descending that stream; at present they are obliged to buy a great deal of charcoal but when the improvements are completed and the forest land in full production they expect to make iron as cheap as in England, the grand and natural goal of Spanish economists. To effect it they are proceeding on the principle of "festina lente" which is not always suited to the views of shareholders, and occasionally causes interruptions in the progress of their affairs.

There were only three foreigners employed in the foundery, who were Englishmen and workmen of the first class in the chief departments and who were charged with the respective management of them. They were well paid, having no less than four pounds sterling each per week, equal to double that sum in their own country and with the condition annexed that they were not to remain in the foundery during the summer months when the tercianas prevail, during which period they had the choice of three adjoining towns for residences and

Digitized by Google

were only obliged to visit the works once every ten days, their full wages being continued the whole period. One of these men had perfectly acquired the Andalusian language and style, and being also a light, clean made and dark complexioned man, he could hardly be taken for any other than a native; the others were true representatives of the Bull family. One of them had been severely wounded in the arm and his hand disabled for life, by a shot he had received from some rateros at the very gates of Seville, as he was riding in there one evening after dusk. They fired from behind an aloe hedge without summons and when he fell took away the horse, which he never recovered or heard more of. This mishap, which providentially was not fatal, as the perpetrators intended it to be, was caused by his own imprudence in stopping at a venta, notorious for the bad company which frequents it, and remaining there until dark, when some of his drinking companions were waiting for him. With great kindness, although from his right hand being entirely disabled he was incapacitated for doing the full and regular work of his department, they had continued his wages, allowing his son, who was a youth, to assist and in some way make up the deficiency for him. Of course these men had their regular line of work to attend to, but on great occasions assisted in other branches. Whilst we were there a sort of field day took place, when the first bars of large size were drawn

Digitized by Google

from the furnaces: the whole body of workmen were in attendance, the Englishmen taking the lead and directing the operation.

I inquired about the natives and they told me the Andalusians learned very quickly up to a certain point, when they became so vain and conceited that they made little further progress and there appeared little probability of their attaining the first places. A spacious mould-house was being erected, which will enable them to execute work that is now impracticable for want of room in that department. The main beam of the building was a magnificent tree of Pinus Hispanica from the Sierra de Segura, which had cost a thousand reals or about ten pounds sterling in the royal depôt at Seville, and squared two feet in all its length.

The best timber, next to that of Pinus Hispanica, which occupies exactly the ratio I assigned it in the report on the Pine tribe, read to the British Association at Newcastle in 1838, is that of Pinus pinea, which is brought from an extensive forest, mentioned in my former work as existing in the sandy flat between Utrera and Seville.

The hot blast has been already noticed as being in operation, and Colonel Elorza was about making a journey of six months to Germany for the purpose of introducing the mode of economising the smoke of coal and turning it to account, when that of Villanueva will be used for a part of the smelting until their own forests are ready to supply the whole demand.

Digitized by Google

The present produce of the fabrica is about 20,000 quintals annually; a very small quantity in our scale of operations, but a very considerable one in a Spanish foundery. They are protected from our competition by high duties and as iron is not an article coming within the ordinary scope of Andalusian smuggling, the law is tolerably effective, but they have a far more dangerous and difficult rival to deal with than those of South Wales, of which mention will be made in the account of Malaga.

The natural history of this interesting district requires some notice. It is here the Spanish Ichneumon or Herpestes Widdringtonii of Gray was made out, of which the original specimen is at the British Museum. I was informed of the existence of an animal in the Sierra Morena under the name of Melon, by the late Duke of Ahumada, then Marquis of Amarillas who resided at Seville, just before my departure from that neighbourhood and before I had time to ascertain the species or even genus it belonged to. From their description it was neither a badger nor a marten and this negative testimony was all I could succeed in extracting from those who had seen it. It was long promised and was at last sent by my friend and fellow traveller and with it a very fine specimen of Felis pardina which is also at the Museum. I have since received another fine specimen of the Herpestes and having purchased several others at Seville, I am perfectly satisfied in the correctness of Mr. Gray in separating

Digitized by Google

it from the Egyptian species; those I have being even more strongly marked in the fur or hair than the original one. The only account I could obtain of the habits of this animal was that they haunt the sides of streams and are seen in small troops, following in file so close to each other that the head of the one is over the tail of its precursor and as they described it they appear to be of one piece. These must undoubtedly be the young ones, first sallying out under the protection of the parents and keeping together for greater security. I could not ascertain at all their mode of breeding nor the food they live on; but it is no doubt similar to that used by their congeners, of which the Sierra Morena offers inexhaustible supplies; the abundant cover and its retired habits sufficiently account for the little knowledge the people possess concerning the economy of this curious animal.

The Felis pardina (spotted Lynx) is also numerous and a very large one was killed the very day we left Pedroso, which followed me to Seville, when I fortunately was in time to save it from destruction. The weather was excessively hot and the mode they had adopted to transport it was to hang it by the neck to a saddle, in which state it arrived. A young friend, a student of surgery, to whom I had been introduced by Colonel Elorza, immediately skinned it, which they declared caused an almost insupportable effluvia, enough to stifle those engaged in it. However they succeeded and were about to

Digitized by Google

preserve it in their own way by a saturated solution of alum, which certainly would not have been sufficient to resist the putrefaction so close at hand. I luckily inquired what they had done after the first operation, and then made them immerse it in a diluted solution of corrosive sublimate of one to a hundred parts of water, being about half the strength of Kyan's solution. This completely saved it and in the able hands of a London preserver it turned out a beautiful specimen, beyond any thing I could have possibly expected from the state it was in. It is an old male of large size and the female was in company, but made its escape. I have given the account of this preservation because it may be useful to other travellers in similar circumstances, and the same method should be followed with skins of either birds or beasts from abroad. It not only effectually destroys the larvæ which may be lodged in the skins, but prevents any others establishing themselves, as no animal can live where corrosive sublimate has been; and the solution recommended is not sufficiently strong to injure or indurate the skin, which it will do if not sufficiently diluted. In the first preservation however, where there is choice of materials, I consider the arsenical soap far preferable to corrosive sublimate, especially for the ornithological specimens, and very great injury to science has resulted from the general recommendations of writers in this country to use the latter substance. I found the skins of the genet at Seville, where they are used

Digitized by Google

by the saddlers to make trappings for the majos, and they are no doubt from some part of the Sierra Morena, but I could not ascertain the precise locality. They were examined by Mr. Gray and not found to differ from the species commonly called the Spanish genet, which I believe also inhabits South Africa.

A man was despatched in search of the eggs of the Meriops apiaster (Bee eater) that breeds in great numbers in all the sandy banks of the Guadalquivir and its tributaries, but he returned unsuccessful, having with considerable labour reached several nests and found them empty, the eggs being not yet laid. The Mohiño is abundant in this neighbourhood as in all the Sierra Morena, which I think is its southern limit, as I never saw it any where beyond the line of the Guadalquivir. The nightingale is also extremely common, as well as the oriole, which they consider destructive in the olive grounds.

Bees abound in this district and increase to such an extent, that they return an enormous profit to those who take the trouble of looking after them. The common hive is the hollow stem of the cork tree, which is cut in lengths and is perhaps the best materiál in the world for the purpose; next to it is the common straw one used in England; both these substances have the same valuable quality of being non-conductors of heat and cold. They had never heard of such a thing, much less practised it,

Digitized by Google

as killing bees, and were surprised when I mentioned such a custom. I ascertained a very curious fact in their economy that is well worth attending to. A gentleman was mentioned in my former work as living near Cazalla, whom I visited in his cortijo there, where he was farming the property he had purchased with his own fortune, from the Carthusian convent of Cazalla, and which had been restored to it, without a farthing being reimbursed, by the orders consequent on the invasion of 1823. This is the Canon Cepero, so well known in the first Cortes at Cadiz, of which he was one of the most eloquent and distinguished members. After the death of Ferdinand he recovered his property, resuming his station as canon of Seville, and was living in the house of Murillo where I paid him a visit. He told me that being shut up in the convent of the Cartuxa at Seville, by order of Ferdinand after his return in 1814, a lot he shared with nearly all who had distinguished themselves in preserving the throne during the war of independence; by way of passing the time he applied himself to study the economy of bees, which he had followed up at Cazalla and was so successful in his management that in a very short time he had a thousand hives! When the civil war commenced, circumstances caused their being neglected and dispersed, and some swarms finding no holes or cavities to suit them, attached themselves to a beam in an outhouse, where they made their combs in a similar manner to that by which the tree wasps sus-

Digitized by Google

pend their curious fabric from the branches. They were so well satisfied with this novel situation that they never left it nor swarmed, but kept adding successive combs, until they nearly reached the ground and hung from the point of suspension like a huge living and waxen stalactite. The owner never disturbed them, but had the lower combs cut off as they were wanted and the colony had now remained for a considerable period, without their shewing the least disposition to change it. This is certainly rather important information for the managers of apiaries and may serve to confirm the statements lately published on the practicability of inducing the insect to work downwards. The canon shewed me a quantity of manuscript, the results of his long observations, that he intended publishing for the instruction of the public in this interesting branch of rural economy.

I regretted afterwards not having had time to inquire into the curious subject of the mode in which the bees live during the summer, when every thing is burnt up and there are no flowers or appearance of any vegetation, excepting that of the shrubs and trees, and how they escape the Meriops which are in such numbers, hawking in the air all day long, that it would appear they must be annihilated. Both these subjects are interesting and well worth inquiring into by those who have the means of doing so. In the former case, can the bees, like their biped masters, lie by during the hot

Digitized by Google

months and live on what they lay up in the spring and autumn ? I cannot help thinking this must be the case, although they may possibly pick up food about the under parts of trees and shrubs sufficient to employ them during the great heats previous to nature again shewing signs of life, after the fall of the autumnal rains. Their prodigious fecundity is no doubt owing to the mildness of the climate, which enables the bee to remain in a state of activity during nearly the whole year and only parts of their economy will apply to our more ungenial one, where like many other productions of nature, they seem rather to exist than live.

Before we leave Pedroso a sketch must be given of my host and companion, which as he is altogether a public character and extremely well known in every part of Spain, may be done without the risk of breaking in upon the rule I have always followed of never intruding private histories or persons on the reader.

He is a native of Oñate in Guipuzcoa, a place well known as the court and capital of Don Carlos, where that personage was visited by some of his English friends. He was regularly educated for the artillery and like nearly every one of that distinguished corps and in fact every man of education and ability at that time, was a liberal, and was serving during the invasion of 1823 with General Ballasteros, who gave him, although only a subaltern of artillery, a very high post or appointment on

Digitized by Google

his staff, to the great scandal of many "moustaches" of antique style and more antique claims, for the rank they saw with jealousy bestowed on a youngster. After the complete failure of the general defence, he retired to Coruña, where a sort of stand was made, but the Spaniards were very soon obliged to yield to the superior force of the invaders. When every thing was finished there he made his escape and was afterwards tried (par contumace) and condemned to some years of presidio, by way of recompense for his patriotism. He took refuge in England and being of a very active turn of mind applied himself to the study of the manufacture of iron, going afterwards to Belgium for the same purpose. As it was thought he might be of some use in his own country, he was allowed by the connivance of the government of Calomarde, to return, although never regularly pardoned, and at the time I made his acquaintance he was travelling about and fully employed, though with the sentence still hanging over his head, which they could at any time have carried into effect. He was then engaged in establishing this foundery, and that of Marbella, besides being employed in other works in various parts of Spain where his advice was required. Soon after the civil war broke out he was called on to serve, when he said, "I have not the slightest objection to take the field, but I beg the government will consider whether my military services are of more consequence to the country, or the ruin of the establishments I am connected with, which

Digitized by Google

must inevitably ensue, if I be removed from them." They considered this rather important matter and he was ordered to remain at his civil post. The foundery was considered of sufficient consequence to be the subject of a special decree in 1838, ordering it with some others to be visited by a commission, and a regular report made to Government on its condition and prospects.

Digitized by Google

CHAPTER XI.

MINES OF VILLANUEVA DEL RIO.—SEVILLE.

THE next point we had to make was Villanueva del Rio, where there is a small coal field, described in my former work. As I understood it had emerged from the very rude and backward state in which the workings were at that period, I gladly accepted the proposal of my fellow traveller to pay it another visit on our way to Seville.

As the foundery is about eleven leagues from the capital and four from the coal mines and as the heat had set in, the former distance was too great to ride comfortably in one day, besides halting to make our observations; so we determined on sleeping at Villanueva, in readiness to start at a very early hour in the morning for Seville. The arrangement first proposed was to order a carriage to meet us at the opposite side of the ferry on the Guadalquivir and to leave our horses, but there being a failure in the communication the message could not be forwarded in time, so that we were obliged to ride; not at all to my regret, for although I already knew the country along the banks of the river and nothing can be more uninteresting than

Digitized by Google

it is, sitting on horseback is infinitely preferable to jolting in the strange and primitive machines they call carriages at Seville.

We rode down to Villanueva by a circuitous route in order to examine some of the territory of the fabrica that we had not visited, then descending to the lower valley of the Huesna, in which we found a very sensible difference in the temperature from that of the elevated region of Pedroso. Just before we arrived at the rather dangerous ford of the river, the rocks for a considerable extent were completely covered with the cistus or rather Helianthemum formosum, justly called so, as it is certainly about the most beautiful of the lovely tribe.

The diminutive coal field of Villanueva presented a very different appearance from that it exhibited on my previous visit to it in 1831. A considerable steam engine was at work and a number of men hutted, employed in sinking pits, pumping and drawing water, and in various other occupations connected with the winning of coal, most of them in the most primitive manner. They were driving a gallery at the principal mine, which appeared to be well planned, but the greater part of the operations seemed to be carried on with a great waste of money, and in entire ignorance of the fundamental rules of good mining.

The chief working was partly under the direction of Colonel Elorza and it was the only one

Digitized by Google

that seemed to be properly conducted. The rest I understood chiefly belonged to small companies at Cadiz and elsewhere, and were managed by juntas in the worst Spanish style. In some parts were regular clusters of pits, with the shafts so close to each other that the men had scarcely room to work, and no one but the contrivers could possibly understand or explain the principle on which they had been sunk.

The field is crossed by the Huesna as mentioned in my former work, and they have discovered a greater extent of coal than was then supposed to exist, on the eastern side of it. It is of inferior quality to the best English coal, but is suited to ordinary steam navigation, and from its proximity to Cadiz, in case of war, when France and Spain are concerned, must one day be of great importance as to the passage of the Straits of Gibraltar; which, with the use of this new element will be very much in the power of the possessors of Cadiz.

We were lodged in a house belonging to the company with whom my fellow traveller was connected, and it was under the immediate management of two very fine young men from Oñate, relations of his. The elder had served in the army of Don Carlos as I had been informed, and I asked some questions about it, but he answered reservedly, appearing thoroughly ashamed of the cause, excusing himself by his youth and ignorance at the time and from his being at the college of that

Digitized by Google

place; it has since been suppressed as such, and reduced in rank to a secondary sort of preparatory academy.

I was sorry to see the traces of the tercianas or malaria fever strongly marked in his countenance and it was evident his constitution was shaking and giving way under this direful pest, which very much affects all this part of the country, especially the low grounds near the rivers, and he no doubt was the more sensible, from its differing so much from the pure and wholesome air of his native mountains. The younger brother had lately arrived and I feared his blithe and cheerful appearance would be changed before the autumn.

The Huesna in this part is near its termination in the waters of the "great river," and flows over a rocky and picturesque bed: there is no bridge and the communications are at times quite interrupted; even at this season when no flood prevailed, we had some difficulty in passing the fords, which are all but dangerous.

As we had thirty miles to ride before breakfast we started at a very early hour, having sent previously to warn the ferrymen to be in readiness at the time we expected to reach them, an extremely necessary precaution in Spain, where it is often very difficult to muster them when wanted. We had a pleasant ride for some time in the moonlight and afterwards the freshness of the morning, entering the capital just as the sun was becoming too powerful for pleasure or comfort.

Digitized by Google

The soil of the flat along the banks of the river is chiefly good sandy loam, producing luxuriant crops of wheat and barley, which were fast hastening to maturity. We passed a beautiful and extensive cortijo or estate of the once wealthy Carthusian convent of Seville, that had been sold to an individual who was making great improvements on it.

In the latter part of the route, subsequent to leaving Almaden, we had lived a good deal in the Spanish manner and with great temperance. We drank little wine and abundance of goats' milk, that is not only the best in the world but superior to any other milk I ever tasted; I am not aware of the cause of its superiority unless it be the plants on which they browse at this season. We consumed large quantities of it, generally commencing and ending the day by emptying capacious bowls, and the people were often surprised at the number of quartillos or pints that were ordered; it is sweet and so light as to be of quite imperceptible digestion. At Pedroso, owing to the regulations above mentioned, it was obliged to be brought from some distance, the goats being driven down for the purpose of supplying our wants, but of course not allowed to quit the road or browse on the land. Another article strongly to be recommended is a water salad, the lettuce, which is deliciously crisp and tender, is mixed in the usual way with oil and vinegar and then put in a bowl that is filled with water, so that you sup the liquid

Digitized by Google

with the green herb. It is impossible to describe how refreshing and wholesome this simple dish is after a hot and dusty ride, and we always commenced the evening repast with it. This diet suited me so well that at the end of the journey I was in perfect health, which was by no means the case when I set out, or when I arrived in Estremadura. I had entirely abandoned the bota that was formerly a constant part of my travelling equipage, and found their delicious springs a pleasant and wholesome substitute for it.

Digitized by Google

CHAPTER XII.

SEVILLE—THE CATHEDRAL—SCULPTURE OF ROLDAN —FACISTOL—SAN ANTONIO—PATIO DE NARANJOS —ACADEMY.

We passed the gate and were riding forward, when to our great surprise we were summoned back to attend a consultation with the authorities there, who were charged with collecting the derecho de puertas or octroi. This unusual occurrence was caused by the servant, who having recovered his health and spirits, was endeavouring to carry a high hand by going through without stopping, as his master had been allowed to do, nor was he disposed to permit his well filled sogas to be examined. A little conversation however, and the opening one package, sufficed to appease the wounded dignity of the resguardo, which was solely affected by the Andalusian vanity of our follower having induced him to swagger and assume a little importance on the occasion.

The capital of Andalucia never appeared to greater advantage than on the morning we entered the narrow streets and obtained shelter from the burning rays of the luminary which concentrates its beams upon it above all other places. The season

Digitized by Google

was just changing and the first preparations for removing to the lower floor were in course of arrangement. The incomparable cleanliness of the houses, the freshly painted rejas, the plants exhibited in the balconies and bursting into flower, with the dazzling white that covered every wall, formed a curious and pleasing contrast with the condition of the towns and villages which had for some time been the subject of observation. We had considerable difficulty in finding accommodation from the paucity of inns in this extensive place. Colonel Elorza had broken up his establishment, his family being removed to the sea coast for the summer and at his return from Germany were to take up their quarters once more at Pedroso, where he calculated on remaining six months, in order to see the new plans carried into effect; so that his home was no longer at our "disposicion" as it would otherwise have been. The English hotel was given up, to the great loss of travellers, according to the accounts I heard of it; but an establishment with waiters and all the paraphernalia of our expensive customs is ill suited to this country, where, notwithstanding the influx brought by the steamers, one half of the year or more there is little business to repay the constant outgoings. There is one large and excellent house kept by a Flemish head, but it was entirely full, as was also another we tried, and we finally found quarters with an excellent widow, who had a very comfortable casa quite in the

Digitized by Google

Spanish style, where besides being very well attended we had the advantage of hearing the Sevillan dialect spoken in its utmost purity.

Dr. Daubeny arrived the same day, having had very great difficulty to find room in the diligence from Cordova, then only by the mere accident of a traveller stopping there and making a vacancy. These conveyances, of which there was a considerable number, were at this time in such request, that it was necessary to secure places even for three weeks previous to setting out: he was obliged to leave the servant behind, so that in this respect it was fortunate we had separated at Almaden.

Very little time was lost before repairing to the Cathedral, where I expected to find the Murillos from the Capuchin convent and most of the other master pieces from the convents, but to my surprise all remained exactly as I had left it in 1832: hardly any thing had been displaced, nor either added or taken away. The pictures had, subsequently to the last accounts I received, been removed to the Academy. To complete the tour of the building I looked into the Sagrario, the parish church, which opens out of the Cathedral, where the sacrament is administered to the people. This edifice, is totally incongruous in style with the principal building, being a bad or bastard classic, but serves also as parroquia to the district around. The altar end was formerly occupied by a monstrosity of the worst style, in the shape of a retablo, which

Digitized by Google

had been removed, and its place given to the famous Descent from the Cross by Roldan, which was formerly at the Franciscan convent, nor was any translation ever attended with more complete success. The architectural part of this masterpiece harmonizes so well with that of the church, and the size and proportions are so perfectly suited to its new site, that I looked several times; considering whether it were possible my memory could be at fault and that it had been always there; had Roldan chosen the situation for his work, he could not have done so more effectually. The original site was so dark and confined that it was impossible to judge this noble work as you are enabled perfectly to do in the Sagrario. There are five planes or lines of perspective distance in the successive groups of figures which compose the picture; and however strong our prejudices may be in favour of the marble and bronze, to which we owe the greatest efforts of the human mind, it is impossible not to acknowledge the prodigious assistance painting gives to the effect of sculpture in many situations and subjects. No arrangement of monochrome sculpture could possibly have produced the effect of the splendid grouping, and the fire and genius with which this grand subject is treated. It cannot be denied that the figures are coarse and inelegant compared to those of Montañes and Cano, but when we see the genius of Rubens, with whose grandest style this work may be fairly and justly compared, we must pardon some

Digitized by Google

defects in the choice of the models which have served for the principal figures. This splendid work was already familiar to me, but from the reasons already given, it had almost the charm of novelty added to that of old acquaintance, and I went every day to feast on it, as well as on its near neighbour, the San Antonio. I know no work on which might be more fairly tested the advantages of painting, than this grand composition of the chisel, and by seeing it, one may perfectly understand what we read about the effect of the painted and ornamental works of the Grecian School; most fortunately not a brush or retouch has been laid on, and it remains just as the great designer turned it out of his hands. Whilst employed in the examination I happened to step within the rails of the altar, as I had invariably done in every part of Spain for such purpose without interference, taking care of course to do so at proper times and always with the respect due to the place. I had scarcely entered before a noise was heard from behind, and on looking back most angry gesticulations were exhibited by a character who was seated in a confessional box at the transept. The most ill-favoured and unpleasant expression possible to imagine, inflamed a naturally bloodshot and fiery countenance, in which any thing but the mild expression of christian humility and charity were depicted, still less the gentlemanly manner and style generally prevalent amongst the dignitaries of cathedrals in Spain. So coarse and undig-

Digitized by Google

nified was his manner and so little fitted to inspire respect, it disposed me to pay no attention to his summons, but I considered it was wrong to follow a bad example and that however objectionable his mode of exercising it might be, he had a *right* to the interference and that by refusing to obey the order I should imitate his bad manners and be guilty of "falta de educacion," the last imputation to be incurred in this country of good breeding. I accordingly stepped back, with the less reluctance because the true point of view was from the outside the rails, and I had only entered an instant to look at some details of small importance. To shew how little such a proceeding is in the habits of Andalucia, above all other parts, I was hardly out, before up came two chorister boys belonging to the very staff of the ill-conditioned churl, and whispered, "Come at such an hour in the morning, he will not be here at that time and you can do as you like." Without witnessing this ill-natured churlishness, I should scarcely have credited the recital of a display so at variance with the usual practices in the Spanish cathedrals, though I suspect, as the style of the man would lead to be inferred and from what I observed in my frequent visits to his quarters, he had very little employment in his vocation, for I never saw any one avail themselves of his spiritual aid, the mode of administering which would, from his manner, appear to be anything but agreeable or consolatory.

Although there is very little alteration generally

Digitized by Google

in the cathedral and every thing remains in its former condition, it has like most others rather a deserted appearance, in consequence of the immense reduction of the establishment, but all things are in good order and perfect preservation. As a proof that they are not inattentive to the conservation of the valuable works in the fallen state of their foundation, the celebrated facistol or large moveable reading desk, with four faces, on which are placed the enormous books from which the service is chaunted by the canons in the coro, was undergoing a complete restoration. This work, which is by Morel, the artist who designed the angel of the Giralda, is of ebony or some dark wood ornamented with large brass figures and other accompaniments, equal in their design and execution to anything of Cellini. The weight of the books, each leaf of which is a single skin of parchment, is such they can only be moved by turning the machine round on the centre pivot, and the huge clasps had completely cut into and were irreparably injuring the fine corner figures, that were most exposed to the friction. The first visit I paid to this place I had the advantage of being accompanied by one of the body, a celebrated character in Spain, of which he is the "Sidney Smith," being equally renowned for wit and talent, and as well known as his brother dignitary is here. I was quite horror-struck on seeing the barbarous neglect of such a work in such a place, and on remarking it he said, "Amigo! si V. supiera que

Digitized by Google

gente son canonigos, no estrañaria,"—If you knew the sort of people canons are, you would cease to wonder! This rather severe description of the body, referred of course to the elder members, many of whom were dreadful obstacles in the way of improvement; and from the havoc death has since made amongst them, as they are reduced from ninety to about thirty-five, I suppose the dead weight has been removed and the more active and intelligent rule in the cabildo.

I paid daily visits to the San Antonio, and every day, after so many years acquaintance, when the effect of time and observation cause so many paintings not only to lose rank in your estimation, but to make you wonder in considering the place they once held, my respect and admiration of this wonderful work increased. Like the St. Peter of Titian, which is at Venice, both of them have in common, the being composed from the most simple and unpromising materials as subject, and both have been raised to the rank they hold by the mere force and simple genius of their masters; and it is doubtful whether any of the greater and more pretending pictures which are generally considered to take the lead, can fairly claim much superiority over them. The time to see the San Antonio is not the forenoon as they recommend you, but late in the afternoon, when the broken light of the declining sun is admitted through the western windows. I have watched it with the gleams breaking in, partially

Digitized by Google

illuminating the different parts and have always gone away not only in admiration, but in the greatest doubt if it be not the first picture in the world. Most fortunately it is untouched and the cabildo are so particular that I believe no copy has ever been taken, nor will they even allow it to be engraved. They told me that a "Lord" had expressed his readiness, if it could be purchased, to give a sum equal to forty thousand pounds! It is not difficult to guess who that must have been, for few have taste and money combined sufficient to estimate and make such a profession; but were it possible to transfer this painting into private hands, the effect would be in a great degree lost, unless a church or building were erected on a scale sufficient to display it. Like the case of the temple of Tivoli, which one of our eccentric countrymen is said to have purchased with a view of transporting to his park in England, association as well as mere beauty is concerned, and the San Antonio to be fully enjoyed, must be seen in its native site of Seville.

In the war of independence, two Alcaldes in or near Seville, refused to reveal the names of the parties engaged in an intended rise of the people, and were put to death by the French authorities in consequence; an inscription was put up to their memory in the patio de los Naranjos, and is alluded to in my former work; the names and legends are as follows:—

Digitized by Google

"Don Jose Gonzales, y Don Bernardo Palacios, en honor de Dios y memoria indelible del Heroismo, con que los invictos Sevillanos, coronaron sus servicios a la patria, bajo la tyrannia de Napoleon, prefiriendo el cadalso a la manifestacion de sus compañeros el 9 de Enero 1811. De orden del Re, hizo poner el Cabildo Cathedral, esta lapida."

The magnificent convent of the Merced was selected and converted into a Museum of fine arts, the principal part being of course composed of the pictures from the numerous religious foundations, the wreck of which now ornaments its walls. The church was as a matter of course made the grand receptacle for the finer works, and although the mistake was very natural, no greater or more serious one was ever made. Being a noble and lofty building with insufficient light for the purpose of properly displaying the pictures, and with every thing cleared out, the effect is that of an enormous barn. The place of honour over the altar has been assigned to the Apotheosis of Charles the Fifth, which was formerly at the college of St. Thomas. There is so little assistance from the light and the effect is so badly seen in the new locality, that without a previous intimate knowledge, I should have left the place with a most imperfect idea or rather none at all, of the merits of that magnificent work. The crucifixion of St. Andrew by Roelas, which was in the same building and is almost as fine a picture, hangs at the north transept, and from

Digitized by Google

being only in the second place has a great advantage over its rival, although the site is still immeasurably inferior to that formerly occupied in the chapel it was painted for, at the same college.

After a long search for the San Bruno before the Pope by Zurbaran, formerly at the Cartuxa, I was on the point of giving up, when I discovered it at the very top of the chancel, where a telescope was almost necessary for the inspection. This is not only one of the best pictures in Seville but there are few better in Spain, yet is completely lost in the situation they have assigned it. The same has happened more or less to most of the pictures in this vast repository, and it is difficult to imagine the reasons which have influenced the "hanging committee" of the Academy in their selection of places for the great productions of their celebrated predecessors. The misfortune is, as I was informed, the fitting up this ill managed site has cost a large sum of money, which of course there will be difficulty in again raising, should they repent of their mistaken proceedings.

There are several works here by the scholars and imitators of Murillo, some of which would scarcely be known from those of their great master in his earlier days, amongst which is one by Gutierrez, a painter with whom I was previously unacquainted, nor have I been able to make him out in the books, which mention several artists of the name, but they chiefly belong to the school of Castile.

Digitized by Google

The St. Ferdinand by Meneses, another and a better known scholar of Murillo, is a large and very fine work painted in a dark serious and solemn tone, with grace and beauty in most of the figures; it represents monks kneeling and receiving from the saintly King the statutes of their order. There is another equally good picture by the same master, of Sta. Isabel of Hungary, in her usual occupation of charity to the afflicted and distressed. One of the attendants, a very beautiful person, has been drawn from some model who had the good taste to choose that her trensa or long platted hair, of which she must have had a splendid display, should be introduced, and this very unusual and to me unique ornament, is represented in all its luxuriance. Could the custom be for the Andaluzas to wear that costume at the time the picture was painted, or may the party not have been a Vascongada, choosing her national usage to be thus consigned to posterity along with her own portrait? There are a great many figures in this picture, which is a pendant to that last mentioned, and the queen and her attendants are beautiful persons, but it has suffered a good deal. Both these works are in excellent situations at the lower part of the chancel and are perfectly seen.

There is a large and very fine picture of the elder Herrera in this collection, but his finest works, which were at the convent of St. Buenaventura, were sold by the monks just in time to save them being sequestered, and are now in England; part

Digitized by Google

of them are, I believe, in the collection of the Earl of Clarendon. There is a Calvario by Frutet, painted in a sort of Flemish style, of which country he was a native, although he passed the greater part of his life in Spain. The fine pictures of Murillo, formerly at St. Agostino, are now placed in the same gallery, in the lower part. The convent which is out of the town and from its tempting situation has always excited the cupidity of military and other authorities, now serves I believe as a presidio or something of that kind.

Some of the most celebrated statues of the school are also placed in the church, in and near the transept. The S. Jerome of Torregiani, formerly at the convent of S. Geronimo de Buenavista, the S°. Domingo and S. Bruno of Montañes with one of his Crucifixions, both of these last from the Cartuxa, are the jewels of the collection. They are mentioned in the accounts of the Spanish sculptures in my former work, and every one who is interested in this noble and truly national art should thank his stars, if they allowed him to see them in their original situations. Being now placed in the vast open space under the lofty dome they are lost in the immensity of the vacuum around them, like the obelisk at Paris, and it is utterly impossible to form a proper judgment of any one of them in their present situations. It is extraordinary they should not have brought the temple under which the S. Jerome was placed at the convent, nor is it easy to conceive the loss of effect by the present arrange-

Digitized by Google

ment in vacuo, where the beautiful work looks almost meschine from the want of objects of scale and comparison to set it off and shew its proportions. The S°. Domingo of Montañes is a statue I never liked, nor could imagine the reason of the admiration which has been always bestowed on it at Seville: neither has it gained by the new situation. The S. Bruno has a better effect than any of the others, but it has been varnished or lacquered over, so that the shining surface has an unpleasing effect to the observer. This statue, which for simplicity of treatment and design is a model of art, so good, that I doubt whether any modern work excels, and very few indeed equal it, is justly considered a study for sculptors, and the casts are seen in the Spanish academies, as they ought to be in those of all Europe. In sculpture it is exactly what the incomparable monks of Fra Bartolomeo are in painting, having the same grace, sedate and undescribable expression so well given by that great artist in his finest works.

The only piece of sculpture of those selected to adorn the collection, that is well or even decently placed, is the Crucifixion of Montañes, which was in the same convent with the S. Bruno. There is a chapel behind the north side of the Crucero that suits perfectly, of which it is I think the principal occupant. The light is admitted in just the quantity and manner it ought to be, and a better situation could not have been selected, nor can any collection in Europe boast a more beautiful

Digitized by Google

specimen of native art; it may fairly be compared to the painting of the same subject by Guido, at Rome. The magnificent patios are hung with various works of the school, most of them of inferior merit. Were the upper cloisters glazed and secured from the damp of winter and the burning sun of summer, many of the works in the church would be infinitely better seen than they are in the situations to which they have been sacrificed, and all the higher parts might be covered by those of inferior interest. The defects of the arrangements above mentioned are proof, if any were wanting, that the grand object of galleries, which is the exhibiting the masters whose works they may contain to the greatest advantage, is more easily attained by having several small rooms, instead of one or two of spacious dimensions, where architectural display is often the grand object and the effect of the paintings destroyed by the numbers that are brought together, or the false and reflected lights which are inseparable from such modes of construction. The celebrated pictures of the Capuchins, nearly the whole church of which was painted by Murillo in his finest time, are in a spacious room, that appears to have been a dormitory or some other part of the conveniences belonging to this once powerful order. Nothing can be better than this part of the arrangement, which is the best in the museum. The locality is just sufficiently large to hold the pictures; they have ample space and no more than is necessary to shew them to advantage.

