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REMARKS
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REMARKS
ON THE
NORTH OF SPAIN.

BY JOHN BRAMSEN,

AUTHOR OF TRAVELS IN EGYPT, SYRIA AND GREECE; AND OF
SAPPHO, &c. &c.

Summa sequar fastigia rerum.

Virgil.

LONDON:
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THE

ARTS AND CRAFTS

BY

W. D. HOWLANDS

LONDON:

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DEDICATION.

TO

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

THE EARL OF FIFE, G. K. G.

&c. &c. &c.

MY LORD,

IN dedicating to your Lordship the following work, I take into consideration the deep interest your Lordship has always felt in every thing which regards the welfare of Spain;—where, during a residence of several years, your Lordship heroically participated in the endeavour to mitigate the sufferings of that unhappy

country; and personally contributed towards its final emancipation from the yoke of foreign despotism. The recollection of this sympathetic co-operation, during their arduous struggle for independence, is still, I am proud to mention, alive in the bosom of every true Spaniard.

I need not eulogise the protection, which your Lordship is so well known to extend to the arts and sciences, without distinction of nation, and for which your Lordship's name is so justly honoured in this country, as well as on the continent.

I also am happy, that these REMARKS afford me an opportunity of publicly avowing to your Lordship, the high sense of gratitude I entertain for the kindness I have experienced, during the many years, I have been honoured with your Lordship's friendship.

I subscribe myself, with sentiments of
profound respect and esteem,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's

Most obedient and obliged Servant,

JOHN BRAMSEN.

*Grosvenor Square,
Sept. 1823.*

PREFACE.

I AM well aware that, at the present period, when the mania for writing travels has so generally spread, a publication of this nature is no very welcome offering, unless it be well furnished with interesting matter; and, therefore, I experience some sensations of timidity on presenting to the public this small volume: and were it not, that the subject concerns a country, upon which every eye in Europe is fixed, I should perhaps have consigned it to oblivion.

If the following remarks have no other merit, they certainly are entitled to that of being unbiassed by party feelings; and I assure those, who may be inclined to peruse them, that I had firmly resolved, on leaving the *Lazaretto of Behobia*, to keep aloof from politics and from the *contagion* of party, which resolution I have in my travels always firmly maintained; and whenever it has been my lot to depict scenery, customs, manners, or party feelings, I have never heightened the picture by false colouring to excite admiration, or given exaggerated statements, with the design of flattering the views of my political readers.

I am sure that I need offer no apology for having indulged feelings of gratitude to my friends abroad, to whom I owe much for their politeness and hospitality; and I am happy to avail myself of this

opportunity of acknowledging the kind attention of an English gentleman, who personally contributed to render my journey into Spain, as agreeable as circumstances would permit.

I must request indulgence for the many errors that may be found in this small work, and plead as an excuse, that English is not my native language:—As far as regards the remarks, which are scattered about it, I can only say, that they are the result of attentive observation and strict enquiry.

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CHAPTER I.

Departure from Bayonne.—St. Jean de Luz.—Lazaretto of Behobia.—Mons. le Commissaire.—Veteran Serjeant.—Biddassoa.—Savage Peasants.—Custom House.

IN the beginning of September, 1822, I took my departure from the Hotel St. Etienne, Bayonne, and proceeded to St. Jean de Luz, pleasantly situate a few miles from the sea coast. The town and its vicinity were occupied by a great number of troops, whose appearance would have justified a Frenchman in saying, "*la troupe est bien tenue*:" it is small, and consists of houses badly constructed, partly of brick, and partly of wood. The road hither from Bayonne is hilly, and in many places very sandy. After we had proceeded

for about an hour on our road to Irun, we were stopped by three *gens d'armes*, belonging to the *Cordon Sanitaire*, and conducted to the *Commissaire de Police*, whom I found confined to his bed, in a miserable hut, situate in front of the *Lazaretto of Behobia*; the latter composed of three brick houses, on a small eminence, having a pleasure ground before it.

I found M. le Commissaire such a shallow-visaged personage, that I could not refrain from remarking that he himself was a fitter subject for the *Lazaretto*, than any traveller coming from the other side of the *Bidassoa*.