Digitized by Google

The length, breadth, and height of the room are perfect; the only defect and that is a very material one, is the lighting, which is all from one end, and some roofing being seen above the lower part of the window, reduces the quantity of light, already too small to shew those at the inner end properly, so that many of them are badly seen. All that is wanted, is to admit the light from the roof in sufficient quantity to disperse it equally over the gallery, and close the end window: if this were done, and it is perfectly practicable at a very moderate expense, the Capuchin gallery, of which only the great altar piece mentioned in the account of the National Museum at Madrid is wanting, would be one of the most beautiful exhibitions in the world.

The felicitous idea occurred to some of the authorities of converting the fine church of the Jesuits now belonging to the university, into a Pantheon for the Sevillanos as that of Santa Croce serves for the Florentines. A quantity of rubbish of the worst times of church decoration, that disgraced this very fine edifice, was cleared out, and the sole ornaments left of the original stock are the works of Roelas, Cano, Pacheco, and Montañes: the great altar piece is one of the best works of the first named artist and represents the holy family. The modern additions, to carry out the patriotic views of the new school, are the monuments of Arias Montano the celebrated divine, who although not born in the

Digitized by Google

city, always called and considered himself a Sevillan, and passed the best part of his life in and near the place. It is singular enough, that having during his life been the most bitter opponent of the Jesuits, his remains should have found a last and possibly final resting place in their church, which is more than probable they would have refused to allow at the time of his death.

Another tomb is that of Figueroa, grand master and founder of the establishment of Santiago at Seville, who is represented with a favourite dog called Amadis at his feet. Both these tombs were brought from Santiago of which Montano was also prior; the suppression of that foundation in the general wreck having deprived the remains of both these worthies of their original place of repose. A curious monument in bronze of Duarte and his wife was brought from a chapel in the Triana, which formerly belonged to the family. The great attraction of the place, however, is the tombs of the truly illustrious family of Ribera from the Cartuxa, which they had the principal share in founding and endowing, and most of the family and connections were buried in it. There are a great number of them and several are memorials of quite historical personages: they were Gallician by descent and like many of the warriors who assisted in the final expulsion of the Moors, settled in Andalucia, receiving large grants from the sequestered estates of the infidels. The histories which are shortly mentioned in the in-

Digitized by Google

scriptions of some of them are extremely remarkable, and no family in Spain had more illustrious titles and appointments, earned by their deeds in the field, in company with the Guzmans, the Ponces of Leon, and other warriors of the truly chivalric age of Spain. Many of them fell in the battles with the Paynim, but one individual, Perafan de Ribera, after fighting all his life and losing three sons in the wars, attained the age of 105 years, and died in peace. This character lived with great hospitality and appears to have been extremely choice in his living, qualities which as they inform you at Madrid, have by no means been transmitted to his descendants.

These tombs of the Ribera are much spoken of in Spain for their execution, but the best of them will not bear very strict examination. The better ones are by Italians called Pace Gazini and Charon, and were brought from Genoa where there was a sort of manufacture of such articles about 1500, similar to that now existing at Carrara; of which school and epoch are the tombs of the kings at Granada. The vast Andalusian estates of the Duke of Medina Celi are derived from the Ribera, and the expense of removing the tombs from the Cartuxa was very properly defrayed by the head of that illustrious house. The curious house or palace, called of Pilate, a half Moorish construction belonged to them, and was their residence. There are still a prodigious number of characters belonging to the city of whom no memorial exists in this collection,

Digitized by Google

but it is to be hoped some measures will be taken to place those of the painters and others, or at least inscriptions, to the honour of them. The public are mainly indebted to the Canon Cepero, who has been already mentioned, for the admirable arrangement of this interesting place, and also for the removing the sculpture of Roldan to the site it now occupies in the Sagrario of the Cathedral.

The great and celebrated convent of S. Francisco, where were once some of the finest works of Murillo, is nearly demolished, but they had not determined on the disposal to be made of the site. Like many others of the order in Spain, instead of being built in a solitude, similar to the sanctuary of the founder, it stood in the very heart and most populous part of the town, adjoining the great Plaza, where the ground is extremely valuable and ought to be applied to some public purpose.

Among other various conversions of monastic foundations, that of S. Pablo is now appropriated to the public offices, and the Xefe Politico with his staff and satellites are installed in this spacious and once magnificent establishment; the church is however preserved, and I think has been exchanged for the dilapidated edifice of a neighbouring parish.

Every thing remains as before at the Caridad, where are the celebrated works of Murillo, the Moses of whom is familiar to the public by the engraving of Esteve. I examined the other works of Roldan in the same chapel and thought the perspective as good or even

Digitized by Google

better than that of the other picture at the cathedral, the effect of both of them being in great part due to colour, without which all the back ground and figures behind would have been totally lost. The chief thing to be devoutly prayed for is, that they will never think of touching or meddling with the painting and gilding, which are now precisely as they were left by the great master to whom we are indebted for these extraordinary productions, that alone to any eye accustomed to the Spanish style of sculpture would repay a voyage to Seville.

The Cartuxa, which was founded as already mentioned by the Ribera, and is at some distance from the town in a low and badly selected situation, not at all appropriate to the order that it belonged to, has followed the fate which inevitably awaited it, and "faute de mieux" now serves as a manufactory of pottery. If the great Adelantados and other illustrious officers of the race were aware of this desecration, they would hardly consider themselves indemnified by the transfer of their remains to the probably more durable foundation of the Pantheon. It is certainly a rather curious display of the singular associations so often found in the human mind, that these men, whose lives were passed in the utmost activity and excitement of every sort, should have had their views finally concentrated in this most absurd and useless order, whose existence was dozed away in a

Digitized by Google

manner so completely opposed to the mode of living selected by themselves.

The convent of Santi Ponce (Italica), which is above the Triana on the bank of the river, has been retained by Government, and I believe is used as a sort of depôt, for which the ample buildings are well adapted. San Geronimo de Buenavista, the famous convent on the bank of the river above the town, where lived whilst I was there, the celebrated Cevallos, was at first converted into a seminary for the education of sons of the more wealthy inhabitants, but the situation, owing to its distance was found inconvenient and they removed into the town; it has since been turned into a manufactory of common glass, being occupied by a foreign company. It was reported that a lost work of Torregiani had been found in some secret repository of this convent and had fallen into the hands of the purchasers, who were unwilling to part with such a treasure: they had however changed their minds, probably from discovering their mistake, and it is now at the Academy. How such an idea could have ever entered the head of any one I could not conceive, for this extremely moderate work has not an iota of the style or even date of the great Italian. It is evidently a very middling specimen of the scholars and successors of Cano and Montañes, and is not unlike some of the common sculpture of the same date so frequently seen at Granada.

Digitized by Google

Besides those already mentioned, which are chiefly conducted by foreigners, several rather important branches of manufacture are starting into existence in this once wealthy place. Soap, silk, and articles made of the common hemp are making considerable progress. The population is increasing and the town improving in appearance, in consequence of the great augmentation in industry and the circulation of money. The consumption of oil, which is becoming a very great staple production in Andalusia is daily increasing, not only by the demand for it in England and France, but by the substitution of argands and other kinds of modern model, for the simple antique lamps with common wicks which formerly were the sole articles seen in the generality of houses.

Silk is now manufactured of very superior quality, and I was assured by competent judges that they preferred the native fabric to that formerly drawn from France, on account of the greater weight and solidity of the material used in it.

The Alcazar, the roof of which was in so bad a state that they assured me large holes existed, through which the rain had free admittance, and would in a short time have reduced this beautiful edifice to a state of ruin, is undergoing a complete repair; the restoration of the interior work is admirable, being quite equal to that done by the original constructors. The most difficult part is cleansing the whitewash, of which many suc-

Digitized by Google

cessive coats cover the beautifully coloured ornaments of the Moors. This was done in the mistaken and barbarous zeal of some intendente a few years since, but it is to be hoped will shortly disappear. The worst part is the exterior, the restored portions of which are daubed with washes of various hues and bad taste in the selection, as they do not at all harmonize with the original work.

The Moorish gardens are in tolerable condition but would be in very much better under the superintendent Señor Boutelou, one of the sons of the well known professor who recently died, if the Government would allow the means of doing it. They are much resorted to as an evening promenade in fine weather by the Sevillanas.

I was sorry to find the beautiful Alamedas on the Guadalquivir, which are only second to those of Granada in beauty of situation, in a state of considerable neglect: but one of the objects of the truly patriotic assistente (Arjona), who principally created them, in the time of Ferdinand, intending them to serve both for ornament and utility; that of raising trees and shrubs for dispersion in the country around is still attended to, and at Pedroso some of their stock had been procured from this very useful source of supply. The little Glorieta or paseo de Cristina, so called in honour of that personage at her marriage, is so overgrown that the walks are much injured; the growth of shrubs and trees here being only second to that on the banks of

Digitized by Google

the Huesna. One of the lounges in the lovely evenings was to see the arrival of the steamers from Cadiz, of which there is one nearly every day, and of a very superior description to the humble representatives of the science that performed the service a few years since.

The paseos were well attended and many ladies displayed their figures in the Calle de las sierpes on the fine evenings, or listened to the military music in the Plaza at the end of it. The lapse of a few years, the cholera and the civil war, had wrought a serious change in the society of the place since I left it. The answer to inquiries about the numerous parties I knew, was invariably, married and removed to such a place, or too frequently, dead. Those I had left as children were grown up and many of them established in life, with a rapidity only seen in such a climate as this. I found Xeres was a place of great attraction, and many families had removed to its cheerful and hospitable walls.

The private collections of pictures had followed the same course, and the exertions of Abbé Taylor and many others, had almost entirely cleared them out, and scarcely any thing remained of the interesting remnants of former greatness for the lounger to examine, that was one of the delights of the place. Even the well furnished walls of Mr. Williams were nearly bare, almost the whole of his fine paintings having disappeared, leaving only their shadows to represent them; the possessor himself alone remain-

Digitized by Google

ing in *statu quo*, neither time, cholera nor prosperity having wrought the smallest change in him.

There were no books to be heard of, although it might have been expected that in these times some few would have appeared from the wreck of the convents. All my readers who had the advantage of knowing that distinguished bibliomaniac and virtuoso, the late Padre Mena, will join in paying a tribute to his memory, and regret that the ruthless cholera should have swept away so bright an ornament from the town. Had he been living they would probably have been more readily procured, and I heard of no one who had taken his place or filled up the great vacuum he has left in the many avocations he was engaged in. Peace be to his manes!

The theatre has been repainted and fitted up to my great pleasure and surprise in a Moorish style of decoration, which has a very pretty effect, and I was equally glad to see the same style in some of the handsome shops which are replacing the oriental cabins, in which the commerce of the place was formerly carried on.

Digitized by Google

CHAPTER XIII.

PREPARATIONS FOR JOURNEY TO RONDA—PUERTO SERRANO—SERRANIA DE RONDA—MARBELLA—MALAGA.

My next plan was to proceed across the country, in order to see once more the beautiful pass which leads from the northern plain of Andalucia, by the course of the Guadalete, to the capital of the Serrania de Ronda. I had travelled by the opposite direction of this route in 1829, but it was very late in the season, and I was desirous of seeing the vegetation at a more agreeable and suitable period of the year.

Having made the necessary inquiries about horses, I was recommended by some Spanish friends to a dealer in the article, called Salazar, by whom they assured me I should be well served, though perhaps I might have to pay rather dear. I accordingly repaired to his quarters, and was shewn a very good-looking grey horse in excellent working condition, apparently quite fit for any journey, and a decent jaca was promised for the attendant mozo who was to accompany me. I had run the time rather close, intending to set out very early in the morning, in order to make a forced march across the plain and get to some point within the Serrania before nightfall, and had desired the master to send his mozo the previous evening that I might see the

Digitized by Google

character and shew him the baggage, as well as make the necessary arrangements. He did not make his appearance, which circumstance did not very much please me, and at ten o'clock the servant of the house came to say that I could not have my passport until next day, owing to the pressure of business at the police office ; that they had refused to sign it, and that every office was closed for the night.

I was extremely surprised and annoyed at this, but I immediately wrote a letter to the Xefe politico, explaining the circumstances and begging he would give the necessary order. A verbal answer came back, that he was gone out into Tertulia and would not return until a very late hour, and that the servants had strict orders to receive no letters in his absence. Still less satisfied with this, I insisted on the attendant going to his house and waiting until he should arrive, for an answer from himself. About two in the morning I received a most polite reply to my letter, stating that he had remained until a late hour at the office ; that no passport had been presented for signature, and that on being taxed with it, the messenger had confessed every thing he had told me was untrue and his own fabrication from beginning to end ; he was extremely sorry for the trouble I had been put to ; in fine, that he would give orders to his clerks to be stirring at a very early hour, and that I should not be detained an instant. I had previously called on this functionary,

Digitized by Google

who was a most gentlemanly man, an officer, a native of Velmez and nearly connected with the family mentioned in the previous account of that place. The party who caused all this trouble was a youth who had been engaged as supplementary attendant in the house I was staying, the proper mozo being ill. He was civil and plausible, but a more perfect and accomplished liar never existed. He was so cool and perfectly master of this art, that if he had not already done so, which is very possible, he was quite qualified to act the part of lying valet in a sainete (Spanish farce).

After the greater part of the night had been consumed in these manœuvres, the representative of Señor Salazar appeared, but at the first sight of him my evil anticipations were realised, for his exterior was by no means prepossessing, being an elderly man, rather lame, and evidently by the time he lost and by his mode of handling the baggage, very ill fitted for the job he had undertaken, or rather which had been put upon him. At last we made a start, three hours later than I intended, and took the short road to Utrera by the Pinar, a wood of P. Pinea, which is, or rather was, of considerable extent, on the left of the Guadaira. I mentioned in the account of Pedroso that they drew the principal part of the better timber from this locality, and the demands for that, and other buildings in the neighbourhood, had swept away nearly all the old trees since I first passed it. The ride through is still extremely pretty,

Digitized by Google

but I saw little remarkable in the botany; the Cistus purpureus and roseus and a small yellow species, with the Convolvulus bicolor of our gardens, were the best plants exhibited. At a league from Utrera we entered cultivated lands and passed by the beautiful garden and grounds of a spacious cortijo, which were planted with pomegranates, oranges and other fruit trees.

Utrera is a large, opulent and thriving place, being inhabited principally by the wealthy and almost colossal labradores, or farmers on a large scale, who, as mentioned in the Agricultural report, rent the great corn lands of the western plains; some of them have very large capitals embarked in these undertakings, being the most wealthy of the class in Spain, besides possessing ample lands of their own. They cultivate not only the corn lands for a great distance round the town, but manage the rich salt marshes at the mouth of the Guadalquivir, which feed numerous cattle and produce some of the best bulls in Andalusia. One of these men has lately taken the large estates of the Duke of Medina Celi on a lease for twenty years, at an advance of ten per cent on the former rental and on the condition of an immediate advance of 50,000 dollars, about £10,000. The raising such a sum in Spain is a proof of the great wealth of the party lending it, and of the benefit he calculates on deriving from his vast undertaking, but it is a wretched display on the part of the Duke, who is the head of the

Digitized by Google

nobility of Spain, and nearly the largest proprietor in it. For the sake of this beggarly sum, to be squandered in Madrid, the whole of his vast Andalusian estates, which are thirty-four in number, have been consigned to the mercy of one individual, who cannot undertake to manage such an extent of territory himself, but trusts for the profit he expects to derive from the transaction, to that he may make, by subletting them to the lesser stars of his fraternity. It is clear that between these parties, who again employ in great part independent labourers, excepting the comparatively trifling sums he may receive as rent, the possessor of these immense domains is a complete cipher; deriving little power or influence from them, being in fact hardly known and not in any way cared for, by those employed on his property, exactly as pointed out in my former description of the condition of the great nobility in Spain.

We dined at Coronil, a large village with a castle, the lands about which, but not the place itself, are chiefly the property of the Medina Celi. After we had passed Utrera, I perceived, as usual, my guide's stock of local knowledge was exhausted, and beyond that place he was entirely unacquainted with the road. This discovery was by no means agreeable, nor was it improved by observing him order and finish a whole bottle of the strong heady wine of the neighbourhood whilst he was dining opposite to me at the posada, the consequence of which was visible

Digitized by Google

in a short time after we resumed the route: he had forgotten some part of the baggage and turned back to fetch it, without acquainting me that he was going to do so, after we had made nearly a league. When he came up I found the wine had wrought its effect, and that he was perfectly intoxicated. As he had been a soldier in the war of independence, I considered the best plan was to take a tone of authority, and I rated him severely: this, which was a ticklish course to follow with these people, answered its purpose and after confessing his error, he said he would drink only water for the future. This unlucky start was caused partly by my own imprudent generosity; trusting to the influence of the parties who had recommended me and to the substantial situation of Salazar himself, as well as from having far more agreeable occupation at Seville than hammering bargains with this description of people, I had left it to others to arrange; and instead of agreeing for the job as I ought to have done in one general payment, I had committed the folly of engaging to keep not only the horses, but to pay the mozo very liberally and make him a large allowance for his living on the road. This imprudent arrangement which, after all, would have answered well enough but for the dishonest and greedy dealing of Salazar, produced this and other inconveniences subsequently on the road, and is mentioned to warn others from falling into similar scrapes; for myself, I deserve no commiseration, having adopted a course my

Digitized by Google

knowledge of these people ought to have kept me by any means from doing, and I ran my own time merely against the chance of being honestly served.

We crossed a very pretty country of alternate corn and wood land, passing below Montellano, a large and thriving place in a beautiful situation; beyond this it is more wild and picturesque in approaching the Guadalete, which we crossed by a rather deep ford, and on the opposite side, ascending a steep rising ground, entered Puerto Serrano. This is a straggling village, mostly of new houses with a good appearance at a distance, but there was no regular posada, and only a venta without sleeping accommodation. The people however were extremely civil and promised to do the best in their power to lodge me; they cleared out a sort of small store room, which was filled with the savoury articles that are kept in these places, many of them leaving a considerable odour behind, and when it was completed and the bed made, reminded me of what is called "the captain's state room" on board a merchant vessel. The sleeping at this place was quite contrary to my intention, and I had planned pushing forward to one of the villages within the Serrania as before mentioned, but the guide had completely baulked me, and it would have been the height of folly to be benighted in the region now before me.

Whilst I was standing at the door a little after dusk, talking to the characters assembled there, one

Digitized by Google

of them descried a light at some distance and called out to the person carrying it, desiring him to pass that way. When he arrived, I was not a little surprised to find him provided with an ambulant apparatus, and tea and coffee, which he sold ready made. There was a kind of urn divided into two parts, one for each sort of beverage, and heated by a small charcoal furnace below: fitted to the top was a tray in which were the cups, with water to rinse them after they were made use of, and the whole was surmounted by a lantern, serving as a protection to the carrier and to warn his customers of his approach, as well as to assist them in quaffing their potations. The machine was of zinc, of remarkably good workmanship, and although in a city it would have excited little attention, I was really surprised and pleased to see such a step in civilization in this rudest of countries where it was exhibited.

This place is the entrance or gate of the Serrania, as its name demonstrates. I engaged a guide to shew us the entrance into the defiles; starting at a very early hour, so that we were just clear of the corn lands before day light appeared, when we opened the wide valley of the Zahara, a considerable stream at this season and the left arm of the Guadalete, deriving its name from the Moorish place, which is the principal feature in its course. This valley was not new to me, as I had descended it in 1829, but in the winter season and under very different circumstances. Now all was smiling,

Digitized by Google

the vegetation beautiful beyond description, and it was just the moment to enjoy the choice flora now exhibiting in fullest beauty. Not a particle of improvement had taken place in the road, which was as bad as possibly could be and I had a great deal of trouble to keep it, for my guide, who was now as sober as I suppose he ever was, would not condescend either to make inquiries or use the smallest exertion to keep us right. When I had any doubt and asked him whether it were probable we were following the proper direction, the invariable answer was, "Que se yo!" How should I know! This drawback was not diminished by the performance of my horse, who was a good beast and did very well as long as we were in the plain, but his exertions previously, appeared to have been confined to the highways and paseos of Lower Andalusia; so that the instant we were amongst the rocks and ravines of this horrid road, he was so awkward it was neither agreeable or hardly safe to ride him, nor could I have conceived one of this breed so unskilful in the use of his feet any where. There is a small new venta nearly opposite to the most picturesque town of Zahara, of the more importance to note, as with the exception of some temporary huts a little higher up where they sold water and wine, it is the only habitation on the direct line between Ronda and Puerto Serrano.

I expected to find abundance of company on the way to the fair, but as it was already commenced they

Digitized by Google

had chiefly preceded us, and we only met with two youths riding a small active pony who served us as guides for some time; unfortunately they stopped at the venta and we soon made a most pardonable mistake by not turning to the left, and keeping the road to Grazalema; but we were fortunately corrected by a man who was riding from that place. We then ascended the very long and tedious cuesta de la Viña, and after crossing a table at the summit, descended to the capital of the Serrania.

The latter part of this ride presents rather grand scenery. After ascending the long sloping hill and passing the division of the waters, you descend by a series of magnificent defiles to Ronda; one of them is a sort of basin tolerably wooded, chiefly with the Quercus Quexigo, some proprietor having had the good sense to preserve his forest from following the fate which has befallen the others in this region, since the conquest from the Moors, in whose hands great part of it was covered with trees producing vast riches in their timber and the pasturage they protected, as well as in the numerous herds of swine maintained by them. Between Zahara and this summit of the pass we had a distinct view above us to the right, of S. Cristobal, the loftiest mass of the Serrania, which is seen at a great distance in the Atlantic, and formed a landmark in the ancient times for the galleons as well as to English sailors, by whom it was called the Moor's head, a name it does not bear in the country.

Digitized by Google

I entered Ronda in the middle of the fair, and not having written to secure accommodation, was under some uncertainty as to being able to procure any; on going, however, to the house of my old acquaintance Don Jose Zaffran, with whom I had travelled to Seville in 1829, who had promised that if ever I came again to Ronda he would remember me. There were no means of knowing whether he was in existence previously to my going there, but I was soon set right, finding him in health and prosperity in his vocation of horse dealing and other business of similar description, nor could anything exceed his satisfaction at my having remembered him. I was immediately accommodated in his own house, and had every advantage of seeing the fair from being under the guidance of one of the first majos who ever graced the place. My old friend had increased considerably in condition and size, and being no longer able to travel as he was formerly in the habit of doing, his business was now chiefly confined to horse dealing, which he was so completely master of, that I believe he knew almost every horse in the Serrania. At my first arrival he was absent, and his wife intended I should be lodged in another house, their principal apartment being occupied by a young man who had put his horse under his care for the purpose of sale, an office in Spain pretty much the same as elsewhere; but the moment he arrived he insisted on my remaining in the house, I very much feared to the inconvenience of some of the

Digitized by Google

family, but no sort of excuse was allowed, and I could only submit to his kindness, otherwise the wife's arrangement would have been preferable.

With the assistance of my hospitable friend I was soon in condition to see the proceedings of this celebrated fair. There was an immense assemblage of people and a very great quantity of the goods usually sold at this great mart. Articles in leather, which is the staple manufactory of the place, were in the greatest abundance, and saddlery of all descriptions, from saddles fit for the maestranza or nobility of the place down to the albardas of the arrieros, were to be seen in every possible variety. The costumes of majos were also exhibited in great numbers and in the highest style of fashion.

Horses however form the grand business of the fair, and were to be seen in every possible gradation of quality. The small, light made, cat-quartered breed predominates, but many were there of very superior make; strong boned, lengthy, well-quartered and put together, fit to carry a heavy weight, and from their points could be easily trained to regular action instead of the absurd pacing which is the custom of the majo, who delights in seeing his steed expend his whole force in false movement. I was rather surprised to see one of them, whom they boasted of as first rate ginete or jockey, founding his claim to celebrity principally on understanding the lateral or side movement, the common drill of every cavalry riding house.

Digitized by Google

The beauty of the women of this healthy region is celebrated, and it is thought by many Aficionados that the brilliancy of their complexions whilst in every other respect they are equal to the most renowned, give them the palm, even in Andalusia. I put the question, which was rather a delicate one, to a man I knew there, who was a bachelor and a native of one of the most famous towns in Lower Andalusia, who, after a sigh, said, he must admit the Rondeñas beat those of his native place.

There is not a more healthy region in Europe than this Serrania, the chief towns and places of which are at an elevation of 2 to 3000 feet above the level of the sea, and enjoy a climate so mild and equable, that it might well be recommended in pulmonary cases when not too far advanced. The air is dry, pure and elastic, not so stimulant as to endanger the most delicate lungs, the temperature being so equable and little subject to cold and cutting winds, as to give it a great advantage over most of the parts adjoining the Alps and Apennines, which are generally preferred, but are all subject more or less to those drawbacks. I was told at Malaga of a remarkable instance of its effects in an Englishman residing there, who had arrived in an almost hopeless state, but after a few months, was restored to perfect health and vigour.

The principal bull fight of the year took place the day of my arrival, but I was prodigiously dis-

Digitized by Google

appointed, it not being better than might have been expected in a provincial town of Aragon, or other parts where good bulls cannot be procured, nor was a single good or even decent one turned out in the corrida. The excuse was that it had been jobbed by the Ayuntamiento, who had only paid a low price for the inferior class of animals, instead of that necessary to secure the finest breeds of Medina Sidonia and Utrera, which the prescriptive fame of the fair led every one to expect would be exhibited.

The Plaza is of very large size, being it is said the largest in Spain, but beyond the dimensions much cannot be said in praise of the architectural arrangement. It is perfectly covered all round, there being no distinction of seats as in all other places. The worst part is that you have no entrance or outlet excepting through the arena; a most inconvenient plan, as it obliges you to take your seat long before the despejo or clearing the Plaza, and in case of illness or accident no one could get out during the time of the corrida. I had practical proof of this, for after sitting out the regular set which had been announced, an additional one being called for by the mob, they produced such a miserable animal that he was received with an universal yell of disapprobation: as the law of the Plaza obliges every bull that has once stepped into the arena to remain in it, and prohibits his egress alive, my patience being already quite exhausted, and finding no

Digitized by Google

pleasure in seeing such a poor creature tormented, I determined to make my exit, and leapt down into the corridor between the arena and the spectators, which was the sole means of effecting it. The first gate I came to flew open and was as quickly closed behind, leaving me in the corral or slaughter yard, where numerous peones were engaged in all sorts of disgusting operations on the carcases of the bovine and equine victims that had been immolated, preparing them for the last stage, in which they are placed "a la disposicion" of the vultures, who are always in attendance not far distant, waiting their share of the national amusement: they were far too intently engaged in their occupations to attend to any thing else, and I believe my entrance was entirely the effect of accident; nor did I hear a word spoken, otherwise the greeting in such a place would probably have been something like the famous speech of the Parisian revolutionnaire to the Englishman who was forcing his way up to the guillotine, "Faites place a Monsieur, c'est un Anglais et amateur." With some difficulty I escaped from this pandemonium, and making for the next gate found myself with the picadores, who were retreating with great dignity, seated on their sorry steeds like the kings of Velasquez; the bull having, as was to be expected, refused the honours of their varas or lances, and being in consequence abandoned to the populace, the propitiating of whom was the principal cause of his introduction. These characters sat perfectly

Digitized by Google

still, although evidently impatient, leaving the duty of procuring their egress to the satellites attached to each, according to custom, which provides them with a regular suite, who are ready to pick up the broken lances, saddle their horses, help them up when floored; and perform various kindred offices; the chief having the distinguished honour reserved, of handing the new lance to be grasped in the brawny hands of the superior. They were unsuccessful, and we were proceeding to a third gate, when a general yell, followed by a loud explosion of fire-works, announced that the regular sport was over, and the mob were in possession of the field, under whose auspices the unfortunate animal was now to close his career. There was a possibility that the poor beast in his agony might leap the barrier, like some of his predecessors, who were not much better specimens, and I immediately secured a retreat in case of need, to the upper part of the Plaza. He however did not attempt this feat, but shortly afterwards met the inglorious end his humble pretensions ought to have exempted him from, by leaving him to die in the peaceful hands of the labrador. There was still no one to open the gates, but at last the mob outside who had been unable to procure tickets for the regular admission, and were yelling with excitement on hearing the fire-works, burst them open, when selecting the clearest line of passage through the rush, I was once more at liberty. Thus ended

Digitized by Google

the famous bull fight of Ronda, which I expected to find of the first order, instead of which it was one of the very worst I ever witnessed in Spain. The chief amusement was seeing the delight and excitement of the people, and I had the advantage of being near a man apparently of some rank, most probably a Maestrante, and as much attached to the sport, as the backers of the great boxers used to be in that art, a few years since. This character knew every one of the picadores, matadores, even to the chulos, and appeared to be on the most familiar terms with them. He was gifted with a most stentorian voice, which was exercised in addressing the combatants, alternately praising and stimulating, and at other times chiding and even upbraiding them if they did not exert themselves to his satisfaction; and his conversation was an admirable specimen of the slang which belongs almost exclusively to the Plaza, as the various dialects of it are connected with branches of the "fancy" in other countries. In every respect I was disappointed, the style was bad, the despejo and turn out in general very inferior, and there were fewer of the upper ranks and women than I had expected to see, nor were there so many of the first class majos as formerly used to grace the far-famed Plaza. To make bad worse, Montes the first matador in Spain was unable to attend from a wound he had received at Seville, and his place was badly filled by a heavy awkward fellow, who became so irritated by the hisses of

Digitized by Google

my neighbour and others of the same stamp, that he allowed the bull to floor him, but as he was struck by the forehead and not the horns, he soon rallied. There was a decent and promising youth who gave a neat estocada or two, who they said was a nephew of Montes, to whom he had some resemblance in look and style. The Ayuntamiento acted most consistently throughout, carrying their reform economy to an equal extreme in the horses, the branch next in importance with that of purchasing the leading quadrupeds. The patching up and stopping the wounds of the unfortunate animals was carried to an extreme I never saw elsewhere, and which would not have been permitted in most Plazas; some of them after being mortally wounded and led off in a most pitiable state, reappeared with large plugs of tow in the various openings that had been made in their bodies, which almost incapacitated them from moving, and one or two that came out in this condition were hooted off by the vociferous "gods" in the upper benches.

Besides the more common articles already mentioned as forming the chief business of this fair, a great deal is done in silks and other valuable articles which the Rondeñas require as well as their neighbours. The mode, as I was informed by a party extensively engaged in it, is to give six months credit for the superior class of dealings and the accounts are settled at some other meeting in autumn, those of that period standing over until the great

Digitized by Google

meeting then holding. This credit system is peculiar to the place as far as I know, for I never heard another instance of its being followed as a system in any part of Spain, but no doubt great advantage must be derived from it, and they informed me it was necessary to be careful in the selection of those entrusted with such a power.

It may be necessary to explain the meaning of Maestranza as used above. In this and in other principal cities recovered from the infidels (who were of higher race than the conquerors) colleges or corporations of nobility were formed in order to preserve the Castilian blood from contamination, by mixing with their descendants. This grand masterpiece of legislation which, whatever may have been the views of Ferdinand and Isabella, to whom I believe it is owing, has been one of the wise provisions for creating the holgazanes or idlers by which all this country is overrun, and is one of the causes of the decay and ruin of the provinces it was intended to purify: the members of this corporation are called Maestrantes.

In this unlucky journey, so far as the arrangements were concerned, I had engaged the horses to carry me through to Malaga, the reason of which was the uncertainty of being able to procure others at Ronda, owing to the great demand during the fair time, when the whole tribe of dealers and hirers are generally in full activity and amply engaged. It may easily be imagined I had already

Digitized by Google

seen quite enough of my Seville follower, and should gladly have parted with him, but it was too late to recede and it was more provoking as my friend Zaffran had horses at my disposal had I required them. I however took his man as armed guide to the summit of the pass leading to Marbella, which I understood was not only the most unsafe but the most difficult part of the road.

We set out on a beautiful morning, traversing a long and broken tract of barraneos, mountain and valley, which was formerly, in the time of the Moors covered with forest and pasture lands, but is now little more than a dreary and unproductive waste. Some parts were retained as town lands and others had been let out on long leases to individuals, but both were equally bad in their management, there being nothing to distinguish the cultivation of the one from that of the other.

We were following the head streams of the Guadalvin, and nothing could exceed the beauty of the springs and torrents which run copiously and perenially in these uplands. After passing a defile or two we came to a large open sort of plain, which gradually rises to the south, terminating in the Puerto Robledo (Oak gate), so called from the oaks that once ornamented it, but of them not a trace now remains. The greater part of the country between Ronda and this point is a mass of limestone, that appears to be of different ages, the older is white and granular and no doubt primary, fit for

Digitized by Google

statuary, forming the highest parts of the range. At the very summit of the ridge that makes the puerto, is a formation of Serpentine of great extent, which is one of the principal features of this part of the Serrania; in some places bursting through the superior formations. There was a quantity of iron ore broken into small pieces like road metal ready for transporting to Marbella, to which my friend Elorza, who engaged me to make this route, had called my attention; the metal it produces is of the very finest quality and I believe quite equal to the best Swedish iron.

We passed a large tawny vulture, which was perched on a rock and not at all disposed to move, no doubt being employed in digesting a heavy breakfast on the remains of the corrida; near it was one of the smaller species (Percnopterus) and some magpies, whilst a colony of jackdaws were established on the high and precipitous rocks above the puerto, breaking the solitude by their lively notes; I could not imagine what these last species found to eat in such a desert, but the magpies were moving from one bush to the other and evidently fully employed. Near the summit the wild pœony and other plants were growing exactly as in the higher parts of the Sierra de Guadalupe, the elevation of which corresponds with that of the pass we were traversing; but the greatest ornament of all this region at this season is the Anchusa italica of our gardens, which is in vast

Digitized by Google

profusion; the flowers are extremely abundant, and as from the dryness of the soil and climate the leaves are scanty and the plant has rather a dwarf habit, not being overgrown as in a cultivated state; it is one mass of the most brilliant blue, rivalling the gentians of the Alps and Pyrenees.

There is a rather extensive and wild view from the puerto, but after descending a little we came to a sort of ledge or terrace, along which the road runs for some distance, from whence there is one of amazing range and grandeur. The whole coast of Africa is most distinctly made out, with the Mediterranean at your feet; whilst the Vega of Malaga and the surrounding mountains, quite to the Sierra Nevada, are perfectly seen to the east.

I had been told that the road passed by the side of the forest of Pinus Pinsapo, and that it crowned the heights above the puerto. In order to be able fully to examine it, I had taken the guide, who was to accompany me in the scramble I had anticipated making amongst the rocks; but alas! I was doomed to disappointment; there were only the traces of a few Pinasters, the last remnants of the forest that had recently been cleared away, and I saw the blackened remains of it at Marbella. The forest of Pinsapos was distinctly visible on the whitened and precipitous sides of the highest peak of the chain (the Sierra de las Nieves), but far to the east, and quite out of reach. There are a considerable

Digitized by Google

number of them, fortunately in situations which from the inaccessibility to carriages or transport of any kind, will be protected, as they have hitherto been, from the sacrilegious hands of the peasantry, who have long since levelled every other forest in the vicinity. I was rather disappointed in the result of this misinformation, as the hope of seeing this interesting tree in its native forest was a principal cause for my taking this wild and unfrequented road, and the more so, as I had been the first to announce the existence of it, although not then aware of the species, which the abundant supplies of seed, and the hardiness of it will, it is to be hoped, preserve, should ever these barbarians, as is very probable, exterminate the original stock.

My horse had not improved by his introduction to the roads of the Serrania, and very soon after we set out, by mere awkwardness, contrived to break a new shoe which I had taken care should be put on before we left Seville: like most of the breed he was rather tender-footed, and travelled exceedingly ill without it. The road to Marbella which I had been told was very bad, turned out even worse than I calculated on, and our progress in descending was excessively slow, averaging only half a league in the hour. However, I was indemnified by the time to look about and examine the district, as well as enjoy the magnificent views in every direction. The successive ranges of the Atlas were distinctly marked in the clearest blue, and nothing could be grander

Digitized by Google

than the atmospheric effects of the finest day it was possible to behold. I passed through the scattered remains of the Pinasters, which had been destroyed so completely that I doubted whether the few stumps they had left as being inconvertible into charcoal, were sufficient to carry on the succession by dispersing seed, as the commonest management would have ensured being done, nor in the annals of Spanish barbarity of this style, was any thing ever more complete than the destruction of this noble forest. Below it came a tract of cork trees and xaral, that had been spared for a time; the leading feature in this was the large white cistus without the spots, and I did not see a single individual of the true gum species; thus confirming what I had already remarked, that this beautiful shrub is seldom seen, if at all, to the south of the Guadalquivir, and that this congener which unless when in flower, is scarcely to be distinguished from its neighbour, is a quite distinct species; although a very few are mixed with the predominant sort in the vast xarales of Estremadura, where from its general similarity of habit it might be taken for a sport or variety. We passed some carboneros, who were established in a hut exercising their vocation, and supplied us with water, the sole article they seemed to possess; their appearance was far from pleasing, there being little doubt they were ready to quit their employment at any time, for the sake of pillaging the wayfarer. This was the sole

Digitized by Google

semblance of life or human beings we saw in the long seven leagues between Ronda and the founderies.

The ordinary passage of this mountain is confined to the fishermen on the coast, who with their asses transport the fruits of their labour to the capital of the Serrania, for which purpose they travel by night. The track was made accordingly, and great part of the way consisted of a deep rut worn by the constant use of the asses' feet, and the waters running down it, which was exactly the breadth necessary to admit them, but quite insufficient for those of a horse; in many places there was no space left by the side for the purpose, and the wearisomeness and discomfort of attending to my awkward steed were very great, when so many more agreeable objects called for attention. After we had descended in this way for a great distance, and I expected the worst of the route was over, we were suddenly stopped by an immense dyke of Serpentine I had observed for some time, but instead of the road passing at the foot, as appeared probable it would, we had to ascend by a steep path to the very summit. On arriving there however I was fully indemnified for the trouble, as from the lofty situation there opened such a prospect as I have seldom witnessed. In addition to that over the sea, with the mountains of Africa already mentioned, a panoramic view of the whole coast to Gibraltar, lay beneath the eye, and Ceuta and Apes Hill with Europa Point, which

Digitized by Google

we were sufficiently far to the south to open, were seen distinctly, and the high land over Tarifa on the other side of the bay of Gibraltar, illumined by the declining sun, terminated the glorious prospect. In descending the wild pass I had a distinct view of a large village on the opposite side of the valley to the east, in which runs the waters of the Rio Verde, the river or stream of Marbella. This village bears the pure Arab name of Istan,and occupies a most sequestered and pleasing situation at the foot of the Sierra de las Nieves. No road is marked in the maps from Ronda to it, but there is no doubt one exists, which cannot be worse than that I travelled, and below it I clearly saw a well marked and levelled path, leading to Marbella. Should any one make the route from Ronda to the coast, especially if he have included the forest of Pinsapos in his operations, there is no doubt he had better make inquiries about the line of communication in which Istan forms a halting place. In other respects, as far as the views and the natural history are concerned, the wild descent from Puerto Robledo is very much to be preferred.

After we had passed the Serpentine dyke, the descent improving, we soon reached the foot of the pass and turning to the east, arrived at the two iron founderies upon the banks of the river; one of which I had visited during its infancy in 1830 and the other had subsequently been mounted by Colonel Elorza. They are mere smelting houses and the power is sup-

Digitized by Google

plied by the stream, which pours down from the Sierra de las Nieves and even at this advanced season, when the heat had commenced for some time, was running in considerable volume. The larger establishment belongs to the wealthy house of Heredia at Malaga, the other to a company at the same place. The metal is not only of the finest quality, but as I heard from the best authority, being unable to complete a large contract, they had imported 2,000 tons of iron from England, as a substitute, and it was found so inferior to their own that a serious loss accrued in consequence of the dissatisfaction of their customers. There were heaps of coal and charcoal accumulated, the latter of an enormous size; the forest I had seen the vestiges of had been so completely converted by the skill of the carboneros in burning it, and the trunks of the large trees remained in so perfect and unaltered a form that the dimensions of each might have easily been estimated. The founderies are contiguous and the two establishments, neat, commodious and cheerful looking, were quite a change from those of the wilds of the Serrania. The coal was carefully locked up, whilst the charcoal, the more valuable article, was left quite exposed to depredation. The iron, after being smelted, is carried in small craft to Malaga, where the respective founderies are situated.

The distance from these fabricas to Marbella is a long league, but the road being level was a considerable relief both to horses and riders. I inquired

Digitized by Google

for the inn of some people who were outside, and was directed to one which I immediately saw was not the same I recollected formerly as being particularly good, and as I objected taking up my quarters in it, the host seeing I was determined, said, "You are right, the posada you want is that formerly kept by Sanchez, I will shew you the way." This it must be admitted was a piece of civility not to be met with in every country, and the manner it was done shewed that the man was aware he was performing an act of politeness to a stranger, against his own interest. I entered the house through a pajar, which made me for an instant think my conductor was playing a practical joke the Andaluzes sometimes have the habit of indulging in, and was misleading me, but I did him injustice, for that strange entrance was the back way to the fonda, and after passing a corral I reached the patio. I found that the former landlord, a well known and superior character in the district, had died lately, and that the relations who succeeded him were gone to the "Plaza" (Gibraltar) on some business, the nature of which it was not difficult to calculate; leaving the house in charge of a very fine young girl, a Serrana or native of one of the places in the Serrania. The rooms which formerly were well furnished were now empty, the steamers having almost entirely destroyed the land traffic of the line, but the beds remained and were perfect, and as I was privately informed in a very

Digitized by Google

different condition from those of my civil conductor of the rival establishment.

The plants generally seen in the Serrania, which I had just passed in its greatest breadth, were the purple and rose-coloured cistus, and a small white species with very many heads, several helianthemums and the large white species mentioned below the Puerto Robledo, the only kind occurring in a considerable mass; the artichokes of both sorts; that commonly cultivated in our gardens, and the smaller and more delicate species which is so extensively used in Italy and the south of France; the foliage and flowers of these plants make them extremely ornamental in the wild sites they naturally inhabit. Several other very beautiful syngenesious plants of smaller size; the Convolvulus bicolor and a large pink and smaller striped one; the Phlomis fruticosa, which is a pretty plant in its wild state, though far from ornamental in a garden; very many kinds of genistas and others of the family, amongst which the Spartium monospermum: of these, one species covered large tracts very high up in the range above the Puerto Robledo, and being in full bloom had exactly the appearance of gorse covers, but quite out of reach, so that it was impossible to make out the species which, from the region and the elevation of it, I conjectured to be the Ulex stricta; the Salvia candelabra, and a fine yellow species were growing in the wild country between Ronda and the Puerto Robledo,

Digitized by Google

and the pœony and anchusa, in which I could find no difference from our cultivated species, excepting in the diminutive habit, as already mentioned. There are many pretty lavateras and other Malvaceæ in the district; a very curious Antirrhinum or rather Linaria, was growing between Ronda and the Puerto Robledo. Near Zahara the Anagyris fœtida was growing in great profusion; and in descending the mountain near Marbella I met with the pretty Linum suffruticosum with prickly stem, which I never saw elsewhere, and a yellow cistus with long peduncles and pale green leaves. The largest and finest quexigos I ever saw were growing in the pass near Zahara, and in the basin higher up in descending to Ronda, but the best of them had been mutilated, and their enormous arms cut off by the barbarians who had left the main trunks, no doubt from fear of the consequences of meddling with them. The only interesting or new species of bird I observed in the route was what appeared to me the Sylvia galactotis; they were in a woody barraneo in the part near Zahara, and the accident of missing the road brought them under my inspection. It is a pretty and lively bird, and the beautifully shaped tail, which is spread and in constant action, gives much grace to its motions, but I had no opportunity of obtaining one, owing to an accident that had befallen my fowling piece.

After passing the primary limestone near the Puerto Robledo already mentioned, the whole

Digitized by Google

mountain in descending appeared to be a mass of serpentine and other intruded rocks, with much semblance of alteration and decomposition from the effect of their entrance or rather exit. In some parts were curious veins of a chalcedonic appearance, crossing in all directions; but the country is so covered, and the surface exposed so small, that it is difficult to form a rapid judgment of the exact features, especially of the displaced rocks. All the range to the east appeared to be a continuation of the primary limestone which extends to Mijas, and ends rather precipitously in the vega of Malaga. In this vast formation of serpentine is the bed or vein of graphite, which the Government have retained in hand expecting to make an Almaden of it. The engineers have written to demonstrate the absurdity of this arrangement, but without avail, and I believe there is no demand for it since the Germans found the means of supplying the greater part of Europe with an article, which is a substitute, though a bad one, for our worn out deposit in Westmoreland.

My guide, like the horses he conducted was very far from being improved by the discipline of passing the Serrania; on the contrary, he was now perfectly resigned to his fate, and being unfortunately secure of his master's money and his own, took not the smallest pains to discharge any part of his duty. He possessed an accomplishment which is not rare amongst these people, but I never saw any one so

Digitized by Google

highly gifted with it, that of sleeping on horseback. His lameness partly incapacitated him and his indolence completely so, from walking a good part of the day, which in bad roads or even in good is their usual practice; so much so, that knowing the mounting was in general the preparatory signal for their dropping into a sound slumber, I often dreaded their getting up. This fellow however slept nearly the whole day, and it was rare to see him in any other condition than that of an owl that has been turned suddenly out against a brilliant sun. Their favourite time in general for indulging in this most inconvenient habit is after dinner, at the regular period of siesta, when the mule appears to be quite as well aware of the practice as his rider, and I have often lost much valuable time in consequence of it.

In the morning, to my very great annoyance, he reported that my horse was lame in consequence of passing the mountain unshod, and proposed to change the baggage, so that I should ride the jaca. This arrangement however was far from meeting my approbation, as he expected, since I knew the inevitable loss of time it would entail, besides making him almost independent in the rate of travelling, which was part of his object; and I told him that as most probably the stiffness would go off with the exercise of the journey, no alteration must be made. We made a very bad start, as besides this accident both horses were rather

Digitized by Google

weary with their journey, and they felt the deep sand of the coast very much.

As I knew the district we had to pass up to the very gates of Malaga, to be one of the worst in Spain, I cautioned the man before we set out particularly not to allow any one he might meet in the road to come near his horse, with what success the sequel will shew.

The little village of Fuengirola was entirely rebuilt, and apparently in great prosperity from the fishing and other sources of employment which may be conjectured. We stopped at the picturesque place called by its Moorish name of Benalmadena, which is built on an immense mass of stalagmite or deposition of carbonate of lime, like that of Tivoli, forming picturesque sites on a small scale, and abounding with the most delicious water it is possible to revel in. Above it is the large and wealthy village of Mijas, where are many resident proprietors, but from the situation being backed by the high limestone range, the summer heat must be keenly felt.

At about a league beyond Benalmadena, there is a wild, open and uncultivated tract, formed by the shoulder of the mountain of Mijas which slopes down to the sea. In passing this I was struck with the unusual appearance of a whole crowd of peasants, forty or fifty at least, who were walking along the road in a body towards us; I instantly filed off to the right quite clear of them, although from their

Digitized by Google

neat and orderly appearance when they approached I had no apprehension of their being ill-disposed. They were all dressed alike, and were evidently returning to dinner and siesta from some work they were engaged in at no great distance. My owlish follower, so far from attending to the orders I had given him, passed through the middle of the body, leaving himself entirely at their mercy. I was attentively watching their motions, as it was still possible some of them might not be proof against the temptation offered to their cupidity; when almost in the rear, but mixed with them, I descried two very ill-looking fellows in quite different costume and who evidently did not belong to the party. I had scarcely an instant to decide that they were rateros on their return from some expedition, when they came suddenly on my guide, who had been concealed from their view by the density of the crowd before them. They instantly stopped short, and without the least delay laid their hands on the baggage, but before they proceeded further, a thought appeared to strike one of them, and then the other looked sharply and significantly round to the rear over his shoulder, and they resumed their route without saying a word or doing any thing more. I took no notice but rode quietly on, and at a very short distance came to the palm-hut of a resguardo or look out, that had been concealed by a rising in the ground. Had it not been for this post,

Digitized by Google

which was established for the purpose of checking the operations of characters like these, I should have had an unpleasant adventure, in which I could have taken no part, as my gun after being broken in the diligence of Estremadura had been repaired at Truxillo, but this miserable mozo and Bruno the lying valet at Seville, had contrived to refracture it the morning we set out, so that it was quite *hors de combat*. I was satisfied they did not see me and only thought they had to deal with the sleepy attendant, whom they would, in the regular course of their business, have pulled off his horse, or made to dismount, and then quietly rode off with the horse and baggage to the Serrania. As it was no use speaking to him, and I expected after this we should have no more trouble, I never mentioned the subject to the man, and I have no doubt he is not only ignorant to this hour of the circumstance, but it is more than probable he never saw any of the party. The peasants, in the ordinary routine, would have taken no part but that of looking on, or perhaps giving assistance to the robbers if they needed it, and mounted on a horse which was dead tired, it would have been an unpleasant predicament to be placed in. This is another decided proof of the propriety of travelling armed; but for the fatality which attended this journey I should have had two guns with no danger of any adventure of the sort, and if I had been robbed

Digitized by Google

should have deserved it from the badness of my arrangements.

The working party were returning from some extensive buildings, which I believe were formerly a paper mill, and being ruined by the times had been sold, and were now being converted to some other purpose. Near this is a celebrated spring, about the largest and finest I ever saw, that gives fertility to a portion of land, but very much less than it will probably do hereafter. As we advanced into the vega, although it was only the 20th of May, the reapers and harvesters were at work cutting and carrying off the wheat to the threshing floors, which is the only operation for securing their crop.

When we were about three leagues from Malaga, a man passed in the opposite direction, riding fast and evidently in great haste; he checked his mule, but without stopping addressed these words, "Caballero! you appear to be bending your steps to the city; you will find disturbance (jarana) there; the generala has beat and every body is under arms." I accordingly looked out, expecting to hear the pattering of musketry, or possibly a louder roar from the Alcazaba, but all was silent; and when we reached the place there was no external appearance of any commotion or other departure from the usual routine, excepting that the resguardos were not at their post and no questions were asked about the baggage. As soon as pos-

Digitized by Google

sible I obtained shelter in a house near the entrance, the master of which had so many friends that every one insisted it was the best hotel in the place; although that of Romagnoli, that I intended to make, is very superior to it, but I had mislaid the note and forgotten the name of the proprietor.

Digitized by Google

CHAPTER XIV.

MALAGA—PRONUNCIAMENTO.

In passing by the end of the Alameda I had observed that my travelling acquaintance was quite correct in his information, as the place was entirely occupied by the national guard, who were then standing at ease. As quickly as possible I sallied out to ascertain the motive and hear the cause of the "jarana," and found that in consequence of the dismissal of Lopez and his ministry by the Regent, and the dissolution of the newly elected Cortes, a junta had been formed who had determined on calling out the national guard, in order that they might deliberate and give their opinion on the state of the country and on the measures it might be thought advisable to adopt. I had time to go round and examine this body, whose proceedings were to be followed by such important consequences in the history of their country, before their dismissal, which took place shortly afterwards, with the understanding that they were to ponder over the "Allocuciones" which had been addressed to them by their chiefs, and determine on the form of a bando or proclamation to be issued in consequence. The review of this body was rather curious in the re-

Digitized by Google

sult; there were a few "moustaches," regular soldiers, but the greater part had anything but a military look, and one-third was composed of mere youths without uniform or the smallest pretension to the appearance or term of soldiers. Smoking was going on, as may be imagined, with great vigour through the ranks, and the great preponderance of "puros" or whole cigars over those of paper, which are the ordinary sort in use, let out one consequence of the pronunciamento: I had observed on entering the town, that the gates were open, and abundant supplies of all articles without the charge of duty might shortly be expected from the Plaza (Gibraltar).

The result of the consultations was to insist on the maintenance of "the programme Lopez," and a solemn determination never to lay down their arms until they had effected it, the bando which was issued during the night being more than usually inflated and grandiloquent. In the mean time the authorities had very prudently taken flight; for this hot and light-headed people, although they never attempted it in this instance, are frequently in the habit of attacking and maltreating, or even killing their governors in the first impulse of any popular movement. The judges were in the house of Mr. Mark our consul, and some other functionaries were gone off to places in the neighbourhood. All night patrols were going about the streets, and officers riding with orders and counter-orders, as if

Digitized by Google

the place was in a state of siege; nor could their performance on this occasion be excelled by those of their kindred spirits at Naples, who resemble the Malagueños the most in character. All the next day the same activity continued, and business was at an end or nearly so, the grand performances of the pronunciamento of Malaga being the principal subject of conversation.

The whole of next day the military ardour continued to burn with the same energy that had marked its outburst, and it was necessary to be cautious in your movements. I happened to be crossing the great Plaza, in which is the principal café, and as some arms which were piled there were in extremely open order and no sentinel near, I was passing between them, never imagining that in such a situation any notice would be taken, and I even thought the space left so widely between them, was to facilitate the passage of the individuals who were hourly making the transit of it. I was however soon undeceived by a noise behind me and the appearance of a character strongly resembling in style and appearance the Canonigo of the Sagrario at Seville, who instead of excommunication and the thunders of the church as his *ultima ratio*, was handling a much more unpleasant weapon in the shape of a huge sabre, which he brandished in the most ferocious style, as if he were desirous of imitating his predecessor, the "Coupe tête" of Paris. He had been absent from his post, "Cosas de España,"

Digitized by Google

which had partly caused my mistake, but brought him back to it, and this fanfarronade was to make up for his previous inattention. After this day there was a regular and gradual decline in the military fire, which was hourly shewing symptoms of exhaustion, until the finale that was at hand, as will be subsequently stated.

I found little external change in Malaga, but there were visible signs of improvement in many respects, and the commerce I was informed was in a better state than it had formerly been, though far from what it ought to be. Many of the convents were in the town, and the sites were in course of application to private structures.

The most important commercial alteration is the establishment of the two founderies where the iron made at Marbella, as already mentioned, is wrought into finer and more detailed forms. The lesser of them is at the east end of the city on the beach, and is at present in a prosperous way, but on rather a small scale. The other is very different and is much more extensive, being the property of the wealthy and speculating house of Heredia, who are the Barings of this port, the "Triton among the minnows," and as every thing the chief undertakes is said to succeed, he promises to fill a large space in Spanish commerce. This establishment is at the west end of the town, where the lofty chimney vies with the lighthouse at the opposite extremity of it. As the ideas of the chief are quite on the grand

Digitized by Google

scale and his means proportionate, he avoids the error so common amongst his countrymen and employs vast means to carry out his plans. When the works are complete it is thought this foundery will make more iron than is required for the consumption of all Spain, and this mercantile Colossus is looking forward with the coolness of a cosmopolite to the swamping all minor undertakings. The only establishments which have a choice of competing with him, are those like Pedroso, where fuel is to be had extremely cheap. The whole system of the importation of coal is affected by this house, who hold out a threat to the Asturian companies, that if they do not furnish the coal they require at a moderate price, they will have that of England admitted, which threat might with their means be carried into effect at Madrid. He employs a regular English engineer, a man of great talent and respectability, who is of course paid proportionately, to direct the construction of the works, and many foreign workmen are under his direction in the principal branches. I distinctly perceived the sulphurous smell of the furnaces at least half a league distant the day I rode in, and found it rather different from those which affect the air in the Serrania of Ronda, nor do the smaller blasts from the rival establishment, which is near the principal and only good walk out of the city, improve the locality, as far as the olfactory nerves are concerned.

A monument has very naturally been erected to

Digitized by Google

the memory of Torrijos and his companions in a small plaza at the upper part of the town. The remains which were carried in a dung or dust cart to the Campo Santo and thrown into a hole prepared for them, have been taken up and buried in a more decent and fitting style. The greatest modern ornament of the place is undoubtedly the English burying ground, which under the management of Mr. Mark, senior, the late Consul, and at a great expense has attained a degree of neatness and beauty which I have seen nothing in Spain to equal. It stands to the east of the Alcazaba, or Moorish citadel, about a mile from the town, and is a little elevated above the beach, with a pretty ascent to it. There was formerly little more than the arid rock, but the soil is good, and by supporting it with terraces, with the help of an abundant supply of water, it has been converted into a perfect bijou. Cypresses have been planted largely, and answer admirably, forming the chief and appropriate ornament of the place. The water is supplied by a cistern dug out of the clay slate, which is sufficiently hard to retain it, and is collected during the winter rains or occasional showers at other times, as they pour down a small barraneo or ravine by the side. It is impossible to conceive any thing prettier than this spot, which is resorted to in the fine evenings, not only by the resident foreigners, but by great numbers of the Malagueños who have sufficient taste and liberality to admire both the arrangement

Digitized by Google

and the object of it, although as yet there appears to be no attempt to imitate so good an example. The remains of Mr. Boyd who was murdered with Torrijos were the first deposited in the spot, and of course form not the least interesting part of it. The establishment of such a place would now be attended with less difficulty, but the managing it in the time of the ecclesiastical domination, and thus setting the example for all Spain, will always reflect the highest honour on the long services of Mr. Mark, to whose perseverance we are solely indebted for it. In the olden time, (and I believe even in our days it has been practised in other parts of Spain), the bodies of those who might die out of communion with the church were ordered to be deposited in the sand at high water mark!

The celebrated manufactory of clay or barro figures painted, which is the last remnant of the national sculpture of Spain, is in full activity, although Leon, the celebrated chief of it had been gathered to his fathers since my last visit to his studio. It is carried on with even increased vigour by his descendants, and a great extension in the scope of the subjects has taken place in consequence of the rivalry of establishments. The figures are much more highly finished than in the old time, great pains and skill being bestowed on the painting and decorative department; nor can anything exceed the beauty of finish in the figures of majos on horseback, which are portraits of well known

Digitized by Google

characters in the towns of Andalusia. Some new groupes relative to the Plaza de Toros or bull-fights are also admirably executed; but I confess on the whole I preferred the figures of old Leon, which being in a rather more simple style, have more of real sculpture in the composition of them.

We examined the plantations of Cactus, which feed the insects that produce the grana or cochineal; the flower is yellow, but the habit is little different from that of the species so common in Sicily and other parts of the Mediterranean, which Dr. Lindley I perceive does not consider to be a native of, or that any of the family are indigenous in the old world. The plantations of this valuable product are small in extent, although, excepting the injury done by the sweeping winds from the north-west, the culture is said to answer very well, and no doubt this local evil could easily be counteracted by planting trees in the exposed parts of the Vega, to protect the insect from the effects of it.

The cathedral was generally mentioned in my former work, as to its architecture; being the work of Siloe who built that of Granada and I have no doubt that of Jaen also. These structures are all of the same character, being a sort of transition from the pointed to the classic style, at the period the fashion was changing in the time of Charles the Fifth, or rather they shew the adaptation of classic or Corinthian details to the proportions used by the former race of architects, in compliance with the

Digitized by Google

taste of their age. Although this building is smaller and less sumptuous in the scale, it has some advantages over that of Granada.

The naves are nearly of equal height; the roof is entirely of stone and is divided into circular cassoons; the great altar is detached and of semi-circular form. There are chapels on each side, which are broken off so as to form a sort of crucero or transept at the usual place; above each chapel are three narrow upright windows with circular tops, and above them are similar windows with a round one on each side; all this gives a peculiar style to the architecture. Gilding is much employed and with good taste, to ornament different parts of the edifice. The order is Corinthian, and as the height is much less and does not require it, the piloni or pillars to support the roof are lighter and more elegant than those at Granada. The whole effect is cheerful and pleasing, and the moderns have introduced less doggrel "hojarascas" and other meretricious additions than in almost any other cathedral.

If the English who may resort as entire strangers to this and other towns of Andalusia are not received by the natives with the degree of cordiality they expect, the blame rests with certain of their countrymen who have visited them. Since the facilities of travelling have increased, this part of Spain, which is the easiest of access, has been a favourite resort of tourist book-makers. Nothing

Digitized by Google

can be more harmless than this mode of making a livelihood, provided their effusions are kept within the bounds of moderation and charity, as well as confined to such views as a rapid transit enables any one unacquainted with the language and the people to make during a few hours sojourn in a place. This rule however has been broken in upon, and as it unluckily happens that the females are generally a favourite subject for the tirades of that class of writers, their random assertions on subjects they had no means of investigating and most assuredly did not speak from their own knowledge or experience, have made both the Gaditanas and Malagueñas and their relations and countrymen extremely irate; the more so certainly, since in their towns Englishmen were always well received, and the constant commercial and other intercourse, as also the education of their children, many of whom are sent to England for the purposes of it, make them naturally disposed to pay any attentions in their power to us. As a matter of course when assertions such as they complain of are made it is an easy matter to trace them to the authorities, and they gave me a ludicrous, or rather serio-ludicrous account of the sort of data the person they principally complained of had for his sweeping and ill-founded censures, and he would have had in all probability cause to repent, if he had returned to either of those cities.

Like most other places, the beauty of the old

Digitized by Google

national costume has passed away and been succeeded by a mongrel modification of it amongst the upper ranks of society; but a remnant of the grace which is the attribute of the sex in all this part of Spain, exists amongst the lower classes and may be seen in perfection at the barrios and markets frequented by them, especially at an early hour of the morning. This is a sort of loose mantilla-shaped garment, generally of the commonest material, which is thrown loosely over the head and allowed to stream and float as the wind or the motion of the weather direct. As this class of people are in general clean and light made, and step with very great grace and activity, the effect of their very simple costume is often extremely striking and gives a degree of elegance to the figure no regular confined ornament can do.

The quality of the wines, the great staple of the place, is much improved of late years, and the best samples of the dry kinds, such for instance as are used in the hospitable house of the Consul, can hardly be excelled in the taste of the admirers of pure, moderately strong and wholesome beverage. Formerly vast quantities of very inferior quality were manufactured, but were found unsaleable even to the Americans, who they always tell you are much more easily satisfied with what is offered to them than their European progenitors: they have therefore been obliged to change the system, and the whole class produced is improved in consequence. The

Digitized by Google

fruit trade is also increasing rapidly, and they boast that their raisins quite equal those of Valencia.

A neat and most excellent set of reading rooms have been established, which overlook the eastern part of the harbour and are conducted with the utmost kindness and liberality to strangers, and where most of the principal papers in Europe are seen.

The grand impetus given to the commerce of this place, although indirectly, is by the discovery of the great silver and lead mines of the Sierra de Almagrera, a district in the extreme eastern part of Andalusia, adjoining the western portion of Murcia. This wild tract is not far from the mouth of the Almanzora, and between that river and Cartagena. I passed it in 1830, and was so struck with the appearance of parts which came under my observation as to be quite confident the lost mines of the Carthaginians and Romans must be sought for there. I slept at a small place called Aguilas, which is at the extremity of a sort of semicircular plain surrounded on all sides but the front which is washed by the Mediterranean, by a range of mountains chiefly of slate and of which the greater part appears to be primary. I had intended to go direct from Aguilas to a place called Cuevas, which line would have carried me right over the now celebrated vein, but my guide communicated some unpleasant intelligence he had received in the night as to the state of the road, and as I had no par icular object in choosing

Digitized by Google

one or the other, I took the low line which leads directly to Vera, leaving the Sierra de Almagrera to the right.

It appears that some humble individuals with very small means almost accidentally discovered this extraordinary vein. They first tried some old workings of the Romans with little success, but by persevering and trying in other directions, at last struck the present wonderful one, which appears to have been, like the deposit of Almaden, unknown to the ancients. To shew how little the early discoverers were aware of the importance of the discovery, I was informed that the first cottages were built of extremely rich and valuable mineral, and the possessors have allowed them to remain as a memorial of their little knowledge of the subject. It is truly extraordinary, because specimens I was shewn ought to have struck any one as metalliferous the instant they were observed.

The great vein is about twenty feet in thickness and is one mass of metals of various kinds, but lead, silver and zinc predominate, and there is also iron, which in some parts is the chief obstacle in the smelting and refining. The silver is of such importance that many of the proprietors affect to take very little account of the lead or other metals, and they declare that in the best parts, it exceeds any thing recorded of the mines of Peru. The depth is as yet unknown, and the vein appears to widen in descending; it is of considerable length, and there

Digitized by Google

are an immense number of small companies established, some of whom have already expended considerable sums without any result, and in the opinion of the engineers many fortunes will be lost in proportion to those which may be made in this most uncertain of undertakings.

A great number of the shareholders in the first instance were Spaniards, most of them men of small means and some large fortunes have been rapidly made by people quite in the lower grade of society. A curious example occurred of the uncertainty of these speculations which was related to me. A peasant had taken a share for which he had paid a few dollars. These being expended they called on him for a further payment, to which he was demurring, when a neighbour said, "This macho (he mule) is about the value of your share and the money they now require, take it and give me your ticket." This was agreed to, and the holder a few months afterwards sold one half of his prize for 40,000 dollars. Other instances of sudden wealth are very common at Malaga, and many individuals have been raised from obscurity to wealth in a very short period.

The principal establishments for smelting and refining are at Cartagena, Alicante and small places on the coast, in the immediate vicinity of the Sierra. I believe some very important discoveries have been made in the management of these processes by the foreign companies in whose hands

Digitized by Google

they chiefly are, being beyond the present skill or compass of the Spaniards.

Besides the Sierra de Almagrera, considerable quantities of silver and other metals have been found at Almazarron, a place described in my former work near Cartagena, and also in the Sierra de Alhamilla, a district to the west of the Almanzora, from which it is cut off by the great alluvial deposit which fills the lower valley of that river, and is described also in the same book. According to the opinion of some engineers, the vein of Alhamilla is a prolongation of that of Almagrera, but the best information amongst many contradictory statements leads me to infer that it is of inferior value to the former deposit. Of course the discovery of these mines in such a situation, one of the wildest and worst in Spain, where if the traveller was suddenly conveyed, he would imagine himself in some of the most arid parts of the opposite coast of Africa, must finally be the means of enriching the country and introducing cultivation, for which it is only necessary to dam the river and appropriate its water to irrigation, as their Moorish progenitors were wont to do.

I was indebted for a good deal of information about these mines to Mr. Mark, the consul, who, in his splendid house, has a regular laboratory and specimens of all the more valuable ores. I also heard a good deal about them from Senor Pardo at Madrid, and from various other sources.

The present produce of the mines, the greater

Digitized by Google

part of which proceeds from Almagrera, may be taken at 200 to 250,000 marcs, or double that number of ounces, and it is increasing every year. This is the return for the duty at 5 per cent made to government, but it would be unlike any branch of revenue that ever existed in Spain, if it were more than a sort of approximation to the truth of the quantity smelted. One of the absurdities only to be heard of in this country, is the allowing the whole to be exported in an unmanufactured state and carried to France, where it is coined into five franc pieces which are poured back again and form the predominant circulation of most provinces, to the exclusion of the duros or Spanish dollars which in many parts are hardly to be seen. By this ingenious and truly Spanish mode of transacting business a loss of 8 per cent accrues to the state! They were talking of establishing a mint at Cartagena, but the neighbours will now very probably prevent any such undertaking being carried into effect to the diminution of their profits on Spanish commerce.

After my return to Madrid I was attracted by an advertisement in a morning advertiser respecting the formation of a company for constructing a pantano or reservoir of irrigation on a large scale, and as the site is in the neighbourhood, it is noticed in this part of the work.