He received me very politely, and made many apologies for his situation. An elderly lady, rather *en bon point*, whom I understood to be his wife, was sitting at his bedside, administering to the wants of her *chère moitié*. The good lady, who was rather loquacious, expressed her surprise "that any human being could venture to cross the *Bidassoa*," or, to use her own ex-

pression, "to approach the dragon's mouth;" thereby intimating her fears that I should catch the yellow fever; but, should I have the good fortune to return, my fate would be to reside under her roof and kind care, for the space of five days, including those of arrival and departure, which, in fact, reduces it to three.*

When my passport was signed, I wished M. le Commissaire a speedy recovery, and took my departure under the escort of a serjeant, with whom I embarked in a boat to cross the Bidassoa. The heat was intense. Immediately on entering the boat, the veteran began a conversation in broken English; praising the kind treatment he had received in England, during the time he had been a prisoner of war there: then by an ingenious digression he adverted to the intolerable heat of the day. I soon perceived that his conversation was rather an appeal directed to my purse, than to the vanity of

* Madame la Commissaire officiated as cook to the persons confined in the Lazaretto under quarantine.

his auditor, for a franc or two silenced his eulogies. When we were about half way over the river, which is small, he informed me that we were out of France. We were met half way by a ferry-boat, into which the other passengers and myself stepped, and in five minutes reached the opposite shore; and though the distance was little more than twenty paces, our new Charon had the conscience to demand five francs from each, which, on our refusal, he endeavoured, in no very civil terms, to exact. Hardly had we settled with him, when we were beset by a swarm of men, whose savage looks, and sallow complexions, reminded me of the Arabs I had seen among the mountains of Jerusalem. Their dress accorded with their looks; their hair hung over their shoulders, and they wore a shirt, the colour of which dust and time had conspired to conceal. Some wore a brown jacket, and a small round hat; some were barefooted, others wore sandals, and an old slipper fastened to the foot with black riband. They did not appear to enjoy the best reputation for honesty; as

there were guards watching their motions for the better security of the baggage and passengers. These guards were only distinguished by a cartridge-box fastened in front by a girdle.

I would recommend all travellers to have horses ordered from Irun, which is about half a mile from this spot, to draw the carriage from the middle of the river; as during the *quarantine* the French postillion conducts the carriage only as far as the French limits, which is in the middle of the Bidassoa, and there leaves it; the river at low water being very shallow. There was formerly a bridge over the Bidassoa, but it was destroyed by the Spaniards at the commencement of the late war. Unless such precautions are taken, travellers have no alternative but to submit to the extravagant imposition of twenty-five francs, made by the above-mentioned peasants, for performing that office; and who are so awkward, that they frequently upset the carriage in the river, or otherwise injure it, while dragging it over the stones on the shore.

The custom-house is situate at the entrance of Irun, where our baggage was deposited for examination. The officer informed me, that, as my passport had not undergone all the necessary formalities, at the Spanish consulate at Bayonne, I could not proceed; and there was no remedy but that of sending it back, to obtain the *visa* of the Spanish consul. It was returned to me the following morning; and I was then obliged to send it to the *Xefe Politico* (Chief of the Police) at St. Sebastian, to obtain his *visa*, for which formality every traveller must pay a Spanish dollar. The custom-house officer, having valued our carriage much above its prime cost, wished us to deposit the full amount in cash, which we thought rather dangerous on account of the position of affairs in Spain. We therefore decided on leaving the carriage at the custom-house, and hired one with seven mules, for four hundred francs, wherewith to proceed to Bilboa.

CHAPTER II.

Irun.—Hotel.—Spanish Dinner.—Inhabitants.—Garrison.—
Female Patriots.—Plaza de la Constitucion.

ON our arrival at Irun we alighted at the hotel, kept by the postmaster, where, to my no small surprise, I found the stable situate at the very entrance of the hotel; occupying that part of the building which, in England, generally forms the parlour. The dining-room was directly over the stable, and presented no very elegant appearance; as the only furniture it contained consisted of an old wooden table, a few crazy chairs, and a bed in a recess. The adjoining apartment, which was furnished in an equally splendid manner, had also a bed in

it, and was destined for the reception of a select party. Both rooms had large holes in the floor, through which the effluvia of the stable afforded no very agreeable sensation to the olfactory nerves of the visitors. As the carriage we had hired, could not leave Irun before one o'clock the following day, it afforded me an opportunity of seeing the town, consisting of one main street, which, though narrow, had a foot pavement. The houses were miserable; most of them not more than one or two stories high, and irregularly built. Some had a small balcony with curtains; others wooden verandas, extending the whole length of the first floor windows. There were a few shops, but those very poorly stocked. At one end of the main street was a square, called *Plaza de la Constitucion*,* where the scanty garrison paraded. I could hardly help smiling on observing the town-house