To the east of Almeria, and at the southern foot of the Sierra de Alhamilla already mentioned,

Digitized by Google

is a tract called the Campo, or plain of Nijar. This like a kindred district to the west, called the Campo de Dalias, is almost a desert from the want of irrigation. It appears from the plans I saw, and the information they gave me, that there is the greatest possible facility for constructing a dam to restrain the waters which burst from the foot of the hill, as well as the torrents which pour down at certain seasons in this semi-tropical region. There are two projecting masses of limestone with a narrow gorge at the lower end, the connecting of which is the sole work necessary to be done, and the best possible materials are close at hand. I suggested the making the outlet for conducting the waste waters away independent of the dam, so that none should pass over it, especially in times of flood, which is a great error in many of their constructions, often leading to fatal accidents. They appeared to be pleased with the idea, and said it should be adopted. In making reservoirs or ponds of any description this maxim should be followed if possible, and the runner merely made to *feed* the reservoir, as canals are supplied, but never to pass through it and over the confining barrier, the destruction of which often unnecessarily ensues from the neglect of it. Amongst other instances was one which happened many years since in this very country at Lorea in Murcia, where a vast pantano was just completed, when a swell of the river took place; it was swept away, a number of lives with a vast destruction

Digitized by Google

of property ensued, and the fatal accident has operated to discourage similar undertakings at a subsequent period. The plan, which there is no doubt will, if the programme be any thing like right, return enormous profit to the shareholders, and will be of vast benefit to the country, has been some years in agitation, but the civil war and troubles of various kinds have prevented its being carried into effect. The chairman of the committee was a canon of the cathedral of Malaga, which may surprise those who are not acquainted with the description of men so often found in the upper ranks of the church in Spain.

I omitted mentioning that Dr. Daubeny took the steamer from Seville to Cadiz and Gibraltar, which places he had not seen, and naturally preferred to the wild ride through the Serrania of Ronda, so we agreed to meet again at Malaga, thence to proceed together to Granada, and he came in by the Spanish steamer soon after my arrival.

Before we set out, the military ardour of the Malagueños was considerably subsiding, but there were still vapouring bandos or proclamations put out, and threats were held of sallying forth, to call on the subordinate towns of the province to follow the doughty example which had been set in the chief place. Preparations were making for the expedition, and beds and other conveniences for these bourgeois warriors, were exhibited in the streets in

Digitized by Google

marching order, when the commandant of a battalion of provincial militia, who at that time was disposed to stand by the government and had refused to assist in the pronunciamento, said, " If you march on I will accompany you, but as in that case the command must devolve on me, it being probable we may meet with the troops from Granada and have some fighting, I give fair warning that I shall order my men to fire upon the first who turn their backs." This acted as a complete sedative on the warlike constitution of the volunteers of the expedition, who after a short consultation determined to disband and remain in their houses, enjoying the puros which began to pour in, as during all this time no one thought of either collecting custom house duties or derecho de puertas. The same evening the junta was dissolved, the judges left their comfortable quarters at the consulate and every thing resumed its ordinary course. Thus ended the first and famous pronunciamento of Malaga, the announcement of which was received with smiles of derision in every part of Spain, few being aware of the serious consequences which were to result from this hasty sally of the people, whom, especially in the northern provinces, they always laugh at, as the other Italians are accustomed to do with the Neapolitans. One cause of the breaking up of the pronunciamento was the want of pecuniary means. As a matter of course, the instant the junta was formed, they called on the respective heads of de-

Digitized by Google

partments for the state of balances on their hands, but with the exception of the post office, in which there were eight thousand dollars, no other supply was forthcoming, and this sum was not sufficient to keep the machine in circulation for any considerable time.

Digitized by Google

CHAPTER XV.

ROUTE TO GRANADA—VELEZ MALAGA—ALHAMA—BATHS.

We engaged horses for Granada with the famous Lanza, one of the two Cosarios who conduct the principal traffic between the cities. There is a diligence by the carriage road of Loja, but besides this line being very uninteresting the conveyance is bad, and we wished to see the warm waters of Alhama, on which Dr. Daubeny was desirous of making some observations. According to the usual programme, we were to ride with the Cosario himself, to sleep the first night at Velez, and the second at Alhama; the baggage being packed on his mules with the other cargas which followed at a slower rate, whilst with several others we travelled as light troops independently of the "impedimenta."

There is great improvement on the coast, the shores of which were formerly almost uncultivated, but now shew a succession of small cortijos with patches of cultivated ground attached to them, in almost the whole distance to Velez. The greater part of this cultivation is that of wine and pasas or raisins, which are dried in small enclosures made almost like the large frames used in gardens, but of stone or brick, and whitewashed, to assist by the reflection, the powerful rays of the sun in this burning climate.

Digitized by Google

After a pleasant ride along the eastern beach, that the heat would have made less agreeable at an earlier hour, we entered the valley of Velez, which a very little assistance from the inhabitants would make one of the most lovely spots in Spain. We were quartered in a spacious but far from good posada. I understood we were to lodge at Lanza's own house, but I imagine the number of our cavalcade prevented him from receiving us, and I regretted the change, having little doubt we should have fared well, as I never yet had cause to regret seeing the interior of a Spanish menage. There is, or was, a very much better inn than that we were directed to, but it was late, and as we were near Lanza's residence it was not worth while altering the arrangements he had proposed.

The cavalcade was later in starting than we could have wished, and at nine we entered the interesting defile that leads to Alhama. The houses and cultivation in this part had been improved in every way, during the few years which had elapsed since I last travelled through it, and the appearance of the inhabitants, which was then extremely forbidding, is proportionably ameliorated. The valley is well irrigated, and the people were busily engaged with their spring crops of batatas (sweet potatoe) and other vegetables, with scanty patches of wheat and barley. There was formerly a small tract of ancient forest near the summit of the mountain, which I had announced to Dr. Daubeny as likely to contain

Digitized by Google

botanical specimens, but every trace of its wild state had disappeared, and it had been entirely brought into cultivation. There is some finely broken ground well watered by a beautiful stream towards the highest part of the ridge, which in any other country would be converted into parks or residences, but here it is entirely uninhabited, being merely cultivated in the nomade, half-Arab manner so usual in Spain.

Lanza had given me a splendid mule to ride in place of the sorry horses which he usually provides for his travellers; he was full sixteen hands high, with excellent paces, just fitted to carry an ecclesiastical dignitary of the olden time, and appeared to be perfectly good-tempered; but having occasion to alight in pursuit of a bird which I thought was the Sylvia Galactotis, whilst I was adjusting my shooting apparatus and standing quietly by his flank, without the slightest warning or provocation he lifted his leg and gave me a smart blow, and had I not been so close that he had not full power, would have probably done me serious injury. I remonstrated with the Cosario for not having acquainted me with the habits of the animal, in which case I should have been on my guard and not subjected myself to his caprice; but he merely said by way of apology, that it was the nature of the animal, and that they should never be trusted.

We reached Alhama at an early hour, and were conducted to a posada which was not bad, but the

Digitized by Google

party was too numerous for the accommodation it afforded. I took possession of a small and bad room, the worst in the place, in the hope of being left undisturbed; but on receiving hints that it might be acceptable to a young lady, who, although a friend of Lanza, was travelling with the other Cosario, I gave it up to her. The posadera was a decent looking person, but the most inveterate scold I ever heard in Spain or elsewhere. Our apartments were in the upper patio, one side of which was occupied by the scene of her culinary operations, a large and comfortable room, with benches, where the servants and retainers of the second rank in the cavalcade were congregated. They soon found out the weakness of the hostess, and by way of passing the time, kept jibing and teazing her so that her tongue was in incessant occupation. Her voice being extremely sonorous every word was heard all over the place, and the lower the tone they addressed their speeches to her, the louder was the prolonged rejoinder they produced. When the flame was apparently dying away, some of the party in a low voice made a remark when it instantly broke out in fresh vigour. She made use of many peculiar and very curious phrases, constantly introducing the celebrated expletive which Ferdinand used so much in his familiar conversation, but with modifications and variations seldom heard and which would have excited the envy of the merry monarch himself, who was reputed to excel all other Spaniards in the

Digitized by Google

introduction of it, as his uncle Ferdinand of Naples was said to excel any of his subjects in the accomplishment of discussing maccaroni.

In consequence of the time so lost and the number of messes she had to prepare, it was late before we were able to go out to ascertain the true situation of the baths, of which the accounts we had collected varied so much that it was impossible to calculate their true position. Every one professed to know exactly the locality, and while some asserted they were inside the town, others said that they were half a league, and a third, that they were an entire league distant. We found they were some distance from the lower end of the town, and that it would be impossible to go there, make our observations, and return before dark. We therefore agreed to defer the visit until the next morning, and after completing the survey, proceed to Granada.

The celebrated town of Alhama stands on a sort of peninsula formed by a barraneo, through which the stream bearing the name of the place pursues its course. This ravine is extremely picturesque and even magnificent in the part called the Tajo (cut or cleft), that the operations of nature have made to allow the passage of the waters. It reminded me a good deal of Cuenca, but on a smaller scale. The Moorish town was perched on the extremity of the peninsula, and excepting by the narrow neck in front of it must have been quite inaccessible. The Alameda now occupies this part of the isthmus which formerly was

Digitized by Google

the esplanade or glacis in front of the fortifications, and across it runs an aqueduct, certainly of modern work, although the people consider it Moorish. It has no doubt been rebuilt on the site and scale of that of the Moors, and the level, is that required to convey the water into their town. Outside of the Alameda is the modern town, and, as may be supposed, it is better built and laid out than that of the Arabs, the houses of which are bad, and their condition ruinous. I looked into a great many patios and examined the exterior of the houses, but saw nothing that satisfied me of its being original, or even rebuilt on any Moorish plan. I hurried to the church which they assured me was obra Morisca, but I found it to be a spacious pointed structure of 1500, without a Moorish fragment visible about it; most probably it occupies the site of the mosque that was destroyed by the fanatical zeal of the conquerors.

It is said that at the time of the conquest the population of this celebrated place was only 2000. The appearance and extent of the old town not only makes this credible, but would render any assertion that it contained a greater number, more than doubtful. The two towns now contain 6000, and I really believe it is the only Moorish place in Spain, in which the population has increased, since the time of Ferdinand and Isabella.

As we had no introductory letter, and I had no previous acquaintance with any one, I determined

Digitized by Google

to call on the apothecary of the place and ask his assistance and information respecting the baths. He was out, but the females of his house said they would send him to us the instant he should return, and he soon made his appearance; nor could any thing be more fortunate, the physician officially in charge being ill and *hors de combat*, and the apothecary, a young and gentlemanly man, was acting for him and had nearly as much to do with the establishment as the proto medico himself. It was fixed that we should meet at daybreak in order to give us full time to examine the waters, and to arrive at Granada before dark.

The baths are about a mile and half from the town where the stream passes though a small but deep tajo, immediately below which the springs burst out. The principal bath is a Moorish edifice that has been left unaltered, and is exactly as the Moslems performed their last ablutions there, having probably from its sanitary reputation escaped the barbarous tyranny of the conquerors, who as they probably were not extremely attentive to their own persons in the way of cleanliness, thought the use of baths an infidel custom, and rigorously prohibited the use of them to the unfortunate Moors. This room is from thirty to forty feet in length, the greater part of which is filled by the water that issues from the main spring at the further corner. The sight of the steam and gas issuing forth had such an effect on my companion, that whilst we were

Digitized by Google

talking, he had dropped to the rear, and in an incredibly short space of time reappeared, en cueros, as the Spaniards say, and rushing forward with his bottles in hand for collecting the gas, to the no small surprise of the natives, several of whom had followed us.

The temperature at the source is 32° of Reaumur or 104° of Fahrenheit, approximating to that of some of the Carlsbad waters. Of course it decreases a little in the baths, especially in those that are further from the spring. I bathed in one of the private rooms, which are extremely comfortable, the water being conducted to them by a conduit from the main spring. The water is nearly tasteless, and the sensation of bathing delightful, but the skin, after it, remained in a state rather hard and corrugated.

The principal object of Dr. Daubeny was to ascertain the presence of nitrogen gas in the water, which he thought most probably would be the case, and it was advisable to examine this little known locality in following up his researches on Volcanoes. A regular analysis of the waters had been made some time since, by order of the Spanish government, but they were not aware of the presence of this gas, believing, as they told me, that as it was odourless it did not exist! Dr. Daubeny had proposed bringing bottles filled with the water to the town and analysing it there; but I suggested the carrying the apparatus to the baths and making the

Digitized by Google

anaylsis on the spot, which was very fortunately adopted, for owing to the distance it seemed doubtful whether other plans would have answered so well. The greatest difficulty was the finding any thing large enough to contain the quantity of water necessary to immerse the vessel used; at last he completely succeeded, having found the gas in large quantities. I never saw anything like the surprise of our companion when the result appeared; and if the Doctor had been an alchymist and succeeded in the grand transmutation, he could not have been more astonished. He was the more so, because no mystery was made and every thing was previously explained to him, and he was not only very intelligent, but had been recommended to the government by the Duke of Gor for the purpose of writing an article on the province of Alhama for a new Gazetteer, which is in preparation; in consequence, he had done his best to procure every sort of information, when he was thus unexpectedly taken by surprise. The Gazetteer is intended to replace the wretched publication of Miñano, and is to be compiled from official as well as the best local accounts they can collect. He read me portions of the article on Alhama from his manuscripts, and amongst others the analysis, with the series of complaints indicated and counter-indicated for the use of the waters. Of course I felt a degree of delicacy about asking leave to copy or extract any part, as it will appear in due season, but I urged him to

Digitized by Google

make a note respecting the gas, and to give it on the authority of Dr. Daubeny. The test was explained fully to him, but I did not think his chymical knowledge quite equal to entering into it. Indeed it would be surprising if it were, with the very defective courses of study which form the medical education in Spain. In general, the waters appear to be safe and simple in their action, and the bathing must be delicious in the hot season.

These baths were formerly public property belonging to the ayuntamiento of the town, but like the livings and some other parts of the chattels of our corporations, they have been lately sold and are now the property of an individual at Malaga. He has erected a spacious building to accommodate visitors, which I examined in detail; the lower part is occupied by the private baths and other conveniences; the upper story contains a set of separate rooms, each opening on an outer gallery. Every room contains an alcoba for a bed, and is intended to serve both for sitting and sleeping; behind each is a very small kitchen, in the middle of which, in close contact, are two erections like antique altars, one of which is the place for cooking, and the other a certain unmentionable and never to be alluded to convenience! I suppose it is intended the servants should sleep in the kitchen, for I saw no provision made for their accommodation. At the further end of the gallery is another set, of much smaller size, and at half the price of the greater ones,

Digitized by Google

which have precisely the same arrangements as the larger apartments, but on an exceedingly reduced scale, and altogether form the most curious residence for a sojourner it was ever my lot to witness. There is not an atom of furniture in them, or even a nail or peg to hang any thing upon, but they were abundantly supplied with the refuse left by the last possessors of the preceding season. Every thing necessary must be carried to the place, and their own cooking done by each party, which routine is far from uncommon in Spanish watering places, but in most parts it is in course of improvement; and the absurdity of the arrangements here is increased by every thing being quite new, and in close contact with Malaga and Granada, whence every sort of requisite could easily be supplied by the proprietor. It would hardly have been a fair return for the great civility and attention of my guide, to laugh at the establishment, but I never had greater difficulty to restrain the disposition to do so. He was a grave and serious character, not likely to enter into my merriment, but quite agreed with me that the place was "muy atrasado," or behindhand, and said that he would speak to the owner about making improvements and putting it more on the footing of an hotel, as is the custom in some parts of Spain, especially in the northern provinces.

Besides the Moorish bath, there is a smaller circular one appropriated to the use of the humbler classes of society, a practice general or rather almost

Digitized by Google

universal in Spain. It is so covered with coats of whitewash and plaster that no idea can be formed of the masonry, but the form and other circumstances induced me to believe it to be either Roman work, or that it has been rebuilt on the same plan as an older edifice of that people, who knew and frequented these waters. I believe the antique remains as yet discovered are very trifling, nor does it appear that any town existed on the spot, although Artigis Inliensis must have been near the situation of it.

The territory of Alhama is high, the climate in winter cold for this latitude, and from the elevation of it the snow lies for some time in most seasons. The lands are fertile and improvements are taking place, but the country being singularly bare and denuded of trees, has a dreary look at most periods of the year. Wheat and rye appear to form the principal objects of cultivation. The climate of the town and immediate neighbourhood is healthy, but the valley lower down is subject to attacks or invasions of malaria. These are periodical, and happen on the setting in of a particular wind, to which they are so much accustomed as to distinguish it by the name of the "Vecino" (neighbour), and it is announced, as is practised when the cholera appears in some parts of India.

After completing our observations we returned to the town to breakfast, when we received a farewell visit from our kind and attentive guide, and then took leave of the scolding landlady, who, as her

Digitized by Google

tormentors were long removed, and probably a little reaction had followed the exertions of the preceding day, was perfectly tranquil and good humoured; but it was very easy to perceive that "le feu couvait," as our neighbours express it, and that if we had criticised the bill, which was a very heavy one, or given any other cause, the volcano would soon have been again in eruption.

I had requested Lanza to leave us with our steeds under charge of a mozo, or alone, as he might prefer, since I knew the road to Granada; to which arrangement, when I explained the reason of it, he made no sort of objection, although it was quite out of the ordinary routine of his travelling system. To my great surprise when we ordered the horses he appeared in person, having despatched the two bodies of caravans, the travellers and the arrieros, under respective heads, and he had waited for us with the greatest civility, without expressing the smallest impatience.

It is impossible to conceive any thing more dreary than the line of country between Alhama and Granada, even at this, the very choicest season of the year, and the finest portion of the fleeting period in this African climate: with the exception of a few spots along the ramblas or torrents, all is bleak and waste. I noticed one practice in this dismal district which is well worth notice; the mode they practice to limit the ravages of the torrents and secure the scanty spots of soil left in the bottoms of

Digitized by Google

the valleys. Stout posts about four or five feet high are driven into the ground on the intended line of embankment in a triangular form, and their upper ends brought together, where they are secured. They are then well ballasted inside and out by the boulders found on the spot, and being placed at fifteen or twenty feet apart they form a set of detached dams or breakwaters. The floods of the rambla bring down gravel and smaller wreck, depositing it in the intervals between them, so that in a short time a natural line of bank is formed. The plan answers so well and with such certainty, that I observed they sowed barley on the old bed the instant the barriers were formed, trusting to their action for securing their crop. This simple and economical plan might be very easily adopted in some of our rivers, the Swale amongst others; and in our climate willow stakes, which will soon take root, would give very great increased stability to the work.

A carriage road has been partly made from Granada to Alhama, but they complained that Government had removed the convicts employed on it to that of Jaen, which was justly considered of more importance and in consequence the work was suspended. The public has lost little by the delay, for according to the sections of the hills that were finished, travelling on horses or mules would be an infinitely preferable mode of conveyance to being dragged up and down the declivities: so bad is the

Digitized by Google

plan that if it ever be determined to make the road to Malaga by Alhama and Velez, which is the proper direction, the part they have done will be quite useless, and an entire new line must be made. In making subsequent inquiries, as to the reason of their originally taking the dreary and unprofitable line by Loxa, in preference to this, which is the true commercial communication, I was told on the best possible authority, that the administrators of the estate of the Duke of Wellington had been the principal cause; if so it was a bad arrangement, because no sort of difficulty exists in the communication of the Soto de Roma with the capital, whence it could easily have been carried to the coast, by the general line.

We arrived in the cool of a most delicious evening, soon crossing the scanty portion of the vega, which is seen on the road approaching from this side. This is the least interesting of the views of the most splendid of cities, as far as landscape is concerned. The magnificent outlines of the wide spread town and suburbs, backed by the mass of the Sierra Nevada, as seen from the northern parts of the vega, are entirely wanting; and on this side, you not only see the town on its flank, where the beauty of it is almost concealed, but the back ground is formed by the comparatively insignificant hills to the east, nor could any one form an adequate idea of the grandeur of the situation, who had only approached it from Alhama.

Digitized by Google

CHAPTER XVI.

GRANADA—PRONUNCIAMENTO—ASTURIAN SOLDIERS —ALAMEDAS—ALHAMBRA — CONVENTS — CATHEDRAL—FESTIVAL OF CORPUS—SOTO DE ROMA—LITERATURE — MARIANA PINEDA — SIERRA NEVADA — GYPSIES.

We had some difficulty in finding quarters, as the various posadas, fondas and casas de pupilos to which I had been directed, were all filled. Very fortunately it was so, as we went at last to the Fonda de las diligencias, which none of my informants appeared to know much about, and we found not only admittance but that it was one of the best inns in Spain, the only trifling drawback being its distance from the Carrera del Darro, and the other more frequented parts of the town. It stands in a small plaza and is the property of the Countess of Luque, who has let it, but her name remains on the reja of the principal floor. We entered the city without the smallest interruption, and only had to send the keys with a servant for the nominal examination of the baggage which had arrived with the convoy, nor was the place in any other than the most profound tranquillity, neither excitement nor bustle of any kind prevailing; nor on visiting the Carrera del Genil and the other frequented parts, was it possi-

Digitized by Google

ble to imagine that anything but the most ordinary course of affairs was being pursued. My surprise may be easily imagined, on learning that the head-quarters of the Captain-general, the capital of Upper Andalucia, was in a complete state of pronunciamento! So far from despatching detachments to quell the disturbance at Malaga, the authority of the general government was in abeyance, and the only hope of restoring the authority of the Regent was by the sending troops from Madrid. This strange and unlooked-for occurrence had taken place the very day before we left Malaga, the same that witnessed the reaction of the people there, as already mentioned. The history of this change is rather remarkable; there was a party of malcontents, as in every city in Spain and elsewhere, ready to take advantage of any opportunity to make or promote disturbance, by which they cannot lose and must almost certainly win. By a singular fatality for the Regent, the birth-day of Mariana Pineda, the lady alluded to as a victim of Ferdinand, took place on the day mentioned; the discontented party with a degree of tact and skill worthy a better cause, turned this event to profit, and by acting on the feelings of the ignorant and inflammable people, persuaded them to mix the two together, and to associate the present state of things with that which had caused the miserable exhibition of executing that now celebrated person. They made a sort of funeral ceremony in the cathedral to which they

Digitized by Google

declared nearly the whole people of Granada resorted, and a scene of enthusiasm took place, such as never existed in the walls since the conquest. This decided the matter, and the new authorities being quietly installed, every thing was going on exactly as in time of the most profound order and regularity. The only troops in the place were a regiment of Asturian quintos or recruits, who had recently been drawn, and were badly clothed but worse fed, having been sent here to be organised, drilled, and take their first lessons in the art of war. I had heard some time previously that the troops at Granada had neither pay nor rations, or at least very scanty and insufficient ones, yet they would have never thought of rebelling against the government but from the persuasions of their officers, the commander having not only joined the pronunciamento but been elected a member of the junta. As these lads were unequal to do any military duty, it principally devolved on the national guard, who felt in general disposed to take a course they most probably now repent having done. The first attempt of the junta was very naturally to keep the troops in their interest, which was chiefly to be done by money and supplying the food and clothing, that they so much required. As it appears there was little or no money in the public departments and none of the junta were monied proprietors, while the insurrection was neither cordially supported or even approved of by the leading persons in the town, this was a matter of some diffi-

Digitized by Google

culty. Some cloth was however found in the depôt, and the tailors, who are a numerous body in all the towns of Andalucia, where the passion for dress in both sexes is very great, were called on, and the strongest appeal made to excite their patriotism, and persuade them to contribute to the grand object, by gratuitously making up uniforms for the Asturians. I used to see the regiment every day, and observed each morning an addition of one or two to the very small number already provided with that essential part of the soldier's equipment. This small, dressed squad of course led, and the satisfaction in the countenances of those on whom the happy lot had fallen, was extremely visible.

Amid the general impulse which had been given to the periodical press, as mentioned in the account of Madrid, Granada had remained as before, and incredible to state, had no journal. This extraordinary defect was attempted to be supplied by the junta, and the Grito de Granada, the most miserable apology for a paper ever exhibited, began to appear under their auspices, at considerable intervals, being chiefly filled with their own bandos and news more or less mendacious, bearing on the subject of the pronunciamento and of the prospects of those engaged in it, which were anything but favourable at the time we were there. We will now leave these parties and proceed to the more interesting subject of the place itself.

We had arrived not only at the season, but on the

Digitized by Google

very day to see this lovely place and its environs in the greatest beauty they can possibly exhibit. The paseos were in beautiful order; the sight on the Carrera del Xenil, the side of which is washed by that stream, now swollen with the rapidly melting snows of winter, with the splendid views of the Sierra above it, is certainly excelled by none, if equalled by any in the world. It is well kept, and a flower-garden that runs along the side nearest the river was in the greatest beauty. The only set-off to this lovely spot is the approach to it from the town, which is by the Carrera del Darro, also a promenade, but as it forms one of the principal entrances to the city, and is covered with mules and asses passing and re-passing all day long, and as in dry weather they do not water the roads, such a quantity of dust is raised as to make it extremely incommodious to passengers. A noble addition has been made to the paseos by the improvements at the Alhambra; they were commenced when I was in Spain previously, and the public are mainly indebted to an officer called La Serna, who was employed in the time of Ferdinand, but must not be confounded with the celebrated man of the same name, the Conde de Los Andes, the last Viceroy of Peru, who was Captain-general of the province at the time of the murder of Torrijos; in which he had not the smallest share, but resigned in consequence of that tragedy having been acted between Moreno the governor of Malaga, and the administration of

Digitized by Google

Calomarde at Madrid. Colonel La Serna was co-temporary and rival in such good works with Arjona the assistente of Seville, who has been already mentioned as the projector and executor of the splendid paseos on the Guadalquivir. Since that period the trees have grown, and a beautiful road has replaced the rude approach of the Moors, who, as they made no use of carriages, were less incommoded by the inconvenient arrangement of it. There is still wanting a convenient descent to the western end of the town, and a better communication with the Carrera del Xenil, which no doubt will one day be made, when this city will be unrivalled as far as the scale admits, for the beauty of its promenades. At the upper end of the walks of the Alhambra are some guinguettes, or what correspond to our tea gardens on a small scale, and in the evening it was a pleasant lounge to take strawberries and milk, that, with other refreshments, were provided in this most delightful situation for the enjoyment of them.

The palace itself was undergoing most extensive repairs ; one of the great towers over the Darro had been re-built from the foundation, and they were restoring the interior, which was done with so much skill by young men belonging to the place, that if the Moorish architects were to re-appear, they would have great difficulty in distinguishing between their own work and that of their successors. Some of these young artists had employed their leisure in making a model on a reduced scale

Digitized by Google

of some parts of the interior, which is intended for exhibition in London. Nothing can exceed the beauty and fidelity of their work, which I was allowed to examine in the unfinished state. It is made in detached pieces, that the nature of the material allows to be perfectly united, and will afford those who have not the opportunity of seeing the original, a perfect idea of the mode of design of the great artists who constructed this extraordinary building.

By these restorations, some of the modes of detail practised by the Moorish masons are discovered. In one place which was open, I observed that they fixed the plaster on the wood and other parts where it would not adhere easily, by nailing platted parts in zigzag, and the antiseptic quality of the material with the dryness of the climate, although it was in a very confined part of the outer patio, had made this simple and economical plan so effectual, that the plat of this perishable substance was as perfect as the day it was fixed.

I examined with a good deal of care the interior of the Palace of Charles the Fifth which had been formerly shut up, but was now entirely open and unoccupied by any thing. It is impossible not to regret their having left this beautiful structure in the state it was abandoned, never having been even roofed in. They say at Granada, that the chief reason was the fear of earthquakes, which are frequently felt in this place and have done a good deal

Digitized by Google

to damage the Moorish fabric. The only regret is, that this had not occurred sooner to the authorities who demolished the winter palace of the Moorish kings, to make way for this building. In the present taste for palaces the arrangements of the inner quadrangle, which being circular and at the sides where the breadth is least, necessarily reducing the size of the apartments, would have prevented the suites having their due proportions, and there would also have been a great want of accommodation for the attendants: this, however, could have easily been made up by building on the ample spaces adjacent.

The celebrated medallions of Machucha, the architect of this palace, which, with some deductions for taste in the details, must take a very high rank in the classic architecture of modern Europe, are in perfect preservation. I was surprised to find on minutely examining them that the composition of the two is identical, the position of the figures being merely reversed, a practice I do not remember seeing in the works of any other great sculptor. They clearly represent a battle charge, and not a hunt, as the tree and a dog which occupy a prominent situation in the foreground, much in the manner Paul Veronese was accustomed to introduce them in his pictures, would induce a cursory observer to infer. It cannot be denied that they are of the first class in modern sculpture, for the boldness, spirit and simplicity of the groupe, as it is shewn in perspective; but here again the

Digitized by Google

monochrome fails, and the distant figures neither are, nor can be properly seen. There is the smallest possible difference between the two medallions in a detail of no importance, but the main point is as I have stated. The name of this able artist was quite unknown, and was only ascertained owing to the accidental discovery of a cotemporary poem quite recently, on the effect of the very earthquake, which probably is alluded to by the Granadin history, as having caused the abandonment of the work. It is however probable that the failure of the schemes of that great monarch in Germany, had quite as much influence as the earthquake, in inducing him to relinquish this magnificent project. In general style of design, the palace may be classed with those of Bramante, to whose manner it bears the nearest resemblance.

The immense convents which cover so large a space in the city, where they have replaced the gardens and houses of the Moslems, are in exactly the same situation as in other places, but, with the exception of the few required for public uses, the greater part are as yet unoccupied. The pious founders of these establishments had little idea that three centuries would see a last and final end of their existence as religious communities.

The celebrated convent of S. Geronimo was occupied by a cavalry regiment, and I tried in vain to enter the church, which was not in the possession of the military authorities, otherwise it would have

Digitized by Google

been practicable without difficulty. They told me that the retablo on the great altar, one of the most remarkable works in the city, was still in situ, but the statue of Gonsalo de Cordova had disappeared. What can have become of it? Paris or London must be the ultimate destination; and what effect will a painted statue, of moderate merit, have in either of those capitals? It is a thousand pities to have removed such an object from the locality to which it belonged, neither art nor history gaining by such a desecration.

In the very heart of the western division of the city stood an enormous convent of Franciscans, that was demolished between the French and the Constitutionalists of 1820, in order to make a plaza. After the invasion of 1823, the monks not only obtained possession of the site, which was nearly cleared, but in an incredibly short space of time had procured the means of rebuilding and repeopling it. They have not destroyed it this time, but more wisely, have converted it into the post office, for which the situation and ample convenience are well adapted.

The most beautiful demesne of the Cartuxa, to the east of the city, has devolved to the family who purchased it in 1820, from whom it was taken in 1823; the church remains untouched. Viznar, the summer residence of the archbishops, which is in an elevated and delicious situation for that season, and may give some idea of the country houses of

Digitized by Google

the Moors, was advertised for sale. There is a very small quantity of land attached to it, as they informed me, so that it will produce only a moderate sum; but in the present state of the church it is useless to the head of the see.

I was informed on good authority that notwithstanding the splendour of the buildings in the convents, their endowments were in general small, compared to those of the great and early establishments of the centre and north of Spain. In fact, after 1500, although the fame of the mode of life had not decreased, the disposition to endow them with lands was moderated and now began to decline; and they told me that the Catholic Kings were by no means profuse in the grants allotted to them, at which I was rather surprised, having a very different impression on that subject.

A splendid convent in the western quarter had been converted into a museum for the reception of pictures and other objects. The locality is magnificent, but the pictures, although in very great number, the very worst that were by any chance ever assembled in one place. Some tolerable connoisseurs in regular succession must have visited Granada, since Sebastiani first commenced the pillage of it, for every thing worth carrying from the convents has been most carefully picked out, and were it not for the few remaining in the cathedral and in some other places, the school of Granada would be without a local habitation or a name, in its native seat. The

Digitized by Google

chief curiosity in the collection, is a sort of enamelled or encaustic oratory, said to have belonged to Gonsalo de Cordova; it is certainly of that date, of the Flemish or German school, and of the description he very probably might possess. There are specimens of sculpture by Diego de Mora and Risueño, both followers of Cano, the chief of the school of Granada both in sculpture and painting, although of the former art very little now exists in his native city.

The celebrated picture by Cano, which was at S. Diego, disappeared during the movement on the suppression of the convents, nor is it known what became of it. A more unfortunate transaction took place a short time since at the cathedral: the best Ribera (Spagnoletto) having been cut out of the frame and disappearing one night, a foreigner (we hope it was not one of Bull's family) had been heard to say he would give a certain sum for it (a rather large one), when shortly after, it vanished. Of course a good deal was said, and a sacristan, whom no one thought was much concerned in the transaction, was sent to prison, apparently to draw attention away from the real culprits, who were considered to be parties of a much higher grade than the poor scapegoat.

I had heard of this transaction at Madrid, and was surprised to see, instead of the empty frame, the picture apparently as it had always been. On inquiring, they told me that a dignitary of the

Digitized by Google

church was in possession of a replica, and that he had presented it to make up the loss. This is the story as they told it to me in the cathedral, and whether it be exact or not, or whether this be the real picture, which they were afraid or unable to dispose of, I know not; but if it be true the liberality of the functionary was highly creditable to him.

There is no proper dome to this cathedral, but the great altar is covered by a very lofty polygonal temple, somewhat like an enlarged copy of several in the neighbourhood of Rome, which are now properly considered to have been component parts rather than entire edifices. The real plan and design of this extraordinary building was first noticed, as far as I know, in my former work, being the application of the lofty proportions of the pointed, or Gothic style, to Corinthian or classic details. Siloe was originally a professor of the older style, as his father had been before him, and the reason of his changing would be rather curious were it possible to ascertain it; very probably he was ordered to adopt the modern style, and gave this proof of the boldness and originality of his mind. The church is about 400 feet in length by 240 in breadth, which are admirable proportions. The height is very great, and in the principal nave there is regular groining in the pointed manner, the ornaments at each intersection varying, completely bearing out the statement I made; and there can be no doubt the church was originally intended to be of the

Digitized by Google

same pointed order as the tombs of the kings adjoining it. I visited this splendid structure every day and always with the greatest pleasure. There was good music every morning, and one day a "funcion," in which the whole force of the great organ was put out. The effect of the music was very fine as the sounds died away amongst the higher parts of the lofty roof, nor could any building excel it in this grand result. Their best organ is one of the finest I ever heard, both in tone and compass, and a bird stop they possess, probably equals any thing that can be produced in the same style.

Preparations were making for the great festival of Corpus Domini, the time of which was close at hand, and they were very anxious we should stop to see the solemnity, that is equal to that of any town in Spain, but the season was advancing and I had fixed to witness it at Madrid. The arrangements for the procession were made chiefly in the Vivarrambla of the Moors, an open square below the Zacatin, the proper bazaar, or street of shops of the town. This square had been regularly fitted up and covered with toldos or awnings, and other conveniences for the crowd which was expected to assemble, and was also painted in compartments. The reader will never guess the subject that was represented in a vast number of pictures, very well executed, and meant to assist the effect of the most solemn exhibition of the year. It was neither more

Digitized by Google

nor less than the life and exploits of the celebrated knight Don Quixote de la Mancha! The artist had selected the most amusing of the subjects afforded in the history, and both knight and squire figured in their best style of the grotesque. There is nothing indecorous or irreligious in any way to make the national work objectionable, but it was rather a curious selection for such an occasion. I suspected the Ayuntamiento had regulated this part of the preparation, which most probably belonged to their jurisdiction, and without inquiring into the matter, absolved the Cabildo from having made such a choice of subject.

As the heat was increasing, baths became rather desirable, and I visited several establishments, but found them all in a state of refit and preparation for the regular opening, that does not take place before July. The original baths are rather curious, being oval jars or tinaxas, in which those who enjoy the luxury must, if they are above the size of General Tom Thumb, be doubled up, much as extraordinary preparations are seen, in the glass vases of anatomical museums. There were some of more modern form, but always of absurdly small dimensions. It is not at all improbable that this peculiarity is owing to the regulation mentioned at Alhama, and that they were made in this manner in order to attract little notice or attention; or as they are evidently very old, it may have proceeded from their not understanding the mode of making

Digitized by Google

them of metal, which necessarily restricted the size of the vessel. They cannot plead the scarcity of water for this defective part of their arrangement, as springs gush out from every part of the gardens and grounds above the town.

In rambling through some very fine extensive gardens, belonging to a convent that had been lately sold, in search of a tank, where Dr. Daubeny was desirous of performing his ablutions, we came upon a most beautiful Moorish summer house, quite untouched, as it had been left by the former possessor when he was turned out to make way for the monks, and the long seclusion of the order had prevented it being much noticed. The name of the garden, which commands a beautiful view over the city and vega, is the Jardin del Re, and very probably it was part of the royal domains of poor Boabdil. The convent it belonged to was of the Dominican order, who were specially charged with the supporting the inquisition and maintaining the pure faith. They were also very much mixed up in the famous dispute of the Immaculate Conception, which at a comparatively recent epoch split Granada into factions ready to destroy each other. Alas! where are now these professors and their doctrines, orthodox or heterodox? The perambulating these gardens, where probably many of their bitterest and most unchristian and uncharitable tenets were discussed, and their bitterest effusions composed, strongly recalled the recollection of my

Digitized by Google

first visit to the silent and deserted halls of the Sorbonne, once the noisy and intriguing resort of kindred spirits.

I heard a curious account of the condition of the Soto de Roma, the estate of the Duke of Wellington. It is well known this estate was selected by him out of three royal domains which were offered to his choice by the first Cortes, as a reward for his great services in the war of independence. This grant was confirmed by the absolute king, and never I believe attempted to be interfered with during the successive changes which have taken place, until quite recently, when of all persons living, which by the by he was not generally supposed to be until his reappearance on the stage in the guise of a chancery suitor, but the Prince of Peace! This personage has brought what is equivalent to an action of ejectment against the Duke, and claims the estate as his property by a former grant of the royal possessor. I understand that the audiencia or supreme tribunal of Granada has more than once decided in his favour, but an appeal being laid at Madrid the superior court declared itself incompetent to enter on the question, and so it rests. I heard that the title of only the house and a small tract of land adjoining it, is affected by this curious claim, and not the greater part of the property. The person alluded to is living at Madrid quite retired, and, it is said, in great poverty, which may readily be believed, but he finds money sufficient to carry

Digitized by Google

on the process and fee not only the bar and solicitors, but the judges also, who must be paid, if you are to credit the Spanish accounts of the mode of administering justice in their Courts, though it may be hoped not universally, nor to the extent they state.

The literary stagnation at Granada is not confined to the journal department as already mentioned, which in itself would be rather beneficial than otherwise, but this great capital has not in the least participated in the general movement consequent on the emancipation of the press, and I never saw a city of such magnitude and importance, so ill-provided with literary resources of every kind. The booksellers' shops were exactly as in the time of Ferdinand, when every one who dealt in the article felt as if the garrote (strangling apparatus) were preparing for him. Having seen a new and beautiful plan of the city, which had long been a desideratum, at Malaga, I neglected taking the name and address of the publishers, feeling quite certain I should meet with it in Granada, where to my surprise, after rummaging every shop in which by any possibility it might be found, I ascertained that they had never heard of such a thing and were entirely ignorant of its existence.

There is no public library, or a reading room of any kind, nor could any journal but the worst of those from Madrid be seen, nor was even a copy of the life of "Mariana," the heroine of the place to

Digitized by Google

be procured, and it would appear that as in the time of their Moorish ancestors, the climate and enjoyment of the senses were considered the great ends of existence at Granada.

The crops this year were magnificent, being now grown, but not yet changing colour, although harvest was over, three weeks since, at Malaga. doubt the irrigation, by extending the period of h, was partly the cause of this great difference le at a few miles distance, as well as the mere in the climate, caused by the elevation.

a curious fact which rather surprised me :— t eight or nine years since, the mildness of the ter had caused the stock of snow on the Sierra vada to be so much diminished, that the Xenil as nearly dried up, and a serious loss in the crops most amounting to famine, was the result. Examinations took place with a view of making a tunnel, hat they might draw a supply from the lake of Vares, which is high up the mountain; but, as they told me, fears were excited lest some miscarriage might take place, and an inundation of the vega ensue. It is to be hoped so absurd an alarm did not really prevail to such an extent, and that other reasons, probably consideration of the expense, and the uncertainty when so unusual an occurrence might again take place, were the real causes of the abandonment of this plan; but this is the story as they related it to me.

A monument has been very naturally erected to

Digitized by Google

the unfortunate Mariana Pineda, or as they always call her simply Mariana, the lady who was put to death in the atrocious manner related in my former work, by order of Ferdinand and his minister Calomarde. If historical immortality be a greater object than protracted life, this ill-fated person has reaped it, for she is become almost a saint in her native town, and I doubt whether more fervent devotional worship was ever given to the immaculate conception in the days of its greatest fervour, than the civil homage now paid to the memory of this lady, who is justly considered a martyr of Spanish liberty. I heard many particulars respecting her from various sources in Spain, and especially from having the good fortune to know a gentleman who was not only well acquainted with her, but assisted in her defence, and perfectly knew every one concerned in this transaction. To the many persons unacquainted with the circumstances it may be observed, that the party was a young and beautiful woman, of very good family and the widow of a Brigadier-general. She was denounced to the secret tribunal of Calomarde and his master, as having a tricoloured flag in her possession, which was found to be the case. On this she was ordered to be tried, and if guilty, to be executed. The judge, who seems to have resembled some historical personages in other countries, was so inexorable and so rapid in his mode of conducting political trials, that every thing being prepared, she was accused

Digitized by Google

and ordered for trial at exceedingly short notice. The advocate who had undertaken the painful office of defending her, came to my informant, and stating that in the time allotted, it was utterly impossible for him to prepare the defence unassisted, proposed that they should divide it, one party taking the legal portion and the other the political and general parts. This was done, and they worked all night, but to no use, for the mind of "Jeffreys" as well as that of his masters was made up, and she was condemned and forthwith led to execution; the most foul of all the foul transactions which will ever cause the memory of Ferdinand to be execrated by future generations, although at this time they excite little notice. The situation of the parties concerned in this dreadful tragedy is rather curious. In a very short time Ferdinand was called to his account, to which, if you are to believe his clerical enemies, he went in any thing but the odour of sanctity. Calomarde, the next in rank engaged, after doing his best to betray the same Ferdinand his master, was compelled to fly ignominiously from his country, to which he never returned, but died in exile. The judge, the instant the change took place in Spain, was driven from society, and no one knows whether he be living or where his head is hidden. The fiscal or attorney prosecutor, died literally of broken heart, from the reflection of having been in any way concerned in the horrid business. My informant, who knew him intimately, told me that

Digitized by Google

he was a kind and humane man; that he dissuaded him from having any thing to do with the affair, which he could have managed very easily by stating that his practice lay not in criminal law, as that would have exempted him. However, in an evil hour, never imagining that the sentence would be more than a short imprisonment, he determined to go through with it, fearing also that in case he declined, the prosecution might fall into worse hands than his own. Thus in the very few years that have elapsed since 1831, when this occurrence took place, every one of the principals engaged are gone, and those only remain who shared in the defence. This information I derived from the Conde de Torre Marin, who is a member of one of the first houses in Granada, the brother of the Conde Santa Ana, now the principal nobleman in the place, and of one of the best families in Spain. It would have been unfair to withhold the name of a person capable of acting in this manner, and it is again a curious proof of the light and shade in the characters and proceedings of this extraordinary people. Here we have barbarity and fearless humanity, set in opposition to each other. No wonder the subject of such a chapter in their history should have acted on the feelings of the Granadinos and Granadinas, nor that their credulity having been imposed on, as already related, they should have seconded the views of the eight or ten individuals, who as I know from the best authority, were the originators and promoters

Digitized by Google

of the pronunciamento. Her memory operated like the revival under another form, of the cross of Peter the hermit, or the Sangiak Cherif of the followers of Mahomet, in the olden time at Constantinople.

I heard another anecdote relating to this political inquisitor, for his appointment was I believe of a special nature for the trial of those offences, and not that of an ordinary judge. A gentleman whom I knew in the place, told me he had a relation, who like most of his townsmen was rather a liberal, and not a very great admirer of the government of Ferdinand. He went one day to the post-office and received a letter, which without further observation he put in his pocket and walked away. In a few seconds to his horror and consternation an alguazil accosted him, accompanied by the dreaded inquisitor, who had been in person watching his movements. He was immediately ordered to be tried, but before it came on, his family repaired to Madrid, where with infinite trouble and by sacrificing 2000 dollars, they procured his release. He declared, when there was no longer any use in concealing the truth, that the letter was from an unknown person, and there was no doubt it was a mere trap laid to inveigle him.

We made an excursion to the Sierra Nevada, and ascended a considerable height to the desierto of St. Geronimo as it is called, on the north-west side of the mountain, but it was far too early for the Alpine vegetation of the upper region, which is not

Digitized by Google

seen in perfection before August. I found a plant of the curious Lonicera arborea, or tree honeysuckle, or rather the young shoots from the stock, which were just flowering, and the pretty Cratægus Granatensis, which I had also seen above Marbella, but omitted mentioning it. We must hope that these shrubs, and others from the same locality, will be procured before the peasantry have entirely destroyed every vestige of them, as is very probable will be the case before many years have passed over. We dined at a very comfortable cortijo, like an "Alp" in the wildest parts of Switzerland, in a romantic situation above the Monachil. There are several of these establishments recently built, having small enclosures round them, and the people live in tolerable comfort, tending the miserable stock, their bad management of the pastures allow to find sustenance in them. We intended to ascend to the summit of the Sierra, but as there was a vast quantity of snow to traverse that concealed the rocks, and no vegetation out at nearly that elevation, we thought it useless to do so. There is no sort of difficulty or danger in ascending the summit, which by an active person may be done easily in one day, setting out very early: otherwise accommodation might be found at one of the cortijos, and in great heats this would be the better plan to adopt.

We were living at the fonda de la Minerva, where a party occasionally dined together at the early hour customary in Spain, our society being occa-

Digitized by Google

sionally increased by additions of various nations. Some bachelors amongst us proposed seeing a gypsy dance, which was agreed to, and the management conferred on a character who attended strangers as a guide and valet de place, a Frenchman by birth, who had been, I rather think, a legacy of Napoleon, having been left from wounds or some other cause, by his armies on their retreat. A regular programme was made out, and at the appointed time we were conducted to a spacious Moorish room of handsome proportions, well worthy a visit, independently of the spectacle we were to witness. This room was in a decayed house, situated upon a small plazuela in the Albaycin, exactly opposite the Alhambra. It is about 30 feet long, or rather more, and very well proportioned in every way. The roof was coved, and the tye beams instead of being in one thick piece, were of two, of moderate thickness but rather deep, placed side by side but not joined, and then ornamented with carvings, much of which remained. The effect of this mode of construction was extremely light and good.

The ladies soon appeared followed by a certain portion of attendant cavaliers, the number of whom was however limited by express agreement made by themselves with the master of the ceremonies, and the crowd who assembled, consisting of a large proportion of the fraternity belonging to the city, were kept at a respectable distance, whilst groups danced in the plazuela to the sound of the music, which,

Digitized by Google

as the heat obliged the windows to be kept open, was distinctly heard below. The dancing was a good deal in the oriental style, and more remarkable for the activity and the contortions the girls gave to their supple forms, than for any grace displayed on the occasion. Many of their movements, indeed the greater part, were extremely voluptuous, but their figures were too slight and defective in development, to give much effect to them. Not satisfied with the very liberal payment they were to receive and the refreshments which were abundantly supplied, some of them, after exhibiting their figures and dancing at the different spectators who sat in the oriental style of attending exhibitions of this same description, in soft voices and the real gypsy manner of wheedling, endeavoured to obtain small donations on their private account. They were as genuine specimens of the race as it was possible to behold, and the Indian or Asiatic origin was very strongly pourtrayed in their physiognomies. Of the whole set there was only one that had any pretensions to good figure or decent look, and she was the least forward and the quietest in her movements amongst them.

Before we leave Granada, it will be necessary to give a sketch of the state of public affairs, which were now approaching a very interesting crisis, not only in the history of the place but in that of all Spain. During the whole time we were there not the smallest noise or disturbance of any kind took

Digitized by Google

place, and every thing went on as quietly as if we had been living under the "Re neto y absoluto," with the realistas and all other bodies organised for the purpose of preventing any public effervescence. The affairs of the junta were far from flourishing, their finances were almost a nullity, and towards the end of our stay they were constrained to publish a bando, declaring that no troops were on the march, whilst every one in the place knew that the advanced posts were within a few leagues of us. An expedition had been sent, much in the style of Malaga, against Jaen, but being a cavalry depot, the officers refused to join, and they were obliged to return. Rumours began to circulate, that certain expenses incurred on their private account by some of the junta, were by no means certain of being repaid to those who had given credit in the strength of their appointment, and in short, the prospects of the Pronunciados were any thing but promising or flattering, and they appeared rather to exist by sufferance than in any other manner. In all this time I never saw an instance of ill manners or rudeness of any sort, although the only papers, which came from Madrid, were headed for several days with an inscription in large letters, "Guerra al Cuchillo a los Anglo Ayacuchos," and every thing was done by the writers of these papers, who were notoriously in the pay of a foreign power or parties residing under its protection, to urge the people to any acts of violence. I confess, had I not known the Spaniards

Digitized by Google

more especially the Andalusians, I should not have felt easy, and if they had resembled those who penned those articles, the most insulting and outrageous possible against the country, and even personally against the minister at Madrid, residing there at such a time would have been any thing but agreeable. The use of the word Cuchillo in such a way is not Spanish; the Spaniards never make use of such expression, although they certainly use the instrument at times, and may have done so in the fanaticism of the war of independence. Since those times it has passed into other languages. We have seen and read it in quarters much nearer home than Spain during the fanfarronades of M. Thiers, and applied to this country when those who employed it considered war inevitable. Like the attack on the palace, it is more exotic than Spanish, and those who witnessed the use made of it at this time and might have been the sufferers, have full right to complain of the unwarrantable and unjustifiable end it was applied to, when the Spaniards, excepting from the efforts made to excite them, were in a state the reverse of excitement towards us, whatever they may have been towards their own government. One evening they announced at the theatre one of the miserable pieces lately imported, which they have the bad taste to prefer to the productions of their own immortal writers, and as it related to the English wars in France, I went on purpose to see whether any advantage would be taken to apply

Digitized by Google

passages to the political circumstances of the day, as would infallibly have been done in the country from whence it had been drawn. The subject was the famous fight of the Breton and English champions, and was of course extremely favourable to such displays, but every thing was conducted with the most perfect politeness and good humour, nor was there the smallest excitement or departure from the politeness in which, whatever may be the pretensions or the title of parties or individuals elsewhere, to rival, no nation existing, or that perhaps ever did exist, can as a whole compete with them.

I may ask any one well acquainted with our neighbours, whether, under the circumstances I have mentioned, he would have gone to a theatre in one of their large towns to see a "piece de circonstance," bearing directly on the elements of public excitement. All I can say is, that knowing them pretty well, and having as much respect for the nation as any one can entertain, I should not have followed the course I did here, without fear or apprehension of experiencing any rudeness or indecorum from the people, whom many persons in all countries, consider to be barbarians of the worst description; but notwithstanding the confidence I always felt, the residence at such a time could not be otherwise than a little disagreeable. After these miserable and venal tirades had continued for some days, the scribe who penned them inserted a small article, to the effect, that he should always feel grateful to the

Digitized by Google

English for the assistance they had afforded in the civil war!

The president of the junta had been Alcalde of the city; but the ablest and most active of the party was a "titulo," or man with the title of marquis, whom one naturally thought was connected with the town or neighbourhood, but he was unknown at Granada, and I had the greatest difficulty to ascertain who he was or where he belonged to, and he resided at a small posada. He was however a very able and active person, as they all agreed, and having no stake to lose, was just the man to take the lead in the pronunciamento, although his official situation was merely secretary. I intended going to their meeting for once, in order to see the parties and their mode of carrying on the business they had taken in hand, but on consideration, as I was travelling under a sort of authority from both my own Government and that of Spain, thought it more prudent not to do so, lest misconstruction should be put on my motives for taking such a step.

Digitized by Google

APPENDIX.

GEOLOGY.

ESTREMADURA—THE CASTILES—ASTURIAS—GALICIA.

In my last work a general outline of the geological features of Spain was given, as it had occurred during the various tours I made in the country. The work being published abroad, and prior to my having seen the new classification of the tertiary formations by Mr. Lyell, with the very appropriate appellations suggested by Professor Whewell, I had not the opportunity of arranging certain parts according to it, as would otherwise have been the case. In the south, where the principal part of my observations were made, I happened to examine a good deal of country about the same time with the late Colonel Silvertop, and I was truly happy on comparing notes with him afterwards, and examining some of his manuscripts subsequently to my own being printed, to find that our views in every part we had gone over, perfectly coincided, and it was with great satisfaction I heard that he entirely agreed in those I had made upon the Granada district, with which he was pretty well acquainted, some part of the little work he published prior to his death, appearing to have been founded on the remarks I had made. I ought to have stated at that time, the very great information and assistance I derived from the society of Mr. Lyell, during a tour we made in the Pyrenees, and it was with the greater regret I had not, owing to my absence from England, the advantage of conferring with him, or some others of the older

Digitized by Google

geologists, which would, no doubt, have been extremely useful to me. As it was, with the exception of naming the fossils, for which I was indebted to Mr. Lonsdale, the whole was my own work. The object of the present notice is to give a general outline of some other parts which I have either seen during this last tour, or received correct information respecting them. I am happy to add, that one event I anticipated, has taken place, and we have some native authorities to co-operate, which was not the case at the time I was previously in the country. At the head of these must be placed Mr. Schultz, who, although as the name indicates, is a German, has been long domiciled in the country, and is probably naturalised. We have also published memoirs from Senor Esquerra and others, and the field being once taken, no doubt we shall have other co-operators amongst the able men now associated in the administration of mines.

ESTREMADURA.

The vast district of Upper Estremadura, is an almost continuous mass of slates, with which are intercalated beds of a fine quartzite. These slates vary very much, as may be supposed from the extent of ground they occupy, but the greater part that came under my observation are black and blue clay, with veins of quartz in places, and in other parts that mineral forms the greater part of the whole mass. These beds are in general highly inclined, being almost vertical, but their line of bearing varies considerably between north and south, and to the west of those points. In many parts of this formation, knolls of granite and of the same family are protruded, as well as other igneous rocks, which form considerable masses in themselves, but small in comparison with the extent of country covered by the slates. The highest part

Digitized by Google

that appears to be attained by this formation is the Sierra de Guadalupe, which is no doubt the culminating point south of the Tagus. The greatest extent that I am aware of is from Almaraz to the Guadalquivir above Seville, where I saw the formation on a former occasion near Villanueva del Rio. It extends quite through the Sierra Morena, in the central and western division of it, but igneous rocks are protruded, as in the vicinity of Pedroso, and other parts.

In this vast formation, one of those most developed in Spain, for which, until a better name be found, I beg to be permitted to call the Estremadura slates, are the interesting, and it may almost be said unique beds of the phosphorite of Logrosan, and the quicksilver mine of Almaden. Both of these minerals are found to lie conformably to the stratification in the slates, that of the phosphorite being remarkably so. It is by no means improbable that the slates of Logrosan have been altered and indurated by the passage of the granite, which breaks through at less than a mile's distance from the vein, but I did not see data to allow the assertion that it certainly is so. These slates are of a harder and more compact nature, and present more the appearance of primary rock, than any other part of the vast formation that came under my notice.

M. Laplaye, a French geologist, who made a tour about ten years since, gave a memoir, with maps and sections of a great part of Estremadura, which may be useful to many who travel over the same ground; but although apparently complete, and well put together, it is stated that he frequently owed his information to the peasantry for parts he did not personally visit, and some of the patches of intruded rocks are rather larger than the scale strictly adhered to would warrant their being represented. Otherwise, to a stranger, there is some valuable information in his

Digitized by Google

little work, which the Spaniards have translated and published, with abbreviations, in their mining journal.

The great vein of Almaden is in a bed of fine quartzite, exactly similar in character to one that is seen between Logrosan and Guadalupe. In the formation, associated with the veins, is a curious grey conglomerate, chiefly of fragments of slate, of a light blue or grey colour, which, from its similarity in colour to the habit worn by that order previous to the suppression, is called the Franciscan, or Friars' rock, (frailesca). The principal vein appeared to me to rest against the slate, but not to run into it, which they informed me was the case at Almadenejos. The breadth and thickness of the vein, as well as the quality, seem to increase in descending, but the depth of the works is even now a serious inconvenience, which might be obviated by providing better means of ascent for the workmen. The common work of the mine, excepting the water, which is drawn by an old engine of Watt, is performed by a malacate or gin worked by mules.

The only locality in which fossils have been found in this vast formation is near Almaden, where trilobites and one or two other genera have been met with, which the Spanish geologists, assisted probably by the French, who sometimes cross the frontier, have considered to denote one of the older epochs, to which, no doubt, this formation of Estremadura must be referred. They consider the Cambrian series to be indicated, but it seems doubtful whether, as yet, there be data for that assertion to be made positively.

The termination of this great system of slates, to the south may be said to be the line of the Guadalquivir; although, as mentioned by Laplaye, it is covered near Cordova by a mass of tertiary matter, containing fossils analogous to those of Corsica. I have had no opportunity of examining this formation, which is of some extent, and I think it very

Digitized by Google

probable it is identical with the beds of Alcala la Real, between the Guadalquivir and the Sierra Nevada, which also appeared to me to form the bed of the river considerably higher up than Cordova, but I had not the means of closely examining them.

Dependent on these older deposits of Estremadura is the considerable coal field of Belmez, Espiel and Peñaroyal mentioned in the body of the work. I had no opportunity of examining the rocks to the south of it, but M. Laplaye, states that the coarse grits, that are mentioned as associated with the only bed of coal yet discovered, are inclosed on both sides by the slates, so that it appears to be a true basin, and will one day be of some value in the economy of Spain.

The basin of Villanueva del Rio, must also be considered as dependent on this same formation, and as stated in the account of my second visit, is found to be of greater extent than originally supposed. It is covered in part by a capping of recent tertiary, I suppose Pleiocene, and no doubt of the same age with that which covers extensive districts in Western Andalucia, as well as forming the elevated knolls of Carmona and the less considerable one of Alcala de Guadaira, where I found the pectens in the blue clay beneath it. This rock in some parts has so much the appearance of chalk, that it has deceived some persons, and the very last conversation I had with Colonel Silvertop was on this same subject, a statement having been made that amused us very much, and of which I think I have discovered the reason. In fact, the resemblance of some I saw that had been quarried, to real chalk, would deceive any one who looked to the mineralogy of rocks for geological assumptions; but there is very certainly no chalk any where in the Seville district. There are also small deposits of coal in

Digitized by Google

the Guadalcanal neighbourhood and other parts in Estremadura; I had no opportunity of seeing them, but I believe they are not of much importance.

We have seen that the line of the Guadalquivir is the southern boundary of the slates of Estremadura, or at least nearly so. Those on the other sides are not so easily defined. To the west I think they are covered by recent matter, chiefly by the alluvions of Western Estremadura. To the east, they very probably pass under the great freshwater and other modern formations of New Castile, but I have not data to assert positively that this is the case. As, however, I have little doubt that it will be found to be so, we shall have the great freshwater basin of New Castile resting on this; and at the opposite extremity, upon the marls, red sandstone, and limestone of the Sierra de Cuenca, as stated in my other work, and as first made out by me.

The northern termination is uncertain also, but the beds appear to continue beyond Almaraz, where they are cut through by the watercourse of the Tagus and covered by recent matter of some thickness. In the direction now alluded to, as forming the prolongation of the line, a bold range intervenes between Placencia and Almaraz, and very probably may be formed of these slates, after which they no doubt rest on the great primary axis, the spine of Spain; but these last are assumptions, having no data to give certain information. This vast formation, one of the most important in Spanish geology, will be again mentioned in the account of the northern provinces.

THE BASINS OF THE CASTILES.

In some tours made during my former stay in Spain, I discovered the very extensive freshwater basin of the Alcarria, a district undescribed, and I believe previously unvisited by almost any traveller. This vast lake, of which

Digitized by Google

the remains are spread out in a highly interesting manner, over the great table of red and variegated marl, resting on red sandstone, was seen by me, through a considerable part of the Alcarria, and to the east as far as near the watershed that divides the streams, flowing respectively to the Ebro and the Tagus. It is seen at Colmenar de Oreja, near Aranjuez, where it is extensively quarried for statuary and other ornamental work at Madrid, forming a very useful and durable material for the purpose.

Above Aranjuez, to the south of the Tagus, on the table land of La Mancha, an extensive formation is seen, beneath which the Guadiana partly disappears. I had no opportunity of examining this deposit in detail, but I am fully disposed to think that it is the western branch of this same lacustrine formation, more especially from some observations made the last time I passed it in June 1843; and I also believe from some information I received, as well as from a cursory inspection on a former visit, that the limestone of Valdepeñas, nearer to the Sierra Morena, will prove to be a part of it also; in which case, its importance, as a geological feature, unknown, until I pointed it out, will be much enhanced.

To return to the neighbourhood of Madrid. In my former account, a formation of gypsum is mentioned which in the parts between Cuenca and Tarancon is considerably developed, and also in a deep valley behind Arganda, nearer to the capital. I was unable to give a positive opinion at that time respecting the relative position of this gypsum to the freshwater deposit, but from information I received this time, I have no doubt that it underlies the lacustrine deposit, and very probably belongs to the red sandstone formation. The curious bed of magnesite near Madrid must, according to all appearance, be referred to this lacustrine deposit, but there are no fossils as yet to make it absolutely certain.

Digitized by Google

In my former work I mentioned a deposit of remains that had been discovered close to Madrid. Since that time Senor Esquerra has had it examined, and the parts discovered sent to Professor Bronn of Heidelberg, who has made out,

Mastodon longirostris,
M. Aurelianense,
Sus palæocherus,

and a ruminant approaching the stags, but being new and as yet unique, the name of Cervus Matritensis is proposed for it. Professor Bronn considers the second named of these animals to characterize the intermediary tertiary of his own arrangement. The M. longirostris is sometimes found in other deposits of a different age, but more frequently in those of this epoch. The Sus palæocherus has hitherto only been found in localities of the above mentioned age, viz. Vienna, Mentz, Friedrichsmund in Bavaria, Orleans, Gers, and other places.

In the point called Vallecas, where the magnesite is seen, another similar deposit has been recently discovered, and the epoch is considered to be the same as that already mentioned. No teeth have yet been found, and the bones only belonging to the larger mammifera.

OLD CASTILE.

A lacustrine formation of precisely similar nature to that of New Castile, occurs on the opposite flank of the great central range, and extends in its greatest development to the vicinity of Medina de Rio Seco, as mentioned in the narrative. This limestone forms the principal building material at Valladolid, as that of Colmenar de Oreja does at Madrid. Some beds were mentioned in my former work, and are marked in the transverse section, as existing near Valladolid, in the denuded valley of the Pisuerga. I obtained some fossils, but Mr. Lonsdale did not at the time

Digitized by Google

think they were quite decisive proofs of what formation it should be referred to, and I had no opportunity of revisiting it. I cannot positively say, whether these beds, some of which there is little doubt are freshwater, must be referred to the formation above mentioned, or whether they are independent of it: the mineralogical character is rather different from that of the localities of the freshwater limestone which have come under my notice.

There can be little doubt that these vast and most interesting deposits have been contemporaneous, and that two extensive lakes have existed, separated by the noble primary range of the Guadarrama, having been subsequently drained by the Guadiana, Tagus, and the Duero, with their tributaries. We have a small but interesting piece of geology of the vicinity of Burgos, by a native engineer of mines, Senor Don F. Naranjo y Garza. The superior bed of the tertiary formation mentioned by this gentleman, is a freshwater limestone, in which he found Planorbis carinatus, Limneus stagnalis, L. longiscatus. I had not the opportunity of visiting this deposit, but I have no doubt it is a limb of that already mentioned, to the south and west of it; beneath it appears to be a limestone, which they refer to the cretaceous period, with Cidarites granulosus, Micraster cor. anguinum, Spatangus bufo, Terebratula octoplicata, Cariophillia conulus? with the fragments of other shells, undoubtedly belonging to the chalk. This formation appears to be of considerable extent, and is cut through by the Ebro, having a deposit of lignite superposed. Senor Naranjo calls this tertiary deposit that of the Ebro; but as he also thinks it may be a part of the basin of the Duero, and as I suspect the greater development is on the course of that river, I see little utility in changing the denomination; nor can I perfectly understand the map which accompanies their survey in the Annales de Minas, for which both scale and lines of bearing are rather unsatisfactory.

Digitized by Google

The Sierra de Moncayo is a detached mass of considerable elevation, and on the plain of the Ebro is seen at a great distance. From the reports of Senor Esquerra, it appears to be of old red sandstone and mountain limestone, and no doubt supports a very extensive coal formation of the finest quality, which, as the Regent informed me, exists in the Rioja, a district on the middle Ebro. In crossing the low range between Madrid and Zaragoza, I observed slates near Alhama de Aragon, which appeared to be of older formation; and from the line of bearing, I considered might very probably belong to the Sierra de Moncayo. It is very likely we have here again another Silurian deposit, covered to a great extent by alluvial matter.

The Regent also informed me, that there was a very extensive coal formation in the Maestrazgo, a district not far from Valencia, but I know nothing whatever of its relations. The great-formation of marls, red sandstone and limestone, probably of the cretaceous period, that form the Sierra de Cuenca, it is very probable placed on those older deposits, and there is no reason to suppose the coal of the Maestrazgo may not rest on a part of the same system as Moncayo. These are mere hints and suppositions, but they might be of use in directing the inquiries of those who may have the opportunity. I fear the Maestrazgo will be insecure for some time, being the scene of the robberies already alluded to, unless the strong band now on foot there, be put down.

ASTURIAS.

The enormous coal formation of Asturias consists of a vast number of beds, from forty feet in thickness, to very small dimensions. These beds, have, subsequently to being deposited, been raised to a nearly perpendicular position, at least the greater part of them, and then again been covered by marl and sandstone, and above all by a cretaceous sea or

Digitized by Google

ocean, subsequently swept away in places, and leaving as islands, the parts now worked on the Nalon and its tributaries. The fossils of this cretaceous period are abundant in some places, and as they informed me, large quantities have been sent to Paris, for the purpose of being examined, we shall probably have a report of them shortly. Gijon and Oviedo are both placed on this chalk, and the coal measures rest upon the old red sandstone and other members of that epoch.

The greater part of the northern end of Asturias is composed of rocks so exactly resembling those of Estremadura that there is every probability of their being identical with them.

The geology of Asturias is divided by Mr. Schultz into five classes of formations. 1. Transition or Cambrian. 2. Encrinite or Silurian. 3. Carboniferous. 4. Iridescent Marls. 5. Cretaceous; besides some old igneous rocks and masses of transported materials, both ancient and modern.

The transition, as he calls it, or Cambrian, is the oldest regular formation in the country, and forms the western part of the principality, and the principal members of it are slates, quartzite, and greywacke, in all their varieties. The beds are generally highly inclined, and dipping to the N.N.W. There are thin beds of limestone, in general subordinate to the slates, and containing immense antique works, of which the object is as yet unknown.