* There is generally in every Spanish town, in the market place, a marble slab affixed to the wall of some public building, upon which is inscribed *Plaza de la Constitucion*.

strangely metamorphosed into a miserable fortress, occupied by the garrison, and having a small drawbridge in front. At the other end of the main street stands a church of inferior architecture, containing nothing worthy of remark. The neighbourhood appears fertile; and at a short distance from the town are seen scattered many country houses with gardens, well stocked with vegetables and fruit trees. The general appearance of Irun is far from being cheerful; the want of windows in most of the houses, a defect which was supplied by wooden shutters, contributing in no small degree to increase the gloominess of its aspect. Besides—it appeared evident that no great care was taken to clean the streets, which were accordingly very filthy. Most of the inhabitants had a sallow and sickly appearance: the men of the lower class generally wore a handkerchief tied about their heads and a small cap over it; some a chocolate-coloured jacket and trowsers, and many had red sashes round their waists. The females tied their hair, which was of a glossy black,

in long tresses; their eyes were generally large and dark, and their eyelashes black, which appears to be a national characteristic. They were rather graceful than beautiful; but their complexion, like that of the men, was pale and unhealthy. The men of the lower class generally sat on benches before the doors, smoking segars. About six in the evening, a person, dressed in plain clothes, followed by two drummers, passed through the street, playing national airs upon a flageolet or pipe, for the purpose of calling the soldiers to parade. After marching up and down several times, they took their station on the parade; but it appeared that the ladies were animated by a more lively spirit of patriotic feeling than the men; as they obtained a far greater number of female than of male recruits.

The garrison, consisting of about fifty men and a few officers, assembled; but shortly after their arrival, most of them laid down their arms, and joined in the dance with the females. The charm of

the national airs fascinated the aged as well as the young; as I observed several women, not less than seventy years of age, with heads as white as the tops of the neighbouring Pyrenees, joined the youthful group in threading the mazes of the fandango. The officers and several of the inhabitants stood by, smoking segars. I saw one officer take a segar from the mouth of a soldier to light his own, and then return it in a most friendly manner.

It appeared that it is contrary to custom, for men-servants to wait at table at the inns; as during our dinner we were attended by a female servant, who stood behind our chairs with a towel hanging over her shoulder. I think it will not be unpleasant to some of my gastronomical readers to be made acquainted with a Spanish bill of fare; that they may know what to expect, should they visit that part of Spain. The first dish placed upon the table was an olla (*pot au feu*,) composed of meat, ham, fowls, pig's feet, suasages, bread, and a species of beans called *cara-*

vansas; the second dish consisted of cabbages and sausages from Estramadura; the third, of boiled partridges and rice; the fourth, of *bacallao a la Biscayan^{na}*, or cod-fish, dressed after the Biscayan fashion; the whole of the dishes being profusely seasoned with oil, and garlick. The dessert consisted of fruits of various kinds, among which were grapes of an extraordinary size, but they were nearly tasteless. *say about*

CHAPTER III.

Departure from Irun.—Spanish mules.—Tolosa.—Villa Franca.
—Post House.—Durango.—Rencontre with some of the Fac-
tious.*

THE day after our arrival, we obtained our permit and baggage from the Custom-house, with our passport from St. Sebastian; and at one o'clock took our departure from Irun, and proceeded on our journey to Tolosa. A short distance from Irun the road was so hilly and in such a bad state, that, in spite of the close conversation, which the drivers kept up with their mules, two of the latter were frequently on their knees. On each side of the road were immense mountains; some barren, and others covered with fern and underwood.

* Those are called factious in Spain, who are not of the constitutional party.

Between the mountains the country was cultivated mostly with Indian corn; and part of the road lined with apple and pear trees loaded with fruit. The scenery was wild and picturesque: a deep melancholy seemed to hover over the whole country; Nature having done little towards producing a smiling or even an agreeable landscape.