There are various groups of igneous rocks in this formation, granite, sienite and amphibolite, with slates, having much the appearance of primary age. Mr. Schultz states that he is acquainted with five distinct groups of this class, one of which has been wrought for tin at an extremely remote epoch.

Other works of great antiquity are seen in parts of the

Digitized by Google

quartzite, which they suppose were wrought in search of silver, traces of it being found with galena; but there are others in Western Asturias, which it is impossible to conjecture the purpose they were intended for. Some minerals are found in this formation, but they do not appear to be of much importance. The fossils hitherto discovered are not of much interest, but are characteristic of the age assigned to the rocks.

I have been more particular in noting the observations made by Mr. Schultz on these rocks, because from his well known zeal and knowledge, as well as the great experience he has had in Asturias, they may be depended on as exact; and as the rocks, both from my own casual observation and his description, so exactly agree with those in Estremadura, that no doubt can exist of their being identical. I was the more struck with his description, because Mr. Schultz has not been in the other province, and that I had made my observations previous to reading his account. So exactly do these rocks on which the western end of the coal field repose, that in passing them, as already mentioned, I could have fancied myself back in the neighbourhood of Guadalupe. Cape Peñas and the immediate vicinity is stated to be of this same formation, which is borne out by observations I made in an excursion towards it in 1831.

The second formation of encrinite or Silurian, forms a great part of the Cordilleras, or principal chain to the east and centre. The limestone forms the most elevated peaks of Asturias and the quartzite is also common in it. The limestone contains vast caverns, serving as shelter for entire herds of animals in bad weather; and most abundant springs having been absorbed in the upper regions, pour from the rocks in various parts of the valleys. Two intermittent springs are mentioned and various small lakes. There are two thermal springs known, one of which near Oviedo, called Caldas, enjoys a high repute.

Digitized by Google

There are some interesting mineral deposits in various parts of this formation, of which copper, cobalt, and argentiferous galena are the principal, but as yet the quantity is small and they are little worked.

In the limestone are found many fossils, especially in the beds adjoining the Cambrian rocks; the most common being a product called de presa, that I cannot find an equivalent for, unless it be a misprint for depressa, which is very probable; encrinites are also common and are found in the highest mountains.

The third is the carboniferous series composed of sand, shales and conglomerates, with thin beds of limestone, without regular order, a peculiarity I noticed in my first visit to this district. The beds are nearly perpendicular between south-west and north-east. The extent is not less than twenty leagues, but the breadth is not so great, and the conformation is irregular, from being covered with the recent beds already mentioned.

There is no marked difference between the Silurian and carboniferous formations, which are conformable to each other. The shale and sandstone do not differ from others that he has seen, but the pudding or conglomerate is rather remarkable. The pebbles are extremely uniform in size and disposition, being always laid in a position parallel to that of the beds, and the cement is regular sandstone.

Few minerals have been met with in this formation, but some traces of quicksilver have been found above Oviedo, and sulphate of barytes has been noticed near Luarco in such quantity that it is used by the fishermen to sink their nets. The vegetable remains as yet discovered are small compared with those in other countries, but some of great beauty have been found near Oviedo.

The fourth formation is the new red sandstone and iridescent marls, which appear in parts along the coast, and

Digitized by Google

overlying the coal measures, and are covered in their turn by more recent beds, chiefly limestone. Hitherto the author has not found anything in Asturias certainly corresponding to the Jurassic period. In what he designates as keuper no fossils have as yet been discovered.

The fifth is the cretaceous formation, composed of various rocks with nummulites and other fossils, but as yet the true chalk with flints has not been observed.

This formation is much more extended than that of the keuper which it partly overlays. There are some groupes of igneous rocks that break through the Silurian formation, and appear to penetrate the cretaceous which partly covers it. Jet is found in this formation, and succine and sulphur occur in small quantities.

The organic remains are chiefly belemnites, pectens of large size, and an infinity of others that the writer had not been able to make out from want of time; but, as already mentioned they have been sent to Paris, so that there is no fear of their being made public.

The coal formation is broken off in one part nearly opposite to Palencia in Old Castile, and a considerable limb of it remains on that side of the water-shed. I had heard exaggerated accounts of the quantity and quality of this portion of the field, which is separated from the main body by a central axis of one of the older formations, but I believe it is in no way better, if so good as the Asturian coal, and from the locality, a long period must elapse before it can be of benefit either to individuals or the public.

The economical part of the coal formation was glanced at, in the account of Asturias. The companies particularly noted in the return are those of Siero y Langreo, Santofirme, Ferroñes, Arnao, and Mieres, which last produced very little or no coal in 1841, when the report was made. The product at that time of the whole mines,

Digitized by Google

and they have not much augmented subsequently, was 400,000 quintals, valued at 1,545,000 reals, or about £16,000. sterling, a very insignificant sum for a coal-field like this, one of the most extensive and easiest to work of any in Europe.

The principal shipping place is Gijon, which is too small and inconvenient, if the trade ever be fairly opened. The coal of Arnao, as already mentioned, is shipped at a small port, nearer to the sea than Aviles; and at the ria or mouth of the Nalon, it is thought there might be convenience, by making a railway, for embarking that from the Mieres district, the beds of which are the most extensive and the quality the finest in the whole field.

GALICIA.

We have the extraordinary good fortune to possess a regular geological memoir and map of this province from Mr. Schultz, who intends publishing a similar one of Asturias, the remarks above quoted being extracted from various detached notices given out by him. He is also commissioned by the Government to survey the whole of the kingdom, great part of which will be easy work compared with that of these wild and rugged provinces of the northern region.

The great deficiency at present in Spain is the want of good maps; the whole that figure in the Atlasses of Europe, with a small exception, being merely reprints with better engravings, of the antiquated productions of Lopez. The money expended this year in pronunciamentos, would have amply supplied the deficiency, and some of the "moustaches" engaged, would have been better employed in assisting to establish the triangles. I could hear nothing of the materials collected by the "neighbours," who, as mentioned in my former work, made one condition of the treaty, consequent on

Digitized by Google

the immortal expedition of 1823, that they should be allowed to employ staff or other officers to make regular military surveys of the country, with an understanding that the Spaniards for this kind consideration might have copies of their works. I could not hear anything of these said copies, and strongly suspect that the whole are safe at the depôt de la guerre, in a certain capital, ready for use when required. This enhances the difficulty of geological work very much, and I fear there is little chance of its being remedied for the present.

In a general view this province is nearly divided into two parts; the eastern division being formed of the slates of Asturias, and the western by rocks, chiefly igneous, of primary formation; this last division is considerably the larger of the two. The survey was conducted principally with a view to making known the mineral riches contained in this wild and previously little known country. The line I took from Ribadeo was principally through the slates, to near Villalba, in which district the granitic series form the basis, and continue with very little interruption to Vigo. The mountain ranges are less bold and wild than I expected to find them, and are much less striking than those of Asturias. In parts of the interior the water-sheds are mere tables, instead of the bold Sierras that might be expected. The coast to the north is the most picturesque in the conformation of the ranges of any part of the province.

The geology of this province, according to Mr. Schultz, is wanting altogether in the vast series from the chalk to the coal formation, both inclusive, and also in a great part of regular tertiary deposits, and in volcanic rocks.

The author estimates the primary surface at three-quarters of the whole province; comprising granite, gneiss, Micacite, Talcosite, Itacolumita, Chlorotite, Amphibolite,

Digitized by Google

Sienite, Diorite, Eufotide, Serpentine, Piedra Olla, Marble, Eurite, Porphyry, &c. thus offering a considerable variety in the series. Common granite appears to be the most extensive of the formations. The porphyritic granite, with large crystals of feldspar, is also common, and in some parts enormous detached blocks are strewed over the soil. A locality is quoted near Ribadavia, where blocks are seen of 5,000 cubic varas or yards, strewed on the surface. It is not mentioned whether they have been transported from a distance, which, from what I saw, I suspect is not the case. There are few minerals in this formation, excepting those of which traces have been discovered in small quantities.

The Itacolumita, which I was unacquainted with under that name, is described as a laminated quartzoze rock, rather elastic. It is used for the same purpose as common slate, and some of the fine white varieties for pottery.

The Piedra olla or pot-stone, is used for many domestic purposes. The primary limestone seldom occurs in Galicia, but a bed of beautiful white, is mentioned as occurring, associated with serpentine, near Ferrol, and there is also blue in the same locality.

Another considerable mass is found near Lugo, which is extensively worked for the use of the neighbourhood. There appears to be no regular order of superposition amongst these rocks. Granite, gneiss, micacite, chloritic rocks, and amphibolite are the most common of the series; the gneiss and the micacite, and other primary slates, are in a bearing nearly north, dipping rapidly to the west, but with remarkable exceptions. The granite is covered in places by mica slate, and in the Ferrol district, a vein of granite crosses the micacite. The gneiss and the slate are frequently seen intercalated in the granite.

The following alternation is seen in Valdeorras: granite,

Digitized by Google

black slate with garnets (maclifera), granite, chloritous gneiss and granite; in another locality between Boymorto and Carrejal, the following numerous alternation is seen: chlorite slate, porphyritic gneiss, granitic gneiss, amphibolitic chloritite, amphibolite, gneiseous granite, micaceous gneiss, serpentine, fine gneiss, black slate, gneiss, granite and gneiss, all occurring without the dip, rapidly to the west, being altered. There appear to be few minerals in this vast formation, with the exception of iron.

THE TRANSITION SERIES.

The rocks are not so numerous as in the last section, being chiefly clay slate, quartzite, limestone, and greywacke in the principal groups. The clay-slate is the most abundant, and furnishes excellent materials for roofing and for fencing, which are much used in some parts of Galicia. Some trilobites, orthoceratites and polypi have been found in these slates, but in general they are extremely scarce in Galicia. Some traces of plants resembling the Espadaña (catstail?) and some fragments of bivalves have been met with, but extremely indistinct. Quartzite is much more abundant than greywacke, which is less common in Galicia than in other regions of the same formation.

Transition limestone is more abundant than the primary in this province, alternating frequently with slates, but as yet no fossils have been found in it. In some places, the subordination to the primary rocks is clearly seen, but in others the contrary seems to be indicated. In many points where it is associated with granite, garnets are found in the slate.

The minerals in this formation appear to be principally iron, oxide, and sulphate of antimony. Argentiferous lead is also found in the slates near Mondoñedo. Copper to some extent was wrought in Valdeorras, but the veins

Digitized by Google

appear to have been exhausted. Near Lugo were ancient silver mines.

SECONDARY FORMATION.

An ancient bed of marl occurs in some valleys of Galicia, which Mr. Schultz considers secondary, but no fossils have as yet been discovered, to prove the age. It resembles the soil of the plains of the Castiles, (sic. I confess I do not think the soil of these plains can in general be considered of the secondary age.) In Galicia, these beds are chiefly horizontal and iridescent. Some parts are very much like the keuper, but others are not so, and a portion resembles our greensand. He has never been able to discover any fossil remains in these marls. Certainly the description would warrant the supposition of their being of the secondary age; but with the exception of the Alcarria, parts of which are undoubtedly secondary, I know no part of the Castiles answering his description.

TERTIARY DEPOSITS.

The principal feature in these deposits appears to be a formation of lignite, but of considerable extent and thickness near the Puentes de Garcia Rodriguez, of which no use has hitherto been made. In this formation are extensive beds of conglomerate, that have been worked to extract gold in ancient times to a very great extent; one in the Vierzo especially, which is described as gigantic, and to have been the work of entire armies.

Other more recent diluvial deposits are mentioned, but of little interest, excepting those of the Sil, which are auriferous, though not to any great extent; and the gold appears to have been furnished by the conglomerates previously mentioned. A vein or dyke of basalt is mentioned amongst the primary rocks, not far from Santiago, but of comparatively small importance, and the age not ascer-

Digitized by Google

tained. There are a considerable number of baths in the province, supplied principally by the sulphurous waters that are abundant in many places. Near Orense are three remarkable springs of nearly boiling temperature, which serve the inhabitants for all uses, nothing in taste or otherwise having been observed to lessen their utility.

The tin appears on the whole to be the most promising branch of mining industry, but the quantity is not sufficient to supply the kingdom, and the Government have hitherto refused to lay prohibitory duties on that sent from this country. Six localities are quoted where the mineral occurs in tolerable quantity.

I intended to give a notice of the Mines now open in Spain; but on applying for information at Madrid, they told me Government proposed publishing a complete one, so that I could not press the matter further. To give a notion of the extent of such a work, in the small district of the Alpuxarras there are 2,000 in operation! but a prodigious number only serve to waste money to no purpose. I heard, that of the incredible number at work, under the national mania for becoming suddenly rich, there were not more than 1,500 really making a return for the outlay. The coal is exempt from paying the five per cent. levied on the produce of all other minerals, by special grant, to encourage that important branch. There is a considerable sulphur deposit at Hellin, in Murcia, and a prospectus was issued to form a company to work one near Lorea, in the same region, when I was in Spain; but the overwhelming subject is Almagrera, as mentioned in the narrative.

Digitized by Google

ON THE FORESTS OF SPAIN.

OAK—PINE—ASH.

THE important subject of the natural forests of Spain was rather fully treated in my last work, with the exception of the small portion of territory I had not visited. I had therefore comparatively little left to do in that department, but I have been enabled to fill up one or two deficiencies which were unavoidably left. The most important is the making out most completely the Quexigo, an oak, the ascertaining the species of which was mentioned as a desideratum, and I actually wrote to Lagasca about it, just before his death, by the advice of Dr. Lindley, but the state of his health probably prevented his attending to it, for I never heard from him. In fact, without going to Estremadura, or the Sierra Morena, or other remote districts, it would have been impracticable; and from any information I could receive, in reply to the many inquiries I made, I do not think the Spanish botanists were much, if at all acquainted with it. I first made it out at Logrosan, and afterward most fully and completely at Pedroso. It is the more extraordinary that this oak should not have been noticed, from its constituting, next to the encina, and nearly equally with it, a leading feature of the ancient forests of Spain. From the southern verge of the Serrania de Ronda, above Marbella, I have traced it, during my various tours, to the centre of the mountains of Leon, almost to the water-shed of Asturias, and from the Alcarria above Guadalaxara, to the western parts of the Sierra de Morena. The first time I saw the tree was in the heart of the Sierra de Segura,

Digitized by Google

where were a few old specimens with acorns, which I brought home and gave to the Horticultural Society, but being perforated by an insect, as so frequently happens with those from the south of Europe, they did not vegetate. These were the only full grown trees I had then seen, and the closest attention did not enable me to make out any others, during the two years I was afterwards fully employed in working at the forests. The tree is seen, almost without exception, as scrub or copse, in which state vast tracts of it are to be met with in the wide region of its habitat. I have not the smallest doubt that the spray of this tree has furnished the Quercus Humilis of the older botanists, whose works have, until quite recently, furnished the materials for the compilations called the Natural History of Spain. The foliage differs considerably in size and colour, as usual in copse, and this is another reason for its figuring under different names. It is a very beautiful deciduous tree, and when in health, is second to none of the European species in appearance, and I have no doubt is hardy enough for our climate. The foliage is a dark shining green, the leaves of a sort of oval shape and serrated; they vary in size from one inch in length, or less, to four inches; so much so, that only a great deal of practice would enable any one to avoid confounding and splitting it into species. I suppose from the locality, this is the tree figured by Boissier, as Q. Alpestris, which absurd name he proposed to confer on it, but the Quercus Quexigo would be far more appropriate, and his plate does not much resemble this tree, although he calls it Quexigo.

In the Dictionary of Baretti, edited by Seaone, an exceedingly good book, with a fund of information, especially on Natural History, Quexigo is rendered Q. Muricata, and Linnæus quoted to support it, but I have consulted the highest authorities, and am assured there is some mistake,

Digitized by Google

and that no such tree is to be found in the works of the great Swede; nor is it at all probable he should have been acquainted with the species. I have never seen or heard of it either in any foreign or native works, unless in the doubtful case mentioned above.

No doubt can exist that the spray of this and other species, all of which will puzzle any one, and a regular botanist more almost than others, as he naturally looks to the flower and fruit for his characters, by their variety, have helped to furnish the extraordinary jumble of names (confusion worse confounded) brought together by Mr. Webb, in his attempt to classify those of the southern extremity of the peninsula.

It is quite impossible to judge of the arboriculture of a country so extended, and so varied in the climate and elevation of the regions that confine it, as Spain, by looking merely at one district; only by traversing it in all directions, and marking the different localities, and then classing them, can inferences be drawn correctly, as to the true place of those great vegetable productions. In estimating the arrangements of nature on this great scale, it is necessary not only to do this, but to extend the vision, if I may use the expression, and allow the eyes to range over the whole surface of the regions surveyed. No country I have ever seen is better fitted to repay the trouble by the interest it excites than this vast and beautiful kingdom, as will be proved when the whole of the observations I have made upon the forests are put together; since it possesses, as far as the two great regions of the south and centre, which compose nearly the whole of it, are concerned, a forest vegetation distinct from that of any other part of Europe. At present, the object is only to recapitulate the observations made this year.

The timber of the Quexigo is of good quality, but as

Digitized by Google

they never grow together, there are no means of comparing its absolute value with that of the Q. Robur. The bark of the large trees is corrugated much in the same way as that of the Encina. The elevation of the zone the two species inhabit is exactly similar, but I have not seen the Quexigo so low to the south as the congener, and I am not aware that it is found below the centre of the Sierra Morena, and the Serrania de Ronda. The medium height at which it is generally seen is from two to three thousand feet above the level of the sea, although both in the mountains of Leon, and in the Serrania de Ronda, it attains a greater elevation. Wherever they are seen in juxta-position, as in the Serrania de Guadalupe, and also in the Leon district, the species that is placed immediately above it is the Alvar, or Quercus tosa, mentioned in my former work as forming a zone in the Guadarrama and S. Nevada. This is the woolly leaved species so common in the Landes, and at the foot of the Pyrenees, and I believe also in the Boccage of La Vendee, the most northern habitat that I can quote belonging to it.

The fact that this very interesting tree should have escaped the notice of botanists, is not less surprising than that the Spanish Encina should have always been considered a common Ilex, until I pointed out the difference. It is so striking, that after returning from Spain the first time, I was looking over his extensive nursery stock with the late Mr. Malcolm of Kensington, when, amongst a vast collection of various sorts of evergreens, we came to a bed, which I instantly pointed out as the Spanish Ilex. He examined his book, and then said, "You are right, this bed was the produce of some acorns given me by Lord Holland, which I know he brought from Valencia; but I was not aware of its being a distinct species." It has unfortunately, one among other distinctions from the common Ilex, that of being less hardy, and it will barely exist in the

Digitized by Google

north of England, few of them I have raised, being now alive, whereas the common or Italian species grows remarkably well, though slowly, never attaining the size and form that it does in the south and west of England. I proposed the name of Quercus Hispanica for this species; but I have since ascertained that its range extends into Barbary, which renders it less appropriate, and by far the best appellation would be that of the natives, Q. encina. It is one of the elements in agricultural wealth in Spain, which like so many others they have, in a great measure, cast to the winds. The fruit is so good, that in the sober habits of the Spaniards they can, for a time, almost live upon it; and I was once saved from a probable attempt at robbery, by a party who were so engaged in collecting the acorns, they did not perceive our approach, and my guide having seen and pointed them out, we happened to turn off the road, and thus avoided them.

The next Oak to be mentioned, is the Q. Cerris, which I was truly glad to see in Spain, though a little surprised at the locality, being the mountains of Leon; nor did I ever see a trace of it further south. I met it again, but in small numbers, near Villalba in Galicia, associated with the Q. tosa and the common Robur, which abounds in all Galicia and Asturias; in fact, in the whole humid or Devonshire region, but in a natural state is not, to my knowledge, found elsewhere, unless it be in Catalonia, of which I am not certain. The only species I saw, is the pedunculata, and I never met by any accident, a specimen of sessiliflora.

The fact of the Q. Robur not being far beyond the moist or northern region in Spain is rather remarkable, because at Naples, it is the principal species, and Professor Tenore assured me there was no other Oak in Campania; and I think also the great forests of S. Germano are formed of it; whilst further north, the Q. appennina is of more frequent occurrence.

Digitized by Google

OF THE ASH.

The Ash is extraordinarily rare in the south and central regions of Spain. It is not now cultivated, and the only specimens I saw growing wild, were in the wilder parts of Estremadura and the Sierra Morena, where they were generally by the side of the water courses. The only species that I have seen in these regions, is the lentiscifolia. The first year that I was in the interior of Spain, I picked up the seed of an ash near the Escorial; but the leaves having fallen, I did not ascertain the species, but sending them to England they vegetated, and are now growing in Northumberland. This is the same tree, and I have never seen it further north, than New Castile; at the same time I think it probably may exist as far as Leon, where, the instant you cross the chain, the Fraxinus excelsior, our common species supplies its place; at least, I could make out no difference. The timber of F. lentiscifolia is heavy and less elastic than that of our species, but the elegance of the tree and its perfect hardiness in a dry soil, should make it more common than it is in our ornamental collections.

PINES.

I was extremely glad to hear that the Pinsapo of the Serrania de Ronda, had been made out, of which I had announced the existence in my former work; the information, for which I was indebted to the Condesa de Teba, now Duchess of Montijo, having reached me at a period too late to enable me to do so personally. I have mentioned in the narrative, the unlucky misinformation that prevented me examining the forest; but it is of little consequence, as the trees are now common in collections. Those that I have are decidedly different in character from any other of the European species, and very much from those of A.

Digitized by Google

cephalonica. It would be very desirable to have the forests of Navarre and the western Pyrenees examined, as they are chiefly of this tree, to ascertain whether they be all of the same species as that which ascends so high in the central chain, where it is only topped by P. sylvestris and P. uncinata; and whether those of the lowest region, nearest the level of the ocean, do not differ from them. The only additional habitat of the other Pines I have to mention, is that of the Pinaster, which grows in immense quantities in Galicia; also less abundantly in northern Estremadura, and in the Sierra de Guadalupe. Thus this species, from the Landes of Bordeaux, entirely crosses Spain, by Galicia and Asturias, the Guadarrama range, the Sierra da Guadalupe and Serrania de Ronda above Marbella; always preserving the relative height and latitude, as pointed out in my classification of the European Pines, read at Newcastle in 1838. I have no doubt that if the higher and more remote valleys of Asturias were examined, most of our familiar species would be found there, and probably some new varieties. I think the Platano, mentioned in the account of Oviedo, differs from our common Sycamore, but in a small degree; and the account they gave me of the wood, makes it well worth the examination, should there be an opportunity of doing so. The Chesnut is in vast quantities in Asturias and Galicia, but hardly at all anywhere else; and the name has unquestionably been applied to it, owing to our regularly receiving the fruit from those provinces, with the common nuts, which are quite distinct from the well known Catalonian fruit, chiefly grown near Tarragona, and dried in a peculiar manner, impracticable in the northern region.

The Birch is seen in Asturias, and immense quantities occur in Upper Galicia. The common Alder and Elder, are met with not only in the same congenial region, but as far south as the Guadalquivir, a circumstance I did not expect.

Digitized by Google

The only Elder I saw in any part of Spain, is the S. nigra, our common species; and I never saw the S. racemosa, which is not uncommon in the Pyrenees. Mr. Loudon made a mistake in quoting me for authority, as to its being a Spanish plant, as the only locality I ever saw it in, excepting in Germany and Bohemia, is in the high Pyrenees, near Bagneres de Luchon, whence I sent the seed. I cannot point out any difference in the species; but the fruit, the great ornament of the tree, is certainly more beautiful in that region than I ever saw it in Germany. The most northern habitat I know it to occupy is Carlsbad, and it appears to be equally hardy with the common species.

ZOOLOGY.

The most important novelty in the way of quadrupeds to be communicated is the making out the Melon, the Herpestes Widdringtonii of Mr. Gray, but as it is mentioned in the account of the Sierra Morena, the repetition is unnecessary. The description of Mr. Gray is as follows, Herpestes Widdringtonii, Andalucian Ichneumon, Melon: Fur, black and white, grisled; side of the nose, feet, and the end of the tail blackish; the hair of the back is long, black, with three white, broad rings, and a very fine brownish tip; under fur, soft, bay-coloured, half as long as the hairs, most seen on the middle of the back; the hairs of the face are short, adpressed; the throat and belly are nakedish; the ears short, rounded, covered with short, soft, fine fringed hairs. Habitat Andalucia.—Length of body and head 22 inches, of tail 20. This species is most nearly allied to *Herpestes Ichneumon*, but it differs from that species in the hairs being much shorter, and having three rings, while the hairs on the back of *H. Ichneumon* are white, with seven broad black rings, leaving a long white bar, and only narrow rings between the black ones above.

Digitized by Google

It would certainly be better to give the Spanish name, and to confer a general appellation on the species, instead of the Andalucian; as, although I was not at all satisfied about its existence in Estremadura, it may be confirmed. The doubt as to the habitat they assigned it is the stronger, because none of the people belonging to the Museum travel in that direction, or hardly any one else; but still the locality was more likely to have led to discovery than that of the Sierra Morena, which is so little known, and so covered with brushwood of all kinds. I was the more inclined to doubt the correctness of the story, from the profound ignorance of everything connected with their own Zoology that exists even now, and the concomitant jealousy,—one of the weaknesses of the country,—so apparent when they produced this as their own discovery. To shew how entirely unacquainted they are with this subject, I inquired about the species of deer existing in Spain, which I had not been able to examine. They mentioned the Cervus Elaphus, C. Dama, and C. Capreolus; but they shewed me C. Dama as the last species, and it did not exist in the collection! I believe the C. Elaphus (red deer) is found only in the wilder parts of Asturias and Galicia, and possibly in the central range. I have little doubt that the C. Dama (fallow deer, but not our species) is the common deer of the centre and south; and the Capreolus (roebuck) I know is found in Upper Catalonia, and no doubt in many other parts, although they were unacquainted with it. I give the best information in my power, but it is evident that in such a country there may be many more species or varieties. The great habitat of the common deer are the Sierra Morena, the Sierra de Guadalupe, Sierras de Segura and Cuenca.

The Ibex is rather common in the Sierra Nevada, and

Digitized by Google

in the lofty range above Marbella, and other parts of the Serrania de Ronda. I was promised a specimen at Granada, and the men were out some days, but did not succeed in killing one; the difficulty of obtaining it proceeded from the advanced season, which induced the animals to resort to the highest peaks, from which they are driven by the winter snows, when they are frequently killed and brought to market. The Ibex are likewise found in Aragon, in the highest Pyrenees.

The Genet and the spotted Lynx are mentioned in the narrative, and as both species are well known they do not require more particular description. In a local account I have of Galicia, the Lynx is incidentally mentioned as common in the wilder parts of the province; and it would be desirable to ascertain whether, as I have little doubt is the case, it be the common species of the Alps and north of Europe, or the spotted variety (F. Pardina), which it is probable does not inhabit the country north of the great central range.

I made all the inquiries possible about the wild Cat of the Sierra de Cuenca, which I am more and more satisfied is distinct from that of the north of Europe. There was one bad specimen in the Museum, but they were unacquainted with the locality it came from. The marking of the head is extremely distinct in the species alluded to.

The Wolves I saw in Galicia were the common grey species, and I never heard of any other; but as we are told that a black species exists in the Pyrenees and some other parts, I will make inquiry; though I have little doubt of finding that the reports are erroneous; the fashion being to clothe any very ferocious animal in black or dark colour. They are abundant in the Sierra Morena, so that they may be said to range over the whole country. A circumstance

Digitized by Google

was related to me by a gentleman I knew in Estremadura, which happened to a friend of his in the same country, shewing the boldness that occasionally characterises their proceedings. He was travelling in the summer time near Caceres, when he made his mid-day halt in a forest. After tying up a valuable horse he was riding to a tree, he was standing at no great distance with his gun in his hand, when he saw a large wolf approach the animal, which, probably taking him for a dog, paid no attention to his movements. After going round the horse once or twice, drawing nearer each time, he suddenly stopped when under his head, and scratching the earth so as to raise the dust, in an instant flew at the throat, severing the windpipe by a single bite of his powerful jaw. The proprietor saw the whole transaction, but never expecting such a catastrophe, took no measures to frighten the brute, which was so eager for his prey that he overlooked his being there. He fired at the wolf, but in the hurry and surprise missed; and he got clear off, leaving the horse of course mortally wounded. In my tour to the Sierra de Segura in 1830, I mentioned the bivouacking very near their abode, and our horses certainly had an escape, if they are equally savage with those of Estremadura.

I hope to have some further information on the subject of the smaller mammalia, before I put the whole of the natural history that has come under my observation together, as it is my intention to do for the Ashmolean Society.

ORNITHOLOGY.

From the comparatively small duration of my last tour, and the attention I had paid to the Ornithology during the three years I was previously in Spain, I cannot contribute much novelty to the facts mentioned in my former work;

Digitized by Google

THE REPTILES.

I have little to add to the comparatively scanty list in my former work of the Reptiles, but I hope shortly to have some additional information respecting them. I saw the Natrix Elaphis in Estremadura, as before mentioned, but snakes are rare in Spain, at least, in most parts. I was assured that both species of viper, the Berus and Ammodytes, are in Andalucia, but not having seen specimens, I cannot positively answer for its being the case. The snake I saw capture a mouse in Murcia, as related in my other work, was the C. virido flavescens, and these two are the only individuals I ever met with in my rather extended tours, through so many localities likely to have produced them.

N.B.—It may be well to observe, that under the name of red-legged Partridges, there are three quite distinct species. Perdix rufa, P. Saxatilis, and P. petrosa. The former is our common red-legged Partridge, and is the most abundant in Europe. The P. Saxatilis, or Bartavelle of the French, found in Italy and Greece; and the P. petrosa, which is chiefly known as a Sardinian species, being the only partridge found in the island, as I was informed by Professor Bonelli. It has been reported to exist in the Maritime Apennines, but, on inquiring into the matter at Genoa, they assured me that if any had been killed, they must have been accidental stragglers, blown over by the gales from the island.

Digitized by Google

ON THE AGRICULTURE OF SPAIN.

A REPORT on the Agriculture of Spain was sent to the Society of that art in Great Britain, at the request of Mr. Pusey, and published in their journal. As the time and space allotted were rather limited, it is now transcribed and corrected, with considerable additions.

In my work on Spain, published in 1834, after looking a good deal into the natural history, I proposed a division of the country into three great zones or divisions, as marked out by the hand of nature. On more mature reflection and observation, I am more and more inclined to adhere to this arrangement, and I now advert to it because it assists most materially in judging not only of the natural, but the artificial productions of the earth. The first division is that of the territory lying along the Mediterranean at the foot of the Sierra Nevada, and the great secondary ranges of mountains which extend with hardly any interruption from the western extremity of the Peninsula to the Pyrenees. In the whole of this comparatively narrow district, to which I have applied the name of "tierra caliente," (warm land), little wheat or even barley is cultivated. The soil in most of the finest and most highly cultivated parts, as the Huertas or gardens of Valencia and Murcia, is naturally poor and arid, and owes its exuberant fertility to the hand of man, by irrigation, of which, amongst the most interesting works in the world, are those of the Moors, which still remain nearly unaltered in the hands of their descendants. These celebrated works, which must yield to those of the Hindoos and Chinese, are chiefly embankments of streams, and not pantanos or reservoirs, which are,

Digitized by Google

if anything can be said to be more than another, the greatest desideratum in Spain. In Valencia and Murcia, where the cultivation is about the best in Moorish Spain, the law of apportionment of the waters is extremely strict, and well administered, being by a kind of jury selected by the parties themselves; and as the commodity is of vital existence, they are proportionably watchful and jealous in the management of it, and the life of any one who should damage, or attempt to appropriate any portion unduly to himself, would be the forfeit of his trespass.

In some spots, principally at the mouths of the rivers, better soil is found; and in some places, especially in the sugar grounds of Motril and Almuñecar, it consists of vegetable mould and detritus constantly brought down by the melting of the eternal snows above them. The Vega of Malaga is fine loamy soil, and in it wheat is chiefly grown. In general, in this district, the productions are extremely varied; besides oil, wine, and silk, pulse of various sorts, lucerne, (cut in some places twelve times in the year), rice, sugar, pimeinta or red peppers, batatas (Convolvulus batata), cotton, even coffee has been tried with partial success. The cochineal insect is easily raised at Malaga and other places, and the chirimoya, a tropical plant, perfects its fruit in the open gardens at Motril. The sugar plantations are increasing, as I was informed; the proprietors having benefited by the abrogation of the tithes, which fell heavily on so valuable an article. Notwithstanding the surpassing fertility of a portion of this district, the far greater part is a dry and arid desert, as far as agriculture is concerned, vast tracts producing only the most fragrant and beautiful wild plants in Europe. The establishment of pantanos or reservoirs to collect the winter rain, in the mode of those of India, for which there is great facility, in many

Digitized by Google

parts, would produce extraordinary change in the face of this most interesting region.

The principal food of animals in some parts is the pod of the algarroba, or locust tree (Cercis siliquastrum), which grows in the most arid soil, but the value of it is almost exclusively known to the Valencians and Catalonians; whilst, from the want of better animal food, bacalao or dried cod, fried in oil, is a staple article in that of man. This is not eaten in compliance with the ordinances of the church, as the people of the whole of Spain are exempt by special bull from the ordinary fasts of the Roman Catholic church, on account of the difficulty of procuring fish in many parts of the kingdom; but as a regular standing article of food, and in most of the villages the traveller can procure little else. To shew more clearly the nature of the line I have drawn as to the climate, on the 20th of May they were in the middle of the wheat harvest in the Vega of Malaga, whilst in that of Granada, which belongs to the second division, a fortnight afterwards the corn was perfectly green, and there was nearly a month difference from that and the "tierra caliente" only a few miles distant.