The few insignificant towns, villages, and straggling houses, which we passed before we reached Tolosa, presented a wretched appearance. Instead of windows, many of the houses had holes, formed in the walls to admit light and air. In the villages, the pavement was in such a condition, that our carriage, with the utmost exertion both of man and beast, could hardly be made to pass; and as it hung upon very indifferent springs, we were most unmercifully shaken. Our *mulatero*, who was a Frenchman, walked by the side of the mules, and very seldom took his seat in front; nor did the Spanish postillion, who acted as his assistant. The mules appeared

to understand the expressions of the drivers, who told me that each had its appropriate name, and required only to be spoken to, without any beating, to accelerate or retard its pace; which generally is a quick walk. On entering or leaving a village however, it improves its pace into a trot. It is neither watered nor fed until it reaches the end of its day's journey, which is often from ten to twelve leagues.

Our vehicle was drawn by seven mules, two and two abreast, with a leader. Their heads were fantastically ornamented with white and blue trappings, and a great number of small bells were attached to leathern belts, fastened round their necks; the leader having several large bells by way of pre-eminence. I often observed that it walked with greater precaution than the other mules; particularly in turning the roads, and winding along the precipices.

On passing a village half-way between Irun and Tolosa, we found a great number

of the inhabitants, playing at ball in the square; two of whom approached our carriage, and demanded whether we had received a clearance for our baggage from the Custom-house. After showing it to them, they allowed us to pass. Shortly after many of them came to the side of the carriage, and enquired if there were any Factious inside. Being answered in the negative, they retired, and we continued our journey unmolested, as far as the gates of Tolosa; where we were stopped by the sentries demanding our passports; which, on receiving, they delivered to a corporal and three soldiers for examination. They kept us more than a quarter of an hour waiting, and were not very polite in their expressions; but finally returned the passports, and told us we might enter the town. We alighted at the hotel near the bridge, a very extensive building, which appeared formerly to have been a convent: it being composed of numerous small rooms, having no other furniture than a narrow bed, a wooden table, and a few chairs. The besdteads were of an extraordinary form;

the head board being very high and narrow, gilt, and otherwise ornamented with crosses and flowers: some bedsteads in the other rooms had also a board at the foot, with similar ornaments.

In the morning a female servant brought us breakfast, which consisted of chocolate and bread; neither butter nor milk could be obtained. Being requested by one of the travellers to bring a tea-pot, she brought a small shaving bowl, filled with water, scarcely warm, observing that it was the only utensil she had for beverage of that kind.

Tolosa is situate thirty-seven miles SW. of Bayonne. Its principal street is about half an English mile in length; and the houses, mostly three stories high, have a balcony in front of each window.

Formerly there were several sword manufactories in Tolosa; but they are now in a state of inactivity; which must be particularly regretted by the Spaniards, under their

present want of arms. Cleanliness appeared to have been proscribed by the inhabitants, who strongly resemble in this particular those of Irun.

There is another inn in the town, kept by the post-master, standing in the centre of the main street, and which we learnt was of a similar description with the one above-mentioned.

We left Tolosa for Villa Franca, a small town, lying in a more cheerful spot than the one we had left; where the inn, kept by the post-master, was comfortable, and its owner civil. He informed us, that the Factious had paid them a visit a few days before; and that, at their departure, they had taken a horse and a mule from him. A Spaniard, who happened to be present, observed, that it was rather incompatible with their title of Army of the FAITH, to plunder peaceable inhabitants, and particularly a post-master.

We departed from Villa Franca to Villa

Real; but the scenery on the road was far from displaying such agreeable prospects as that we had so lately quitted. The features of the country did not vary, until we arrived at the post-house, situate on the public road to Madrid, about an English mile from Bergara. The view from the balcony was very imposing; for the sky was serene, and the purple rays of the sun, setting behind the lofty mountains, presented a sight at once beautiful and sublime.

Towards evening, many of the inhabitants of the neighbouring town, Bergara,—where there is a college of no small fame,—passed the house in their way to a village, which was in sight.

These people, seeing our carriage before the door, made many enquiries who we were, and our business in Spain. The inmates of the post-house were rather civil, but not so the numerous insects who infested the beds.

We proceeded hence to Durango, having

quited the road to Madrid. At a short distance from the place where we slept, we passed a large village, standing delightfully on the banks of the river. The peasants were peaceably occupied with the concerns of husbandry, and exhibited not the smallest symptom, that the state of the country had interrupted the course of their occupations.

The road hence to Durango is the worst I ever met with; and had not our carriage been built of very solid materials, it would have reached Durango in a very shattered condition. We arrived, however, at the gates with no other inconvenience than that of having been severely shaken.

We were there stopped by the sentry to show our passports; but in a more polite manner than at Tolosa; and having written down our names, we were allowed to proceed to the post-house; where we dined, and gave refreshment to our mules for the first time, during that day's journey.

The few troops, most of which were militia-men, were well equipped; there being but few of the line in the town or its neighbourhood. I was informed that the Factious made frequent inroads, and then retreated to the neighbouring mountains.

We were shown a public building near the gates, to which the Factious had a few days previously set fire; destroying the greater part of the building, and the walls that surrounded it. They entered at the breach; but after some skirmishes were compelled to retire; not, however, without having previously levied contributions.

The inmates of the hotel appeared to be of a very religious cast; the rooms, into which we were shewn, being stocked with images of saints of all sizes; on the chimney stood several apostles; at the door was a picture of Christ and the Virgin; while the walls of the room were covered with religious inscriptions.

Our dinner was served up with a par-

simony more suitable for a hermit on his pilgrimage, than for travellers, who had been jumbled about at a most unmerciful rate. The dishes, too, were so highly seasoned with garlick, that nothing but the emergency of appetite could render them at all palatable. The wine was new and sour, and quite in unison with the rest of the repast.

There are several large buildings, of decent architecture, particularly the college, which is frequented by numerous students, many of whom I saw walking in black gowns.

The landlady told me that the inhabitants, being exposed to their exactions, are in constant alarm from the Factious; who were well informed of the exact number of horses and mules in the town, of which they stood in great need.

Having played our part at the table, as well as could be expected on such an occasion, we hastened to continue our journey to Bilboa; in order to arrive there

before night: as we had heard that the road thither was much worse, than the one we had passed; and in spite of the holy display in the room where we sat, the inhabitants of the neighbourhood did not aspire to principles, harmonizing with the sanctity of this external exhibition.

We passed several mountains, some of which were entirely barren; but others were peopled with flocks of sheep and goats, which grazed peaceably among the rocks.

Towards evening we entered a narrow defile between high mountains, covered with large oak trees. We had hardly done so, when suddenly two peasants rushed from behind a tree on the brow of the mountain, calling out "*Alto aqui.*" One of them was dressed in a brown jacket, without stockings or waistcoat: he was about twenty-five years of age, and apparently but a novice in the trade, as he trembled very much. The other, rather older, appeared a veteran in his profession. Each held a gun which was

levelled at the windows of the carriage; two others stood a little higher up the mountain.

They wished to make their appearance as terrific as possible, pretending to belong to a patrol of the *Army of the Faith*; saying that their captain was on the top of the mountain with a strong detachment of troops; that they wished to be informed who we were; our business in Spain, whether political or not; whether we had any letters or passports: and they accompanied every sentence with an oath.

We presented our passports; assuring them that none of us had come to Spain with any political design; being at the same time persuaded, that their views were of quite a different nature from that they affected to represent.

When we delivered our passports for examination, they read them upside down, and then returned them, affecting to be satisfied. After having detained us about a quarter of an hour, they began to abuse

the French driver, and wanted to see his permit for driving mules; observing, at the same time, that the army was in great want of them. Finally, the enigma was solved. They told us that though they served in a good cause they received bad pay; and were sorry to be under the necessity of asking us for some remuneration, for having stopped us in so civil a manner.

We presented each with a Napoleon: this somewhat abated their patriotic ardour, and instead of an oath, we were repeatedly greeted with *muchas gracias*. One of them begged us not to mention to the constitutionals their bad pay and the necessity they laboured under of asking money from travellers. They then ascended the mountain, and having disappeared behind the trees, we proceeded on our journey towards Bilboa.

CHAPTER IV.

Arrival at Bilboa.—Hotel.—Public Walks.—Exchange.—Cafés.—Streets.—Arenal.—Campo Volantil.—Dinner of the Constitutional Soldiers.—Italian Riding Master.—Harbour.—Consuls.—Theatre.

IN consequence of this detention we did not reach the suburb of Bilboa before ten o'clock at night. According to an old established law, no carriage of any kind is permitted to enter the town, in order to preserve the pavement. Our carriage, mules, and baggage, therefore, were left at the post-house, in the suburbs.

We alighted at the *Posada de San Nicholas*, at the corner of the street called *Ascauo*, which was recommended to us as being the best in the town. Although we met with the same inconvenience of finding the

stables situated near the staircase, nevertheless the hotel was superior to any I had hitherto seen in Spain.

Bilboa, the capital of Biscay, is situate on the Ybaicabal, about fifty miles west of St. Sebastian, and one hundred and eighty north of Madrid. It is pretty large, and is surrounded by high mountains, at the feet of which are several convents agreeably situated in the midst of scenery truly picturesque.