The second region is by far the greatest in extent, in value, and importance in every way, of any in the Spanish peninsula. It comprises the two Castiles, Aragon, Estremadura, the greater part of Catalonia, Upper Andalucia, and part of Navarre and Leon. From the products of the greater part of it, the term 'cerealian' may with great propriety be applied to it. Throughout its vast extent wheat is produced in quality, and would be in quantity if it were properly tilled, equal, if not superior, to that of any country on the globe. The better parts of this division are the two table-lands of Old and New Castile, with the territory of La Mancha and of Cuenca, the territory of Guadalaxara, the Alcarria, a district near the sources of the Tagus,

Digitized by Google

that of the valley of the same river above and below Talavera, and the province of Toledo. In Old Castile the territory of Olmedo and Palencia, of Burgos, with most parts of the course of the Duero and its tributaries.

The kingdom of Leon, with its noble streams of the Esla and others, has a great deal of admirable soil, and also belongs to this division, the northern part running into the third region. Estremadura, which would form a respectable kingdom of itself, were it cultivated, is upon the whole the finest province in Spain; nearly the whole of the soil is fertile, and only the lofty mountains, which ought to be covered with the finest timber and grazing grounds, are incapable of producing the cerealia in the greatest perfection. The richest parts are the valley of the Tagus, the territory of Caceres, that of Merida, and of the Lower Guadiana. In Aragon, the country on both sides of the Ebro, which nearly divides it; that of the Xalon, the province of Molina, and many basins and alluvial districts on the streams which rise in the dreary mountains, that form too large a portion of this kingdom.

In Catalonia, the plain of Urgel, not the Seu, which is in the Pyrenees, but a flat not far from Barcelona, lately irrigated by a canal of considerable extent; the country on the Llobregat and other rivers, where, as in Aragon, small tracts of extreme fertility are cultivated and often irrigated, whilst, like the adjoining province, great part of this is formed of dry and arid mountains.

In Upper Andalucia we have the beautiful Vega of Granada, the Lomo de Ubeda, a large tract of surpassing fertility near the sources of the Guadalquivir; the plain of Jaen, which formed a kingdom in the time of the Moors; Western Andalucia, resting on the Serrania de Ronda, also belongs to this division, and parts of the course of the "great river" (so called by the Moors), especially the territory of Cordova and Ecija.

Digitized by Google

In this vast extent of territory there is every description of soil; but the predominant kind are clays (barro) of different qualities, loam, sandy loam, calcareous loam, red and other marls, and small quantities of sand near Valladolid, Salamanca, and some other parts.

The soils of the Castiles are in great part sandy loam and clays, some of them (near Madrid) rather unfertile. The Alcarria and Guadalaxara chiefly consist of red marls and sandy loam; that of Aragon contains all sorts, but there is a great deal of sandy loam and red marl; Estremadura has marls, sandy loam (predominates), and barro or clay. In Leon the prevailing soil is sandy loam. In Catalonia red and blue marl is the most abundant soil, but others are found amidst its varied and mountainous tracts.

The third region is that of the north, and comprises Galicia, Asturias, the Basque Provinces, and the greater part of Navarre. The vicinity to the Atlantic, the formation of the mountains, and other circumstances, produce abundance of moisture; and as the first division is characterized by the want of it, so is this by its superabundance. This region has also its characteristic, natural as well as artificial, productions, and the maize or Indian corn in great measure replaces the wheat of the great middle division.

As the distinction of the two first divisions was pointed out at Granada, so may this by the effects of difference of climate in the seasons. Whilst the spring and early summer in Estremadura this year were the finest known for the last ten years, and every description of crop was teeming in abundance, in Galicia, up to the middle of July, they had had only the most cold and inclement weather, and were under the most serious apprehensions for the maize crop, on which, as on the potato in Ireland, the mass of the people depend for subsistence.

In the first region a great portion of the work is done

Digitized by Google

by manual labour, the comparative smallness of the ground in occupation, the nature of the productions, and the dearness of fodder, causing that mode to be the most generally resorted to. As the intense heat only requires a supply of water to cause an exuberant vegetation, the quality of the soil is of less consequence; in this it resembles some of the finest parts of Italy, which owe their seeming natural fertility to the same cause.

The waste consequent on their constant and exhausting crops is readily supplied by the manures, of which all the descendants of the Moors, the inhabitants of the greater part of this division, are perfectly aware of the value, and take much pains in the application of them.

The Moorish agriculture is almost solely known in this division; the mode handed down from father to son being infinitely better than any known to their conquerors from the north and central table of Castile. They were, especially, well acquainted with the use of manure, which was classed according to its qualities. They always considered that from dovecots to be the best; the second, that of night soil; the third, that of asses; fourth, goats; fifth, sheep; sixth, oxen; the seventh, that of horses and mules, if pure and unmixed; and that from swine to be the worst of all. They held, that manure should never be less than one year old when used, but that it is better for being kept even three or four years, on account of the insects generated by it. Most particular directions are given as to the mixture of different kinds, according to the qualities they were reputed to possess, and those of the plants are even distinguished from each other, especially when burned. They seem to have attached great importance to the ashes produced, and also to the scouring of ditches and reservoirs. The dung of birds was highly esteemed, but not that of the aquatic species, to which they attributed much the

Digitized by Google

same qualities as in most parts of the country are applied to that of geese. So much greater was the knowledge of these people than that of the Castilians, that in the Spanish agriculture of the time of Philip the Second, the Moorish practice of making compost at Granada is quoted by Herrera, who had witnessed it, as worthy of imitation.

In Valencia the common custom exists, of the peasantry possessing the immemorial privilege of carrying off the gravel from the streets at certain intervals, replacing it by fresh material. They are so tenacious of the right, that the most serious riots have ensued from the attempt of the Ayuntamiento to pave the streets; and when I was there, they considered it hopeless to attempt making any alteration in this most inconvenient arrangement. It may easily be imagined the condition the streets are always in between the two operations, and the bringing entirely fresh and dusty material in that dry and burning climate.

In this division few animals are kept, and still fewer bred. Small and inferior horses; asses of very superior size and make, with some mules, form the principal part of the labourer's live stock.

In the second region, wheat, which is always of the finest quality, forms the staple food of man of every rank; barley principally that of the horses and mules; rye is much cultivated, chiefly for the use of the bullocks. Besides the cerealia, wine, oil, pulse of various kinds, might be produced in unlimited quantities; whilst in the scanty remains of the magnificent forests which have been swept away by the ruthless management of a barbarous government, we yet find vast herds of swine, producing meat of a quality unknown elsewhere. In this district, also, are the summer and winter pasturages of the merinos, and other breeds of sheep, which even now would produce ample revenues, were they properly managed. In this, as

Digitized by Google

in every other division, are enormous tracts of land known under the emphatic term of "despoblado." Much of the finest land in Spain is in this situation, many towns and villages having disappeared within the last two or three centuries. In the province of Toledo alone forty towns are said to have disappeared since the time of Philip II., the greater part of which were places called "of labradores" (farmers or agriculturists) from their population being exclusively concerned in agriculture, of which description the greater part of the small towns and villages in the interior are.

The term despoblado, which the practised traveller in the country is too familiar with, means depeopled, or that has lost its population; the facility of making words suited to any contingency being found in the greatest perfection in their magnificent language. I shall, at the end of this notice, point out the causes that have produced the extraordinary deserts we see under that name. The term desierto is only applied to a land, naturally sterile and unproductive, as in their wilder mountains. Thus we have on the Sierra Nevada, the desierto de S. Geronimo. In that of Cuenca, the desierto, above Priego, &c.

In Estremadura, the rich barros, or clays of the lower Guadiana are, I believe, for I have not had the opportunity of examining them, silt or warp. These lands are of such surpassing fertility, that, with a little manure, they bear successive crops of the finest wheat, yielding twenty-five to thirty, and even fifty-fold return, for thirty or forty years in succession; nor, with care, does it appear necessary ever to change the crops, although it is done in a small degree. In a vast many districts, especially where the want of population and of the means of transport (though this last want is now daily diminishing by the making of roads) cause a comparatively small demand for wheat, the wretched plan is followed by taking one crop, and letting the land lie fallow for the next two years, the last being occupied in

Digitized by Google

clearing and preparing it. In others, where the demand and supply are greater, they substitute beans, or garbanzos; and in some, with the use of barley, and beans, or vetches, the land is kept in constant cultivation. In all parts of Spain, the waste and desert appearance is partly caused by the vast extent of the common lands belonging to the towns and villages, the system of management of which is ruinous in the extreme, and the finest districts, capable of enriching the proprietors and the country at large, are abandoned to, and only serve as pasture for goats, sheep, or a few asses.

The garbanzo (Cicer arietinum), a coarse pulse, nutritive, but heavy and difficult of digestion, forms an ample part of the product of this region. It is deep-rooted, and in some parts they reckon it an exhausting crop, but in others, not at all so. I was assured, that in some places it brings saltpetre to the surface, and in so great a quantity, as to be prejudicial. Can this be? If so, it cannot be the natural excretions of the plant, but must surely be extracted from the subsoil, and given out again, as it were, mechanically, merely passing through the plant.

In this passage I merely quoted what I had heard from the people, but in looking into the authorities on the subject, I find that such an opinion has always existed, and they say, that salt exists in the seed itself. I confess I have perceived a slight brackish taste in the best garbanzos, as if they had been boiled in salt and water, and am not aware what is the real cause of it. The best authorities seem to agree that there is nothing in the plant to deteriorate the soil, as they think in Estremadura; but there may be a great difference in the results, according to the nature of the ground, and also the climate. It does not appear by their statements that the pulse suits any other country so well as Spain; it requires a quick hot sun, and should have little wet in the latter period of the growth,—all conditions amply supplied in this country. This pulse, which is so important in the

Digitized by Google

rural economy of Spain, appears to have been entirely unknown to the Moors, no mention of it being made in their agriculture, and it is even now little, if at all, cultivated in the tierra caliente, nor in the northern or moist division, being confined almost entirely to the centre or middle region. It is as regular an attendant at the Spanish table of every rank of people as potatoes are here, or the polenta in the north of Italy. They state, on good authority, that this plant contains a great deal of phosphate of lime: it is reported by the common people to have a remarkable medicinal effect in certain cases. In cultivation it is much infested by the Cuscuta Europæa, and is subject to a fatal disease called Rubia, the nature of which is not known.

In almost every part of this region that I have noticed, the crops of rye are very scanty, nor can I assign a reason, unless it be the practice of sowing in spring, which is that generally followed. They do not consider that it exhausts the soil; in fact, from the smallness of the crops it can hardly produce that effect. It is used almost entirely for the food of bullocks in this division. They admitted, when I urged the point, that the comparative small value of the straw and of the grain would enable other grain to be advantageously substituted for this, which I was very much surprised to find so much cultivated in this noble region, capable of producing so much better grain of every kind.

Most parts of this cerealian region produce oil and wine in the greatest perfection, but both are badly managed, and the latter is not only little attended to, but the worst mode of preparation followed. Very little is consumed by the people themselves, few of whom drink anything but water, and there is no demand or means of transport to any distance. There are parts of Old and New Castile, of Aragon, and of Estremadura, of which the names are unknown out of their own immediate locality, where the most wholesome and delicious wines are made, and could be improved so as

Digitized by Google

to excel probably those of any other country. The most extraordinary sight I ever witnessed of this kind was that of the vineyards between Olmedo and Valladolid, this year; such was the abundance, that the only resource left them in such a season was to throw away the old wine and fill their vessels with the new. The prunings of the vines are almost the only fuel they have in some places, and are consequently sometimes of more value than the wine itself.

There is an account of most of the wines in my former work on Spain, but they may now be mentioned in groups as they occur. Those of Xeres and Malaga are too well known to require more particular notice. Immense capital has been invested at Xeres, and in the country for a great distance round; and the greatest attention is paid to bringing the wine to perfection. I was assured, on the highest authority, which is fully borne out by daily observation, that every year they give purer and better wines for the same prices, and that the inferior, high brandied, hot, and unwholesome stuff that used to be sold at the lower rates, will shortly disappear from their market; especially as the public are beginning, slowly, to understand and appreciate the fine and genuine light wines which are the natural growth of the soil, and are only made otherwise by the bad practice of loading them with the hot and fiery Spanish brandy. The fashion is so completely fixed on this wine, that there is little chance of any other entering into competition with it; otherwise, if the same expenses were incurred in the neighbourhood of Malaga, the wines would fully equal them.

There are exceedingly good red wines made at Baza, and in the Alpujarras, and another class, somewhat like those of the Rhone, are produced all about the skirts of the Huerta of Valencia. In Upper Valencia and Catalonia, a great quantity, principally of strong and coarse red wine,

Digitized by Google

badly cured and managed. In Upper Catalonia the wines are extremely good, being of a lighter description, like those of the Roussillon, and the Seitjes and Priorato on the coast, produce delicious vintages, something of the class of Tokay.

The most celebrated wine of the interior of Spain is the Valdepeñas, a red wine, some of which, when kept and well managed, is of very superior quality, and fit for any table; but the quantity of this description is small, and the greater part, from mismanagement of some sort in the making, has a heavy and disagreeable flavour, which I have heard not unaptly compared to a solution of liquorice root. There is no difficulty in obtaining this wine, excepting the want of casks, which must be sent to the spot from the sea ports where it is to be shipped. The price is so low, and the carriage so moderate, that if the merchants at Cadiz, or elsewhere, chose to do so, they could easily ship any quantity of it. The other wines of the same region, as Arganda and the Alcarria, are nearly or quite as good, were they attended to.

The best wines of the interior, upon the whole, are those of the Rioja and Lower Navarre, along the course of the Ebro. These are light and generous, and capable of being made as good as any in Europe. In Old Castile and Leon there are good red and white wines, but far inferior to what they might be made, under proper management and with a demand to repay the cost of it.

In the northern and third region little wine is made, excepting in the west of Galicia, where it is of lighter quality than most in Spain, but the quality is far from good in general. That of the lower Miño, from what they informed me, is of much better description than the others.

In Estremadura the wine is chiefly a muscat, and in some places it is light and delicious, forming a quite dis-

Digitized by Google

tinct class from any other in Spain. In general all these wines are essentially safe and wholesome, where the fashion has not been introduced by foreigners of mixing and adulterating them.

The most extensive cultivation of the olive is now in Upper Andalucia, and the valley of the Guadalquivir, where it is increasing most rapidly, owing to the demand for their fat rich oil in France and England, as well as a great augmentation in the internal consumption. It is becoming a vast source of wealth both to individuals and to the public, the returns being certain and the other produce of the lands by no means injured by the plantations, which are made in open order.

In the third or humid region, the system, both natural and artificial, is quite different from that of the others, the staple food of man in the greater part being maize; the cultivation of it is the principal object; and it is generally raised by manual labour. In the higher parts of the country, especially at a distance from the coast, rye bread is substituted for it, and it is almost exclusively used for the purpose. The domestic animals are fed with hay, other forage being scarce, and in some places to be had with great difficulty. Here only in Spain is anything like a dairy system to be found, and at Oviedo they have improved so much, that the butter is as good as the generality in England.

Little wheat is grown in this region, and, in consequence of the badness of the communication, this grain, which is often unsaleable in Old Castile, bears a very high price in Asturias, only a few leagues distant, exactly as appeared to be the case in Ireland, from the reports made a few years since. The animals principally used in this region also differs from those of the others. The bullock is substituted for the mule, both for ploughing and drawing their antique

Digitized by Google

cars with revolving axle-trees, causing the valleys to ring with their creaking noise. Notwithstanding this rude and primitive mode of conveyance, there is no doubt that, in point of economy, the inhabitants, in many parts of this division, are further advanced than those of the richer regions of the south and centre. In Asturias and Galicia they use the furze which covers the mountains in great part, both for forage and conversion into manure. After lying several years, they take a crop of rye, which is extremely heavy, and the bread is the best of the sort I ever tasted, not having the least of that unpleasant flavour so general in that of the south of Europe, but being perfectly sound and sweet.

The horses in this division are small, but hardy and vigorous, some I saw resembling the better kind that are bred in the small Cantons of Switzerland.

Besides the important difference in climate, as before mentioned, there are others of not less consequence—some resulting from, and others connected with it. The quantity of herbage, and the facility of making hay, is one great difference; the hills are as green as those of these islands, and, in many parts, the country is divided into small allotments, the people residing much upon their properties; whereas in the central, and greater part of Spain, they live almost wholly in villages and towns, whence they sally out to work in the neighbouring fields. Whilst in some of the finer parts of Spain the country is desolate, from the immense extent of the properties, and the supine neglect and ignorance of the proprietors, who live in idleness, not in luxury, but in poverty, in the capital; some parts of the division we are speaking of are suffering to a great extent by the too minute division of land, resembling, excepting that they are proprietors, the state of some parts of Ireland. Whilst the abrogation of tithes, and the substitution of a

Digitized by Google

direct tax, for the payment of the clergy, have, in the great cerealian region, been a very great benefit to the holders and occupiers of land, in the moist or verdant country it is the reverse; and the difficulty of realising money for the payment of the priests is so much greater than that of the mode of payment in kind, which worked lightly, that they complain heavily of the change, and would willingly revert to the old system, which was apparently so much heavier.

In every part of the country regions, the instruments of agriculture are of the rudest description. They rarely plough deep enough, and in some provinces do little more than scratch or harrow the surface. The soil and climate compensate for this in ordinary years; but droughts are often fatal, from the roots being too near the surface. The best implements are those used in manual labour, and they well know the use of them. In the Basque provinces, where the population is nearly the most dense to the acre in Europe, they use a peculiar grape or fork, with prongs and short handles, all of iron; each person has two of these, and they strike them into the ground, standing in line four or five together, then raising the slice simultaneously, it falls just like that from a strong plough. This, as they perform it, is very laborious work, and is chiefly for the purpose of preparing the land for the maize crop on which they principally depend. In general the mattock is much used, and in no part of the world do men work harder than in nearly every part of Spain, when any circumstances occur to call forth their energy.

The science of horticulture is so closely connected with agriculture, that the cultivation of asparagus, may be mentioned. That followed at St. Sebastian has justly excited great attention, but the fact of sea water being required is not confirmed by the practice in other

Digitized by Google

In some parts farming is carried on upon a scale as extraordinary as many other things in this singular country. There are many men in Lower Andalucia, who have 100 pairs of bullocks; some have 200 and 300; and one, I was assured, had 800 yoke, and 150 pairs of mules! and this year the seed he sowed amounted to near 10,000 English bushels of wheat, and 3000 of barley! for one extraordinary contribution during the civil war, he was taxed at 16,000 dollars, 3,000*l.* or 4,000*l.*, equal to more than double that sum in this country. One of these men lately took the whole Andalusian property of the Duke of Medina Celi, amounting to thirty-four estates of different sizes. This is too vast an occupation for the management of one person, and he sublets them; but it is obvious that such a plan as this must retard improvements. The Duke of Ossuna, another grandee, who has estates as large, if not larger, than those of Medina Celi, by residing abroad has acquired more knowledge than the great proprietors are in general possessed of, and has commenced the system of letting small portions of land to the labradores or cultivators, in his villages. This has answered so well that there is little doubt of its being followed up by others; but the former nobleman has incapacitated himself from doing it, by letting his own property for twenty years to the individual above mentioned.

With respect to the stock, the only cattle as yet, to my knowledge, imported into this country, are from Galicia, where the best draught bullocks, after a certain age and servitude, and good keep, have improved so as to give a profit to the owners: they are disposed of, and replaced by others at a lower prices to undergo the same routine. The ports where they are embarked are Coruña and Vigo. I saw some of them, which came to this country in July, and were fine animals, but decidedly inferior to some I saw of the Estremadura breeds in the Sierra Morena. It was

Digitized by Google

soon found that the inferior animals would not pay the expense of transport, and at present only those of the first class are selected.

The Vice-Consul at Vigo, a Spaniard, a wealthy and most active and intelligent man, told me he was so fully aware of the advantages to be derived from the trade, that he had been instrumental in purchasing one of Mr. Bates's bulls and a cow at a high price, in order to avail himself to the full extent of them, by producing animals of a higher class. I had long been struck by the beauty of some of the races in Castile and in Andalucia, as they are seen at the bull-fights, whilst tried and found wanting for the noble sports of the arena; and after they have been engaged in the more tranquil labours of the husbandman. I have no doubt that some of these breeds might be crossed with our own to great advantage. They differ in almost every district, and especially where the bulls are known, each proprietor keeping his own stock exclusively, with Spanish jealousy, it would be impossible to procure the breeds; but this is not in general the case with the oxen, which are drafted every year, and abundance are to be had of excellent shape and qualities. The bullocks I saw at Vigo cost about 10*l.* each, to which the freight and duty are to be added; but some I saw in the Sierra Morena were much finer, and might have been had for 6*l.* For these there is a longer distance to travel, and then the serious inconvenience of the greater length of voyage. I apprehend nothing but steam will ever answer for this purpose, nor will our navigation be complete for this and many other uses, until by the Archimedean screw, or other simple propeller, with machinery to take up little room, and the help of sails, these voyages can be made at small cost. Nearly every superior race of animals we possess is exotic, and the result of judicious crosses with the native breeds; and there appears no reason why the cattle of Spain should not, in our hands,

Digitized by Google

attain even greater excellence than in those of their present proprietors, with their scanty and insufficient pastures. There is no doubt that our dairies might be improved by the cows from Gruyere, and the mode of making butter by adopting some of the plans followed in those of Holland, where the best butter is cured in the heat of summer, at which period we cannot effect it.

With respect to the cattle from Estremadura, they should be purchased in the neighbourhood of Badajos, and probably Merida, at the end of May or beginning of June, and driven to Ayamonte, or some place on the coast, for embarkation. Those of lower Andalucia, where vast herds are bred below Utrera, and at Medina Sidonia, would probably be better embarked at Cadiz or in the vicinity. A curious ground for observation on the results of feeding these animals will be the effect of moist and succulent food during summer. In the vast tracts they roam over, in the southern and central districts, the forage is extremely dry and scanty during that period, the water forming a great part of their subsistence. It is by no mean improbable it may lead to a great and permanent improvement in them.

The laws respecting the Mesta or Merinos, are still in force, but the proprietors of the lands over which they have a right of pasture are daily finding out methods of curtailing the nuisance and loss this absurd mode of protection of a particular branch has entailed on the whole country. I have not the least doubt, that, before any long period elapses, the whole system will follow that of the convents, and be numbered with the relics of past ages. There are two points to attend to in this important question. The pasturages of Estremadura, which serve them in winter, will require other stock, whilst those who live in the lofty mountains between the Castiles, where the sheep cannot remain in winter, must find the means of providing them with winter quarters nearer home. This I conceive

Digitized by Google

there would be little difficulty in managing. They begin to talk of turnips and other winter provender in different parts of Spain, but any considerable change from ancient routine is yet far distant. Amongst other important branches of Spanish agriculture that have nearly disappeared, is a class of sheep, known formerly by the name of Riberiegos. This description of stock were distinguished from the transhumantes by remaining on the banks of rivers and streams during the summer, when the moisture supplied a sufficient quantity of herbage to supply them during that season; the destruction of the forests and the drying up the fountains and water-courses, in consequence, has almost extinguished this important national resource, like so many others that have followed similar modes of destruction. The most important alteration I observed was the partial introduction of hedges and enclosures in parts where nothing of the sort existed before. This and other improvements will follow the division of the vast and mismanaged, though mildly administered, property of the convents and churches.

The charges on the lands are beyond belief, considering the general means of payment. There are taxes yet in force dating from the time of the Moors, and the possessors are still paying those levied on their ancestors to combat the infidels. In addition to those and other old imposts, are those successively levied to support the external and internal wars in which the couutry has been engaged for the last fifty years. The main cause of the Revolution of this year was to prevent the lowering the duties on foreign produce, so as gradually to increase the revenue, and enable the onerous charges on the land to be reduced. The manufacturers and people in the towns took a different view, and the result is what we have witnessed. Nor is it easy to foresee more than the slow and regular improvement already noticed, which is greatly owing to the unequalled

Digitized by Google

fertility of the soil and the advantages of the most beautiful climate under heaven.

With respect to the breed of sheep, the Merinos are too well known to require notice. Another very distinct, but by no means bad kind, is extensively spread in Castile and Estremadura, especially in the province of Cuenca, which was once a country of vast importance, both in natural and manufacturing industry, but is now nearly a despoblado. These are light made, not badly shaped, and with care might be very much improved.

They are paying some attention to the breeding of horses, but the general poverty of all classes of the landholders will prevent any material improvement being made; and vanity and conceit are, unfortunately, too prevalent on this subject. Few of the native breeds are now really good and useful, from the absurd manner of breaking them, which spoils their action, but they could easily be improved in this respect. The worst description of animal at present is the mule; those employed in most parts of the country, owing to the forcible abduction of them by the armies during the war, and the poverty of the labradores, being so poor in size and strength as to exceed belief.

The wheat brought to this country a few years since came chiefly from Old Castile, having been carried at a great expense for shipment at Santander; and at present, in fine seasons, we might, in times of need, draw supplies from Andalucia and Estremadura. In the country above Zaragoza, some of which is irrigated from the canal of the Ebro, there is a vast abundance; the crops, in good years, producing six or seven years' consumption. In Estremadura, the locust constantly exists, but it only appears in certain seasons. This year there were great numbers, and I passed some of the scenes of their ravages, where the land had exactly the appearance of being burnt up. The wheat, in good seasons,

Digitized by Google

is too far grown to be affected by them, as their ravages are limited to the vegetation they can reach by leaping a short way from the ground, and are chiefly confined to the vineyards and spring crops.

This insect only deposits its eggs in pasture or uncultivated ground, the process of ploughing being fatal to the larvæ, which remain three or four years in the earth. In consequence of this, the peasants do not allow the smallest interval in their cultivated grounds; and, as they have the absurd prejudice that trees harbour birds to eat the corn, most of the finer corn districts have a most monotonous and, excepting for a very short period, dreary appearance.

Very strict orders have been issued by Government respecting the destruction of this dreadful pest; the chief means of checking their ravages, being to destroy them whilst on wing, and watch the parts where they have deposited their eggs. The only species I saw is small and dark coloured, being nearly black.

There are several articles of less importance which are cultivated in various parts of all the regions. The best hemp in Spain is produced in the Vega of Granada, where it is much cultivated, and also in parts of Aragon. Saffron is cultivated in La Mancha and Cuenca. Flax in very many parts; and the liquorice root, which is indigenous in the first and second regions, and was formerly exported, is now beginning to be manufactured in the country. Madder is also cultivated in many provinces. But all these branches are insignificant in proportion to the value of the great staples enumerated in their respective places.

Potatoes are now cultivated in almost every part of Spain, but in general as a culinary vegetable, and not as an article of subsistence; nor are they in general good, with the ex-

Digitized by Google

ception of Galicia, where I tasted some as good as could be produced any where.

One of the greatest errors in the agricultural policy of Spain is the refusing to grow tobacco,—the growing the smallest quantity of which is punishable by presidio or transportation; whilst the whole country is covered by smugglers engaged in transporting the bad kinds from abroad, and there are vast tracts of land lying waste, a very small portion of which would supply Spain with it of excellent quality. In looking over the decrees, I saw one, ordering a certain quantity that had been grown on trial, to be destroyed or exported; but it is evident there must have been mismanagement of some kind, otherwise it is incredible that such a country, with every variety of soil, and the finest climate, should not produce what is so easily raised in France and in the humid region of Ireland.

With respect to encouragement of the art of agriculture, there is no want of establishments. There is a central school at Madrid, and lectures are given by a professor, but they are badly attended. In nearly all the capitals, as they are called—that is, the chief towns of the ancient kingdoms—patriotic societies exist for the encouragement of the industrial arts, at the head of which they always place agriculture, but owing to the late war and the sufferings in fortune resulting from it, every thing requiring pecuniary support is extremely behind-hand. Great good has, however, resulted from them, and very much more will, in case the country should remain in tranquillity for a few years, and should they take measures to relieve the land from the pressure that bears on it under the existing system of revenue.

Digitized by Google

ADDITIONAL REMARKS ON THE AGRICULTURE.

There are twenty species of wheat cultivated in Spain, which, by their writers, are divided into three classes, under so great a number of provincial names, that no small degree of industry was necessary to collect and arrange them. The first class are grown chiefly in the mountainous parts of the east and north, and appear to resemble those commonly cultivated in Switzerland and parts of Germany. It is very probable that some of these species might be tried in the higher parts of our islands with advantage. The Chamorro and Candeal appear to be the famous wheats of the Castiles, and the mixture of two kinds forms their celebrated bread. Another is the Fanfarron, cultivated in Estremadura and the Rioja, (the triticum fastuosum of Lagasca?) This is probably, from the description, the wheat that was imported a few years since, and found so difficult to grind. The Talavera wheat is, no doubt, one of the species belonging to these classes.

The countries the Spaniards consider the best in the whole for producing wheat are Old Castile and Leon. The best bread I ever tasted was at the decayed capital of the last named kingdom, and I regretted afterwards that it never occurred to me to bring some of the wheat. If the Agricultural Society should establish a farm for experiments, it would be extremely desirable to procure samples of all the kinds of wheat cultivated in Spain, which, with the help of the consuls, there would be no great difficulty in doing; and it is little use transcribing the accounts here in full as they are given by the Spanish botanists, as several of them are well known, and there may not be many that are worth the importing for more than the purposes of experiment; but a list is subjoined.

Digitized by Google

First Class, or mountain and inferior qualities.

1. The Pequeña Escaña (Triticum monococcum Lin.), cultivated in Catalonia and Aragon. 2. Pequeña Escaña vellosa (Trit. Horneman, or Monocoecum of others). 3. Escaña Melliza (Trit. Cienfuegos), two varieties, cultivated in Asturias; seem to be valuable. 4. Escaña Mazorral (Trit. Bauhini), cultivated near Burgos. 5. Escanda Lampiña, or Escaña grande, &c. (Trit. Spelta. Lin.), Asturias, Germany, Switzerland, &c. celebrated by the ancients, and considered the best of this class. 6. Escanda vellosa, or Escaña Mayor peluda (Trit. Forskal), very much resembles the last species. 7. Escanda Mocha (Trit. Arias, or Spelta musicum of others).

Second Section.

8. Chamorro Comun. Lampino o legetimo (Trit. Hibernum). 9. Chamorro velloso (Trit. Koeleri), exotic, from Paris. 10. Candeal Lampiño (Trit. æstivum). 11. Candeal velloso (Trit. Horstianum), confounded in books with the last named, from which it differs. 12. Redondillo Lampiño (Trit. Linnæanum), Navarre and Catalonia, sensible to cold and drought. 13. Redondillo Velloso (Trit. Turgidum); this class appear to be named from the roundness and plumpness of the grain. 14. Fanfarron Lampino (Trit. Gærtnerianum); this appears to be the class of wheat most esteemed in Spain, and is divided into three groups, the first corresponds to the Trit. album of Gærtner. Of this are four kinds, cultivated in Leon, Seville, Lower Andalucia, Velez, and Baza. The second group comprises some species cultivated in Upper Murcia, Valencia, Merida, &c. The third group contains species cultivated in Jaen, Granada, Murcia, &c. 15. Chapado Lampino (Trit. Platystachyum), Granada. 16. Cuchareta, chapado velloso (Trit. Cochleana), two varieties, cultivated in

Digitized by Google

Granada, &c. 17. Moro-Moruño lampiño (Trit. Cevallos), Upper Andalucia, &c.; a very strong and high-growing species, but thick-skinned, and the bread is not of first quality. 18. Moruno, or Moro velloso (Trit. durum Desf.), grown in Barbary, but not productive. 19. Fanfarron velloso, improperly called (Trit. fastuosum).

The third class, No. 20, is the Polish wheat, cultivated in the Balearic Isles.

These species and varieties might very possibly be obtained from the Botanical Gardens at Madrid, with more certainty than by the other mode recommended.

There are two breeds of swine, differing more in colour than in form—the black and a reddish variety, with little hair. This is an important branch of economy still, but like every thing else in this ill-starred country, is reduced to the shadow of what it formerly was. Amongst the absurdities put forth respecting this country, I have read somewhere that the pigs are fed on chesnuts and maize—the fact being, that the region which produces chesnuts is about a fiftieth of the area of Spain, or perhaps less, and the maize country very little more; and that wherever the latter grain is grown, it forms the staple food of man, who can scarcely afford it for any other purpose than his own subsistence. A foreigner, who had landed at Southampton, and made an excursion into the New Forest, might see pigs, at a certain season, fed on acorns, but if he were to conclude that the practice in the whole kingdom was similar, his inference would be about as correct as the statement I allude to; both being founded on a narrow isolated fact, generalised upon, a common fault in books of travels, and more in Spain than in any other country. The fact is, the staple food of the herds of Spain is the bellota, or acorns, generally; but more particularly, those of the Encina, or Spanish Ilex, which are

Digitized by Google

sweet, like a chesnut, and have probably been confounded by the writer alluded to. In ancient times, when the country was plentifully provided with forests, the encina, as stated in my reports on that branch, having once covered vast tracts of the first and second regions, the feeding swine was an important and most lucrative branch of agricultural industry. Even now, in places where the trees have been allowed to remain, the autumnal produce is very great, and at that time the woods are either let or occupied by the herds of the proprietor, but in general the former plan is pursued. This branch is called the Belloteria, and is mentioned as in operation, in the description of Pedroso. The greatest seat of this business at present is Estremadura, where vast forests of encina yet remain; but formerly the neighbourhood of Malaga and the Serrania de Ronda, great part of which is now despoblado, producing only pasture for a few goats, was covered with forests of encina and quexigo, fattening immense herds, which made the commerce in salted meats famous even in the most remote periods of history.

The acorns of all other species answer the purpose of feeding the swine, but are inferior to those of the encina. There is one kind, the Quercus Valentina of Cavanilles, the fruit of which ripens nearly a month before the others, and consequently makes it extremely useful in the few districts where it is grown.