The houses are generally from three to five stories high, built of brick or free-stone; and every story has a small balcony before each window, with a curtain over it, to protect the inmates from the scorching heat of the sun:—and in some houses I noticed small windows, fixed in the middle of a green wooden shutter.

The market place, which is spacious, and well furnished with fruits and vegetables, is situated near the river. In the same square stands the Town hall, a very ancient

building of mean architecture. Not far from thence is a neat well built church, of which the interior contains nothing worthy of notice. A very old house was pointed out to me, over which the arms of the present proprietor were affixed.* This is the house whence Peter the Cruel, who was remarkably strong, threw a deputy out of the window, because he differed from him in political opinion. The mansion, in which Admiral Mazarredo lived, is a fine spacious building with the family arms over it, carved in stone.

The church of St. James, standing near the post-office, has an entrance of superior architecture; in its interior are six different naves, and a silver altar, over which appears St. James on horseback, of massy silver. The choir and the windows are in the gothic style; the latter of coloured glass; but there are so many wooden images, and so much gilding in

* This is generally the insignia of nobility, or to shew that the proprietors are descended from ancient families.

the interior of the church, that they detracted much from its solemnity.

The names of the principal streets are *Calle del Correo*, where the *Xefe Politico* resides; *Ascauo*, where the *Posada de San Nicholas* is situated; *L'Esperanza*, *Vide Varieta*, and *El Portal*, &c. &c.

The public walk, called *L'Arenal*, lies in front of the *Calle de Stufa*, along the river; it is the most handsome, and most frequented by the *beau monde*. There are many stone benches, and in the centre a flower garden. This walk is a rendezvous or Exchange for the merchants, who meet between twelve and two o'clock, to settle their commercial transactions; and they generally conclude their negociations, at the two coffee houses in the *Calle del Correo*, kept by two brothers, who are natives of Switzerland. The first Café, at the entrance of the street, is considered the most respectable. In the afternoon between two and four, *L'Arenal* is the rendezvous of politicians, who meet to discuss or to fabricate news, to assist the

interests of the party, to which they respectively belong.

This walk is also a parade for the militia, who assemble daily. Here on days of Constitutional Fêtes, the troops meet to discharge the *feu de joie*: and here, in the evening, the fashionables of both sexes take their lounge; and little boys, with lighted matches, run up and down the walk, crying "*Fuego, fuego!*" for the smokers to light their segars, at the moderate charge of a halfpenny. Many of the most famous smokers and frequenters of this walk are well known to these boys, and pay by a subscription of a penny per week; but they seldom or ever smoke when they are walking with ladies.

As soon as it grows dark, the place is abandoned by the more respectable class of ladies, and only frequented by females, who have other intentions than that of respiring the fresh air.

There is another walk called *El Campo Volantil*, which is situated at a small distance

from the town, along the river, up the *Ola Viage*. This walk is also much frequented in the afternoon by the inhabitants, who, on returning, finish the day by a few turns in the *Arcenal*. Out of the gates of the town, along the *Campo Volantil*, are several coffee-houses, agreeably situated near the banks of the river, and a great many *Tabernas*; in many of which Bacchus and Venus hold a united temple.

The barracks stand at the entry of the *Campo Volantil*, at a short distance from the gates, where the band plays every evening. Several officers of the militia and regular troops meet here to admire and to be admired. I one day, to my no small amusement, witnessed the soldiers taking their dinner, in a manner, which gave me a very favourable idea of the frugality of their habits; and seldom have I seen an instance, where so much hilarity prevailed at a repast so frugal.

Two soldiers placed several wooden bowls of soup upon the ground, in the walk



before the barracks. They were soon after surrounded by a group of their comrades, forming a circle round each bowl. A large wooden spoon was then placed in each, and one soldier after the other stepped gently forward; when, after eating a spoonful of the contents, he replaced the spoon and retired to his former station in the circle. No confusion existed, no oath was uttered, no fighting ensued; they all appeared pleased and satisfied, partaking of the contents of the bowl in harmony. Soon after, each took a segar from his pocket, lighted it, gave one to those of their comrades who had none, and sat quietly on the benches conversing in a friendly manner.

Many of the soldiers appeared quite young: they were generally small, of a sallow complexion, not very martial in their appearance, and badly accoutred. Their uniforms were worn out, and seemingly no very strict discipline was employed to enforce that cleanliness in person or accoutrements, which is so necessary for the well regulation of a corps. I must do

them the justice to observe, that I seldom saw a soldier drunk or quarrelsome; while their officers were extremely obliging and polite.

On the opposite side of the barracks is a riding place, where an Italian trained several horses belonging to the inhabitants. Some said he was formerly an officer of cavalry; but others declared he had been no other than a cook. Whatever his former occupation, however, might have been, whether he drew the sword for political purposes or not, he was assuredly an expert horseman, very civil, and a great favourite with the fair sex.

A little higher up on the same side of the walk, is a spacious circle, where there are seats, formed for loungers to rest on. The views thence are very pleasing and picturesque; and on the opposite side of the river stands a convent, at the foot of a very high mountain, partially covered with wood. I often sat on one of the benches, admiring the purple rays of the declining

sun, and listening to the music of the band in the Volantil, and to the vesper bells, which, re-echoed by the surrounding mountains, gave a most delightful character to my feelings.

Not far from the circle, I have just described, is a small avenue lined with fruit trees, on the top of which, to the right, is an open square, called *Plaza de la Constitucion*, where, every Sunday afternoon, the inhabitants of both sexes meet; mostly of the second or inferior rank. Stones, fixed round the square, supply the place of benches to the spectators; an orchestra, consisting of a boy with a small drum, and a man playing a pipe, take their station at an early hour, attended by two constables for the sake of keeping order. Here they execute their national dances in perfection. The ball generally begins thus: two gentlemen, one of whom was pointed out to me, as a great votary of Terpsichore, walked before the lady whom they intended to enlist, and the latter danced several minutes, receiving the applauses of the numerous

by-standers ; when they both bowed to the lady, who replied with a curtsy, and gave her hand to the gentleman who had not danced ; and they continued in this manner until they had formed a line of ten couples.

It was ludicrous to observe with what gravity this gentleman danced. He was of small stature, his steps not very regular, and apparently of his own composition. They generally dance till dark ; I never observed any disorder, excepting one day when several English and Swedish sailors, much intoxicated, actually came and jumped about in the middle of their dances, and behaved in a very disorderly manner to several ladies, who stood peaceable spectators. Had their respective Consuls been made acquainted with this shameful conduct, they no doubt would have been severely punished ; but to the honor of the Spaniards they said nothing ; but the constables politely requested the intruders to dance out of the crowd, and not to interfere with parties, already formed : to which they after some difficulty, assented.

Chasses Marées, or vessels of small size, only, can lie in the harbour of Bilboa. Ships of larger burden, therefore, anchor two or three miles from the town, before the small village of *Ola Viage*; where they lie secure from the very heavy gales, which are so prevalent in the Autumn and Winter.

Walking there one day, I was not a little surprised at finding, written on a paper in a window, in large letters, "Turtle Soup." On enquiry I found, that the house was kept by a Mr. Taylor, an English ship-chandler, who had married a Spanish woman. This house is much frequented by English merchants and captains. Mr. Taylor is a very civil enterprizing man; he delights in talking of his native land, and can furnish his countrymen with a real English dinner.

The quarantine ground is a quarter of a mile higher up the river; but the place is so narrow and small, that vessels lying there can easily communicate with the shore.

The entrance of the harbour is dangerous, owing to a great moving sand bank. It is situate at *Portugaletto*, about eight English miles from Bilboa, where vessels frequently lie at anchor waiting for a wind. Here are many houses, and very decent inns; and a small garrison is constantly stationed for the protection of the navigation.

In Bilboa are Consuls of all nations. Mr. Charles Dawson is the English Consul, and Mr. William Klee, a respectable merchant, Consul for the Hanseatic Towns; both of whom live in terms of great friendship with the inhabitants. The Theatre, which is small, is not far from the *Arenal*, and is capable of containing about three or four hundred persons; but it was shut during the time I resided in Bilboa; the performers not finding sufficient encouragement.

CHAPTER V.

Society.—Physicians.—State of Literature.—Milanese Print-seller.—Saints and Napoleons.—Inhabitants.—Ladies.—Their Dresses.

DURING my short stay in this town, I endeavoured to get introduced into the society of the inhabitants; that being the only means of becoming acquainted with their manners: but owing, partly to the convulsed state of the country, and partly to their national antipathy to mix with foreigners, I met with little success in those attempts.