ON THE DECAY OF SPANISH AGRICULTURE.

There are several causes assigned by the various writers on the agriculture of Spain, to account for the decline, which, for ages past, has been greatly deplored as a national calamity. The early wars and conquests by the Visigoths

Digitized by Google

and the Moors; the establishment of convents, and the foundation of enormous secular church endowments; and the system of Mayorazgos or entails, with the mismanagement of the common lands. The system followed by the Visigoths, was to divide the lands they conquered, into three parts, two of which they kept to themselves, leaving the third to the unfortunate natives; out of this has proceeded the system of town lands, and baldios or wastes, mentioned in the narrative. There are two classes of lands which are the property of the resident householders; one being appropriated to the general uses of hospitals; deposits of grain in case of scarcity; the payment of medical attendance to the public; the salaries of some of the officers entrusted with the management and various other uses, under the head of propios; whilst the others are set aside for general pasturage, fuel, or cultivation, according to the local arrangements of the people. Besides these are vast tracts under the name of baldios, which literally belong to no one, and are used by the peasantry from immemorial usage, as commons. The whole system with which this singular property is concerned, requires revision, or in truth, a complete reform. Nor will any real improvement be made in the interior of Spain until it be done. What is wanted, is a division of these lands, and the converting them into property of individuals, who may improve and turn them to account. At present from the abuses in the management, in a large portion of Spain, they are a source of poverty, instead of wealth, as they ought to be. They vary very much in value and extent, in the different regions of this vast kingdom; but anything like prudent management is the widest exception to the general rule. The evils are sometimes of very old standing, sometimes of more recent date. A foolish order given by Ferdinand and Isabella, prevented the inclosure

Digitized by Google

of large tracts in Upper Andalucia, which are now most unproductive in consequence.

The enormous territory all over Spain, that belonged to the two divisions of the clergy, was long universally admitted to be one of the causes of the decay of agriculture; but is now in course of being remedied, by the sale of them.

The Mayorazgos or entails, were a comparatively modern usage in Spain; they are supposed to be of foreign origin; and were not any part of the old law of the country. The principal founders of them were the military men; the great characters we read of in the wars with the Moors, who, as soon as they had obtained the grants of conquered lands, as a reward for their services; very naturally thought of securing them to their descendants. This system, like so many others, depends more upon the working than the principle of it, and it so happens that in Spain, it has operated badly, no doubt from the success of the Crown in breaking down and subduing the nobles, who resembled all the rest in Europe, and were extremely troublesome and difficult to manage in the middle ages and afterwards. One of the worst effects of the law of entail, has been, by the accounts of the best writers, the creating the Hidalguia or smaller nobility, who are too proud to work, and neither by talents or education, are fitted to play the part in society they ought to do.

So soon as the Moors were conquered and expelled, the inquisition was established, and a serious religious turn given to the whole system of the monarchy. One effect of this and the measures combined to assure its success at that time, was completely to destroy the agriculture and industry of the Moors in Andalucia, of which scarcely a trace is left, excepting at Granada; the towns in all parts of the country being merely the shadow of what they were under the Mahometans,

Digitized by Google

and whole tracts covered with towns and villages are now merely despoblados. We may cite all the principal places as wrecks of decayed grandeur and industry, mainly owing to the same cause. Granada itself, Cordova, Seville, Almeria, Malaga, Guadix, Baza, Purchena, and the country on the Almanzora, now an African desert; Ronda and its whole Serrania, composed of 35 towns, now only the shadow of what they formerly were, under the steps taken to reduce the inhabitants to the pure orthodox faith of the Catholic kings, and under the withering influence of the college of Maestranza.

The only parts of Spain that can give an idea of what the Moorish cultivation was, are Murcia and Valencia, which were conquered by a wiser and less fanatic set than the Catholic kings; who left the people more to themselves, and their customs were gradually modified, although even they suffered very much by the expulsion of the Moriscos at the time alluded to.

The arts followed the same line of decay as agriculture, under the same fatal influence; as the inquisition contrived to effect the expatriation of the best mechanics in Spain, and destroyed the greater part of the industry of the kingdom, in their zeal for establishing convents. The state of Jaen, Cuenca, Siguenza, Toledo, Placencia, Leon, and a hundred other places are the miserable proofs of the truth of this position; and it is curious enough, that the richer the endowments of the see and cabildo, the poorer and more impoverished was the state of the country under their baleful domination. The administrative perfection of an ecclesiastical establishment would appear to have consisted in the members living amidst misery and desolation. These are the class of towns emphatically called by the Spaniards "de clerigos," as mentioned in my former work, a term signifying ruined edifices; decayed commerce and agricul-

Digitized by Google

ture, the sole life and animation in the place being supplied by the ringing of bells.

Simultaneously with this system of destroying commerce and industry, came the expensive wars of the Low Countries, the expenses of which were obliged to be defrayed by the landed proprietors, who have never been relieved from the burdens issued at that time, whilst their means of paying were constantly diminished. In the interior, after the expulsion of the Jews and Moriscos, trade or commerce could hardly be said to exist, and until quite recently, no means whatever were taken to keep Spain on a level with the movement so general in Europe. Great numbers of places in the interior formerly flourishing, have now little more than the churches and convents, with hospitals and other foundations of the time of their prosperity, all the active part of the population that formerly maintained them having disappeared.

At the same time with these momentous changes, the suppression of the last remnant of the ancient constitutions took place, and the only barrier to the encroachments of the church was removed—the iron despotism of the Inquisition taking their place. All these circumstances, I conceive, have had far more to do with the decline of Spain, than the discovery of America, which under other management would have been a means of enriching the Peninsula; and the curious subject, before alluded to, of substituting mules for horses and bullocks, is rather a consequence, than a cause, as they represent it, of agricultural decay.

In reflecting upon the great changes already mentioned, that have thrown Spain back, and kept her in the situation she now is, it is impossible not to observe that the retrograde system (not as applied to the circumstances of the day, but in the great national and historical point of view,) commenced exactly at the time the foundations of our national

Digitized by Google

greatness were laid in England. The first real step to improvement in England, was the breaking the entails by Henry the Seventh, precisely simultaneous was the success in *establishing* them in Spain, as already mentioned. Cotemporaneously with the Reformation, the sweeping away the convents, and the substituting religious liberty for the tyranny of the Curia, was the foundation of vast numbers of those residences, with their vast endowments, and the rivetting their chains for a time, by seconding the views of Loyola and his sect. A few days before the titular King entered the French territory, this "sacred band" took their departure, it is to be hoped for ever, from the Spanish soil. This bears very much on the subject of agriculture, otherwise it would not be introduced here; and we should recollect that our ancestors fought zealously against Philip the Second, and that the stake, recently at issue in Spain, was quite equal to that fought for in our grand epoch of the Armada—the same responsibility, and the same feelings animated the one party as the other; nor would the consequences of the success of Philip have been a whit less disastrous to us, than those of his successor—the Pretender of 1840—to the natives of the Peninsula.

Digitized by Google

HINTS FOR TRAVELLERS.

I SHOULD have given some directions to travellers in this country in the Appendix, but as a full and elaborate guide-book by Mr. Ford will shortly appear, it is unnecessary, for no doubt that will contain all the requisite information. I will, therefore, only give a very few hints that have occurred during my varied and extensive practice, more especially as to hiring horses. There are two modes of managing this—the one, to take the horses by the day and keep them yourself. This is frequently practised in the north, and may do for short distances, and when you return to the same point from which you set out; but as it leads to extravagance and cheating, especially in the south, I would by no means recommend it for general adoption. Besides other difficulties in such a place, you may not be able to purchase the food they choose, excepting at an exorbitant rate, and by favouring jobbing with the people at the posadas. Therefore, whenever it is possible, make your bargain complete, return and every thing included, and let it be understood that the Mozo finds himself. You must, if he behaves well, give him the remains of your meals, and he is easily satisfied, but if you engage to feed him, he will probably turn out a cormorant. From my not attending to this, I have known one devour the provisions, intended to last for several days, in the course of a few hours. Amongst the best I have seen are those at Gibraltar, where they are used to good company, and are somewhat disciplined. The rules for dealing with these people in general, are, to treat them kindly, but coolly.

Digitized by Google

No familiarity, nor too much respect or deference, and give your orders, after hearing what they have to say, in a cool and determined manner, never wrangling, nor entering into altercation with them. If in a wild or unfrequented district, pay little attention to the difficulties they may choose to find out, but always hear them patiently, and after appearing to consider, adopt your own plan, and go through with it. Be very careful in talking at ventas and such places, and always keep your movements and time of departure as secret as possible, as in every village of the south especially, there are loose fish hanging about, or probably others upon the tramp may drop in. Eat little, and you will find yourself the better, as every thing they give you is more or less hard of digestion. Request them to use manteea or lard instead of oil, which they always conform to, leaving your mozo to enjoy his rancid oil, which he invariably prefers, and will make you join him if you leave the arrangement to himself. Always inquire what is to be had in the Plaza or market, because they vary very much. In some there is game; others, as the Cuenca district and some others, occasionally mutton, hares, rabbits, pigeons, partridges; and by looking out you may see fellows carrying them about, who are the pastores or shepherds, and have contrived to poach a brace or two on their walks. The law is altered, by which the Ayuntamiento frequently had the monopoly and the supply of food; and every thing belonging to posadas is now open to the public.

The money system is mentioned in the body of the work, and I think what I have recommended is the best. Nor would I advise any one to trust to the circular notes, excepting in the great towns, where they are accustomed to use them. Nor are Spaniards at all easy to deal with on this subject in general, unless they know you.

Digitized by Google

There is the greatest possible want of that useful article, the valet de place, all over the country; and even at Madrid the breed hardly exists. At Seville, there is a man called Bailey, a mixture of French, English, and Spanish, a perfect linguist, and a most able and intelligent guide, whom I have heard highly spoken of by those who have employed him; and in addition to other requisites, he is a capital cook and travelling servant. I am the more induced to mention him, because he complained bitterly that he had furnished their best anecdotes to several tourists, one dead and at least two living, without their making any mention of the source whence they obtained the information, and even in some instances actually taking pains to conceal it. He felt this the more sensibly, because they had always promised to mention him in their works; but somehow had forgotten to do so, although, he saw by the exactness with which they repeated his stories, their memories were not equally defective in other respects. He is well read in gypsy poetry and other lore, and from what he stated, must have studied their manners very deeply. In short, he must be considered a most useful ally, to those who may wish to add a little information to the common routine of tours in steam boats and diligences, and have not time to dig deeply into the mines of Spanish history. I certainly feel it a duty to fulfil my promise of mentioning him; and the last party I heard of his serving spoke to me in the highest terms of his attention. The only thing I fear is, that in future he may be less communicative; and he was extremely irate with some of those he mentioned, one especially, whose memory had been peculiarly deficient. The anecdotes he had furnished were attributed to a lady!

As Ronda *ought* to form a part of every tour made by those who are able to travel on rough roads, or rather without

Digitized by Google

roads at all; which is the case with the greater part of the Serrania, and as there is no decent posada, and the knowledge of some one in the place able to provide lodging and other accommodation, is extremely desirable; I cannot help mentioning my old friend Jose Zaffran, who is quite an acquisition to any one that understands Spaniards, of whom he is a noble specimen. Nor could there be a better person to employ, for any one inclined to horse dealing, an art quite as difficult in Spain as elsewhere. I should be very much tempted to digress a little about the Ronda district, the pride of every regular Spanish traveller, but as my friend, who has undertaken the laborious office of the handbook, is well acquainted with it, I feel it to be unnecessary. It is Moorish Spain, yet unchanged and unchanging; nor could I perceive one particle of alteration in the twelve years that had elapsed since I visited it—nor detect one step in the "progreso," although the whole population, or nearly so, profess to be in favour of the system so called in Spain.

I strongly recommend to every one who travels in Spain, adopting the faja or waist belt of the people, especially in hot weather, and on long rides. The best are manufactured in Barbary and at Morella, and in the French Pyrenees, where they are made much finer than is usual with the Spaniards. It is no use tying them loosely round the waist as foreigners generally do as in that way they are of no service, and give an awkward look to the wearer, instantly proclaiming him a raw hand. They should be worn tight round the body, in the way practised by the natives, when they strengthen and fortify the seat of most disorders, especially in hot climates, and where sudden changes of temperature occur, and produce illness of various kinds; for which the natives of all these countries consider them cer-

Digitized by Google

tain preventives. The French have adopted the use of them for the army in Africa, and it is quite extraordinary we should not have done the same for the troops employed abroad, thousands of whose lives would be saved by this simple and unexpensive addition to the dress.

END OF VOL. I.

G. NORMAN, PRINTER, MAIDEN LANE, COVENT GARDEN.

Digitized by Google

BATTLES OF QUATRE-BRAS, LIGNY, WAVRE,

AND

WATERLOO.

Now ready, the Second Edition, uniform with
General Napier's History of the War in the Peninsula,
and the Wellington Dispatches,

Price £2. 2*s*.

DEDICATED, BY PERMISSION,

TO HER MOST GRACIOUS MAJESTY, THE QUEEN.

HISTORY OF THE

WAR IN FRANCE AND BELGIUM,

IN 1815,

FROM THE TESTIMONY OF EYE-WITNESSES AND OTHER SOURCES, EXCLUSIVE AND AUTHENTIC.

BY CAPTAIN WILLIAM SIBORNE,

CONSTRUCTOR OF THE "WATERLOO MODEL."

IN TWO VOLUMES, OCTAVO.

BEAUTIFULLY EMBELLISHED WITH MEDALLION PORTRAITS, ENGRAVED ON STEEL, OF

The Duke of Wellington,	The Prince of Orange,	Ney, Duke of Elchingen,
Prince Blücher von Wahlstadt,	The Marquess of Anglesey,	Count Alten,
Napoleon Buonaparte,	Lord Hill,	Sir Thomas Picton.
The Duke of Brunswick,	Soult, Duke of Dalmatia,	

AND A FOLIO ATLAS,

OF ANAGLYPTOGRAPHIC ENGRAVINGS ON STEEL, FROM MODELS, CONTAINING

2 Plans of Quatre-Bras, shewing different Periods of the Action.
2 - - - Ligny - - - - - - - - - ditto.
2 - - - Wavre - - - - - - - - - ditto.
3 - - - Waterloo - - - - - - - ditto.

WITH MAPS OF BELGIUM AND PART OF FRANCE.

In announcing a History of the War in 1815, by the Constructor of the celebrated Model of the Battle of Waterloo, the Publishers feel confident that the undeniable proof which the latter work of art affords of the most indefatigable perseverance and industry in the collection of materials for the accurate representation of an event so fertile in glorious achievements, and so decisive in its influence upon the destinies of Europe, as also of the professional skill with which those materials have been arranged for the complete development of that ever memorable conflict, offers a sufficient guarantee for a similar application of the author's unwearied zeal and research in the task he has undertaken of supplying what still remains a desideratum in our national history and military records—a true and faithful ac[illegible]unt of that last campaign in Europe, comprising the crowning triumph of the British army, and [illegible]ame time, the closing chapter of the military life of its illustrious chief, the Duke of Welli[illegible]

Numerous as are the accounts already published of this great confli[illegible] which they convey is generally of too vague and indistinct a nature to satisfy ei[illegible]y man who seeks for professional instruction, or the general reader who desires to com[illegible]ore clearly, in all its details, that gorgeous machinery, if it may so be termed, which was [illegible] motion, regulated, and controlled by

Digitized by Google

the greatest masters of their art, who, in modern times, have been summoned forth to wield the mighty engines of destruction wherewith nation wars against nation. How just is the observation of Jomini, one of the most talented military writers of the day—"Jamais bataille ne fut plus confusément décrite que celle de Waterloo." On consulting these accounts the public glean little beyond the fact that at Waterloo the allied army stood its ground during the whole day, in defiance of the reiterated attacks by the French, until the Duke of Wellington led it forward to crown its exertions with the most splendid victory. They afford us but a faint idea of those strategical movements and combinations upon which the grand design of the campaign was based by the one party, and with which it was assailed by the other; and we seek in vain for the development of those tactical dispositions by which the skill of the commanders and the valour of the combatants were fairly tested. From the want of due consecutive arrangement in the details, and the tendency too frequently manifested to compensate for this deficiency by mere anecdotic narration, the motives by which, in the great game of war, the illustrious players are actuated, are left out of view, while circumstances which especially call forth the skill of subordinate officers in command, as also the courage, the discipline, and the prowess of particular brigades, regiments, or even minor divisions of the contending masses, are either imperfectly elucidated, or, as is often the case, unhesitatingly set aside to make way for the exploits of a few individuals whose deeds, however heroic they may be deemed, constitute but isolated fractional parts of that great sum of moral energy and physical force combined, requisite to give full effect to the application of the mental powers of the chieftains under whose guidance the armies are respectively placed. These remarks have reference, more or less, not only to the generality of the accounts of the Battle of Waterloo, with which the public have hitherto been furnished, but also to those of Quatre-Bras, Ligny, and Wavre; the first of which, brilliant as was the reflection which it cast upon the glory of the victors, became eclipsed solely by the more dazzling splendour of the greater, because more important, triumph of Waterloo. To endeavour to remedy these deficiencies, through the medium of the evidence of eye-witnesses, most willingly and liberally supplied, as well as carefully collated, examined, and, at the same time, proved, wherever practicable, by corroborative testimony—every component piece of information being made to dovetail, as it were, into its adjacent and corresponding parts—is the chief object of the present publication.

The opportunities which Captain Siborne has enjoyed of collecting the data requisite for this highly important work, have been peculiarly favourable. Having commenced his large Model under the authority of the government, he received permission to address himself to the several officers who might have it in their power to communicate valuable information; and, with a view to render such information as complete as possible, and to substantiate it by corroborative testimony, he forwarded his applications to almost every surviving Waterloo officer—not limiting his inquiries to any one particular period of the action, but extending them over the whole of the Battle of Waterloo, as also of that of Quatre-Bras, and of the entire campaign. In this manner he has succeeded in obtaining from the combined evidence of eye-witnesses a mass of extremely important matter; and when the public are informed that Captain Siborne has also been in unreserved communication with the governments of our allies in that war, concerning the operations of the troops they respectively brought into the field, it is presumed that the extraordinary advantages he possesses for a satisfactory fulfilment of his design will be at once acknowledged and appreciated.

In reverting, however, to the Model, as connected with the present history, it may not be unimportant to add that some objections were raised against the position thereon assigned to a portion of the Prussian troops. These objections induced Captain Siborne to investigate more closely the evidence he had received relative to that part of the field; and the result of such re-consideration has been a perfect conviction that an error of some importance, as regards time and situation, did exist. When the Model is again submitted to the public, which it will be very shortly, that error will no longer appear, and the circumstances under which it arose will be fully accounted for and explained in the forthcoming work.

One remarkable defect which is manifested, without a single exception, in the existing histories of this campaign, consists in the want of good plans upon scales sufficiently comprehensive to admit of the positions and movements being duly illustrated. By the application of the anaglyptograph to accurately executed models, Captain Siborne has succeeded in producing plans of the different fields of battle, which afford so striking a representation of the features of ground—a representation which has all the appearance of the subject being shewn in relief—that not only the military man who is accustomed to examine plans, but the civilian who has never studied any thing of the kind, will be enabled thoroughly to comprehend them even in the minutest details.

To respond to the interest felt in the record of that glorious contest by the relatives and friends of the combatants, correct lists will be appended to the work, of the names of all officers who were present, distinguishing those who were killed or wounded. Marginal notes will also be introduced wherever officers' names are first mentioned in the course of the work, explaining, if surviving, their present rank, and if dead, the date of their decease, and the rank which they then held.

A work brought out under such favourable auspices, and grounded upon materials which, considering the advanced age of the principal contributors, would at no remote period have been placed beyond our reach, cannot fail to excite, in a considerable degree, the attention of the public; for which reason no pains will be spared in rendering the illustrations fully commensurate with the value and importance of the design. It will comprise two handsome octavo volumes, embellished with beautifully executed medallic portraits, and accompanied by a folio volume, containing military maps and exquisitely engraved anaglyptographic plans from models *expressly* made by Captain Siborne, of the fields of battle of Quatre-Bras, Ligny, Wavre, and Waterloo.

Digitized by Google

SUBSCRIBERS.

HER MOST GRACIOUS MAJESTY, THE QUEEN.
HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCE ALBERT, K.G.; G.C B.
HER MOST GRACIOUS MAJESTY, QUEEN ADELAIDE.
HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUCHESS OF KENT.
HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS, THE DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE, K.G.; G.C.B.; G.C.H.
HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS, PRINCE GEORGE OF CAMBRIDGE, K.G.
HIS MOST GRACIOUS MAJESTY, THE KING OF HANOVER, K.G.; G.C.B.; G.C.H.
HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS, THE CROWN PRINCE OF HANOVER.
HIS MAJESTY, THE KING OF PRUSSIA.
HIS MAJESTY, THE KING OF SWEDEN.
HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE CROWN PRINCE OF SWEDEN.
HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF SAXONY.
HIS SERENE HIGHNESS, THE REIGNING DUKE OF BRUNSWICK.
HIS SERENE HIGHNESS, THE PRINCE BERNHARD OF SOLMS-BRAUNFELS.

* General the Marquess of Anglesey, K.G., G.C.B., G.C.H.
His Grace the Duke of Bedford.
His Grace the Duke of Buccleugh.
* General Bacon, Portuguese Service.
Colonel Bainbrigge, C.B., D.Q.M.G.
The Earl of Bandon.
* Lieut.-Colonel Barton, K.H. 12th Lancers.
* Colonel Thomas Hunter Blair, C.B., Unatt.
Lieut.-Gen. the Hon. Sir Edw. Blakeney, K.C.B., G.C.H.
Lieut.-Gen. Lord Bloomfield, G.C.B., G.C.H.
His Excellency Baron du Brunow, the Russian Minister.
Lieut.-General Sir John Buchan, K.C.B.
Lieut.-General Sir John Cameron, K.C.B.
* Major-General Sir Guy Campbell, Bart. K.C.B.
Major-General Sir Octavius Carey, C.B., K.C.H.
Lieut.-Colonel Cator, Royal Horse Artillery.
* Colonel Chatterton, K.H. Commanding 4th Drag. Guards.
Lieut.-Col. Sir Chas. Chichester, Commanding 81st Regt.
Lieut.-Colonel Clarke, Commanding 2nd (R.N.B.) Drgs.
Major-General Cleland.
Major Henry Clements, late of the 16th Regt.
General Sir George Cockburne, G.C.H.
Major William H. Cockburne, late of the 9th Regt.
* William Crawford, Esq. 2nd (R.N.B.) Dragoons.
* Lieut.-Colonel John Crowe, K.H., Unatt.
His Excellency Earl de Grey, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland.
The Marquess of Downshire. K. St. P.
Major-General D'Aguilar, C.B.
Lieut.-General Sir Charles Dalbiac, K.C.H.
General Sir Ralph Darling, G.C.H.
* Major-General Sir Jeremiah Dickson, K.C.B.
Lieut.-General Dickson, Royal Artillery.
The Earl of Donoughmore, K.P.
* Lieut.-Colonel Dorville, C.B. Unatt.
* Major-General Sir Neil Douglas, K.C.B., K.C.H.
* Major Edward Ward Drewe.
* Captain N. F. Dromgoole, h. p. 35th Regt.
* Colonel Berkeley Drummond, Scots Fusilier Guards.
* Colonel Dyneley, C.B., Royal Horse Artillery.
The Right Hon. Lord Eliot.
* Lieut.-General Sir De Lacy Evans, K.C.B.
Captain the Hon. C. W. Forester, 12th Lancers, A.D.C.
Major General Fraser.
* Lieut.-Colonel Gawler, K.H., Unatt.
* Captain E. Gilborne, late of the 71st Regt.
Lieut.-Colonel Greaves, Unatt., Military Secretary.
* Lieut.-Colonel Grove.
* Lieut.-General Lord Greenock, K.C.B.
* Colonel the Lord Viscount Guillamore, Unatt.
* Major-General Hamerton, C.B.
* Lieut.-General the Rt. Hon. Sir Henry Hardinge, K.C.B.
* Lieut.-General Lord Harris, C B., K.C.H.
* The late General Lord Viscount Hill, G.C.B., G.C.H.
* Colonel George W. Horton, Unatt.
Colonel Sir George Hoste, C.B. Royal Engineers.
* Captain W. Humbley, h.p. Rifle Brigade.
* Lieut.-Colonel Edward Keane, Unatt.
* Colonel Clark Kennedy, C.B., K.H. Commanding 7th Dragoon Guards.
* Colonel James Shaw Kennedy, C.B., Unatt.
* Captain Kincaid, late of the Rifle Brigade.
* Colonel Charles King, K.H., late of 16th Light Dragoons.
His Grace the Duke of Leinster, K.G.
* Charles Lake, Esq. late of the Scots Fusilier Guards.
* General Sir John Lambert, G.C.B.
* Lieut.-Colonel Leach, late of the Rifle Brigade.
* Lieut.-Colonel Francis La Blanc, Unatt.
Captain the Hon. James Lindsay, Grenadier Guards.
General Sir Evan Lloyd, K.C.H.
* Lieut.-Colonel Louis, Royal Artillery.
General the Honourable Sir Wm. Lumley, G.C.B.
General Sir Fitzroy Maclean, Bart.
Colonel Mansell, K.H., A.A.G.
* Lieut.-Colonel Marten, Commanding 1st Dragoons.
The Lord Viscount Massareene.
The Lord Viscount Melville, K.T.
* Lieut.-Colonel A. C. Mercer, Royal Artillery.
* Major-General Douglas Mercer, C.B.
* Lieutenant-Colonel Monins, Commanding 69th Regt.
Lieut.-Colonel H. Morrieson.
Colonel Sir George Morris.
Colonel Monro, K.H., Royal Artillery.
General the Right Hon. Sir George Murray, G.C.B., G.C.H.
Sir William Keith Murray, Bart.
* Major-General the Honourable Henry Murray, C.B.
* Lieut.-Colonel Muttlebury, C.B., late of 69th Regt.
His Grace the Duke of Northumberland, K.G.
Major-General William F. P. Napier, C.B.
The Marquess of Ormonde.
Colonel Sir Charles O'Donnell, Unatt.
* Major-General O'Malley, C.B.
Major-General the Hon. Sir Hercules Pakenham, K.C.B.
General the Hon. Sir Edward Paget, G.C.B.
* Frederick Hope Pattison, Esq., late 33rd Regiment.
Captain Lord Frederick Paulet, Coldstream Guards.
The Right Honourable Sir Robert Peel, Bart.
* General Sir George Quentin, C.B., K..CH.
* His Grace the Duke of Richmond, K.G.
* Major Reid, late 33rd Regiment.
* Colonel T. W Robbins, h.p. 18th Regiment.
* Colonel William Rowan, C.B., A.Q.M. Gen.
Captain Lord Cosmo Russell, 93rd Highlanders, A.D.C.
Lieut.-General Shortall.
Major John J. Slater, 82nd Regt.
* Lieut.-General Sleigh, C.B.
* Major-General J. Webber Smith, C.B.
* Lieut.-General Lord Fitzroy Somerset, K.C.B.
Lieut.-Colonel Spottiswoode, h. p. 71st Regt.
* Colonel Stawell, Commanding 12th Lancers.
* General Lord Strafford, G.C.B., G.C.H.

Digitized by Google

Lieut.-General the Honourable Patrick Stuart.
Captain Versturme.
* The late Lieut.-General Lord Vivian, G.C.B., G.C.H.
Colonel Wade, C.B., D.A. Gen.
Major Wathen, 14th Light Dragoons.
Colonel Wedgwood.
Major-General J. Welsh.
Major W. White, Unatt., Town Major.
* Colonel Whinyates, C.B., K.H., Royal Artillery.
Lieut.-Colonel Wigram, Coldstream Guards.
Colonel the Earl of Wiltshire.
* Lieut.-General Sir Alexander Woodford, K.C.B., K.C.H.
* Major-General Sir John Woodford, K.C.B., K.C.H.
* Colonel Yorke, Assist. Q. M. Gen.

Officers of the Depôt of the 27th Regt. (1 copy.)
Officers of the Depôt of the 30th Regt. (1 copy.)
Officers of the Depôt of the 47th Regt. (1 copy.)
Officers of the Depôt of the 64th Regt. (4 copies.)
Officers of the Depôt of the 65th Regt. (1 copy.)
Officers of the Depôt of the 95th Regt. (1 copy.)
Serjeants of the 15th Regt. (1 copy.)
Non-commissioned Officers' Library, Royal Artillery, Woolwich (1 copy.)
The Military Library of the Troops of Brunswick (1 copy.)
The Bombay Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society (1 copy.)
Barnstaple Book Club (1 copy.)
St. George's Reading Society, Bolton (1 copy.)
&c. &c. &c.

The Officers marked with an asterisk (*) were at Waterloo.

OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.

"It is written in a free and impartial manner, is lucid in its descriptions, surprisingly correct in details, and ma important features of the campaign, which have hitherto remained either wholly unnoticed, or else kept too much shadow, are now brought forward into proper relief; whilst the grand military operations of the period are delineated w the pen of an enlightened soldier. In a word, by separating, with much discrimination, the gold from the dross, he turned to excellent account the materials for his undertaking, which seem to have flowed to him from every quarter; the consequence is, that a standard history has been produced, remarkable for its spirit and vigour, as well as for its truth. *U. S. Journal*

"We hail this work as a standard history of the Battle of Waterloo and of the Campaign of Flanders—a worthy co panion and sequel to the Peninsular Campaigns of Napier. A compilation from the testimonies of eye-witnesses (as this had they been dressed up for publication, and subjected individually to the public judgment, would have been cold lifeless; here all is freshness, vivacity, unaffected truth; and thus is explained the very superior style of the writer, w possesses a nerve and spring of thought and a brilliant colouring of phrase, combined with a transparent clearness of expr sion, such as is rarely attained by the purely literary writer, and seldom, if ever, found in connection with profound, p fessional, and practical knowledge, as in this work. The most intimately acquainted with the scenery and incidents of days of June, 1815, are loudest and most decided in their admiration of the plans and portraits which embellish th volumes. The ground is engraved by a peculiar process, which represents in relief the slightest elevation, and sinks smallest depression, by the peculiar curve and measure of the line. Thus, the spectator looks down upon the ground of battle itself with the clear perception of all its undulations, and its every variety of form and aspect. A second, and v different process, to which the plate is then subject, places in their positions the troops exactly as they occupied the fie These speaking plans have an accuracy hitherto unimagined, with an effect which is unequalled by any previous attem There are portraits of the Heroes of the campaign, which have as much merit as novelty, being engraved medallions—perf portraits—in high relief."—*Naval and Military Gazette.*

"The eventful victory which these two spendid volumes are intended to commemorate has had many historians, none so good or comprehensive as Captain Siborne. His facility of access to official documents, both English and forei the assistance which he has received from the surviving Waterloo heroes of all ranks, and the zeal, energy, and talent, wh he has displayed in the construction of his materials, have produced a record, not only of the battle itself, but of the wh Waterloo campaign, which is likely to be as enduring as it is creditable to his talents as a writer, and his reputation a soldier. For ourselves we heartily thank Captain Siborne for his spirited volumes, and sincerely do we hope they will m their due reward. Of this we are certain, they cannot be too soon in the hands, not only of every Officer of the Service, also of every civil member of the community."—*United Service Gazette.*

"We cannot feel our debt acquitted to Captain Siborne for the pleasure and instruction his work has afforded us, if did not bring our unqualified testimony to the minute accuracy of detail, the highly honourable and soldier-like spirit, the admirable candour and fairness by which it is everywhere characterized. When the work was first announced for pu cation, we conceived great expectations from a history compiled by one whose access to every *source of information* favoured both by interest in the highest quarters, and the circumstances of an official appointment on the staff. We w not disappointed. Such are the volumes before us—a Military Classic—and they will remain so while Waterloo is a w to stir the heart and nerve the arm of a British soldier."—*Dublin University, May.*

"This work is precisely what such a publication should be, a fair, impartial compilation of well authenticated testim relative to the great events to which it has reference, interspersed with such reflections as have appeared to the author t needful for the guidance of his unprofessional readers."—*Morning Post.*

"This History possesses all the minute matter of fact accuracy of a gazette, combined with a vivid and glowing p of description scarcely inferior even to Colonel Napier's admirable 'History of the Peninsular War,' and we know not we can give it higher praise; moreover, we will venture to assert, that of all the careful and circumstantial descriptio this campaign, none will give so distinct, vivid, and correct idea of its character as these eleven Maps."—*Sun.*

"We can declare in all sincerity that we have perused his narrative of marches and onslaughts with infinite satisfa He tells his tale with singular clearness. He is at home in all the varied movements and changes of position, &c.; an account of Cavalry Charges, especially in the affair of Quatre Bras, the advance of columns and cannonading, swee onwards as if the scene described were actually passing under your eyes. His Plans and Charts too are excellent, and way worthy of the modellist of the Field of Waterloo. We thank Captain S., not only for the amusement we have de from his performance, but for the opportunity with which the appearance of a genuine English History of the Ba Waterloo supplies us, of refuting some of the errors regarding it into which other historians have fallen."—*Fraser's M*

PUBLISHED BY T. &. W. BOONE, 29, NEW BOND STREET, LONDON;

AND SOLD BY

OLIVER AND BOYD, AND FRASER AND Co. EDINBURGH; AND J. CUMMING, DUBLI

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

r one so go
the assistance w
he has displayed
Waterloo cam
soldier. Fo
their due re
also of ev
"W
did re
the
ca

This book should be returned to the Library on or before the last date stamped below.

A fine is incurred by retaining it beyond the specified time.

Please return promptly.

Digitized by Google

Spain and the Spaniards, in 1843.
Widener Library 006911559
3 2044 080 159 825