They give little or no encouragement to the arts: even physicians not being able to obtain support; and I was told that a respectable French physician, who resided here for some time, was forced to return to Bayonne,

for want of encouragement ; and only visits Bilboa when some rich patient sends for him. The consequences are, that many diseases, which, at first, are not of a very serious nature, are often mistaken by the quacks, who practice here, and therefore frequently prove mortal. The same inconvenience is attached to the few apothecaries' shops. Being in want of some bark and myrrh I went to the best in the town, and found the lady and her daughter in conversation with an officer of the line. I told them my wants, and the mother requested me to sit down, until her husband or shop-boy returned. During the twenty minutes I was compelled to wait, I thought I perceived, that Cupid was hovering about the domain of Hippocrates ; as the son of Mars appeared to pay great homage to the daughter. At length the shop-boy arrived ; but, to my great disappointment, could not find the box containing myrrh, and it was not till the arrival of the master of the house, that my wants were supplied.

I visited the few booksellers' shops ; but

looked in vain for new Spanish works. Don Quixote always stared me in the face : it stood forlorn yet conspicuous on the shelf ; and I was told, that were it not for the newspapers and proclamations, the press would be in a state of profound lethargy. Is it not surprising, that the enthusiasm of patriotism, which generally affords such scope for the exercise of the imagination, should not have inspired some one of the natives, like Tyrtæus of old, to kindle, by his poetic effusions, the military ardour of his countrymen ? And that the beautiful and romantic scenery, with which the country abounds, should not again have roused the descriptive powers of some modern Cervantes, or Lope de Vega ?

Returning one day from my walk, I passed, in the *Calle de Stufa*, a shop which was to be let. A boy sat at the door ; several prints were hanging on the walls for sale : "*Entrate caro Signore,*" said he in a melancholy tone. As soon as I entered he began to weep, requesting me to buy a print or two, as he had not sold any for three weeks. He informed me, that he

was a native of Milan, and had been enticed by a captain to come to Bilboa, who assured him he would sell his whole stock in a few days. He brought, in consequence, a large quantity of Saints and Napoleons; the latter of which, he thought would pass among the sale of the former, as they must be equally liked in Bilboa. But his expectations were deceived; for the sale of Saints was as flat as that of Napoleons. "It appears," said the boy sobbing, "that both have lost their value here; I have sold hardly any; and none of my other prints: so that I am now reduced to live upon my stock, and, to get a dinner, daily sacrifice a print for half price. Even to-day," continued he, "I have dined upon a Napoleon; almost the last I have." He said he should be most happy, if he could once again see France or his native town. I left the poor boy quite happy; as I put his finances in such condition, that he was no longer under the immediate necessity of making a dinner by his last Napoleon.

The inhabitants of this town have the reputation of being more industrious than

those of any other in Spain; although I was informed that many were addicted to gambling; and that during the time their wives attend to business, they frequent the coffee-houses, where they play cards or billiards. They neglect their persons very much; shaving but seldom, and having frequently a segar in their mouth: they pay little or no attention to foreigners, but confine their society principally to their own countrymen.

The ladies in this part of Spain are, as I observed before, rather graceful than handsome. Their dress consists of a black silk petticoat, a black or white jacket, and a large silk *capuchon*, which shows their dark hair and eyes to great advantage. The ends of the *capuchon* hang down over the breast like a shawl, but do not hide their handkerchiefs. They walk well, have very neat feet, and pay great attention to their shoes and stockings: but in this part of Spain they have generally large ankles, and consequently their feet are not quite so small as those more to the south. They all carry fans, and seem to study with great

coquetry the manner of opening and shutting them. The ladies of the higher order have some knowledge of the piano-forte and singing; but the guitar is not considered a genteel instrument: it is, therefore, confined chiefly to the lower orders. At some of their meetings I have heard them perform parts of Mozart's operas; and though but badly executed, it is a proof that they have some taste for music. Drawing and dancing form a part of their education; but they do not pay much attention to languages: few, therefore, speak French fluently.

The best society in the town is engaged by Madame F. de Mazarredo, in the *Calle de Stufa*. This lady has resided some time in Paris, and has received a superior education: she is an excellent musician, speaks French well, and is very attentive to strangers. Madame de Mazarredo dresses after the French fashion, and does not follow the general costume, except when going to mass; when she is compelled to adopt the dress of the country.

CHAPTER VI.

Tertulias.—Amusements.—French Officers.—Spanish Ladies and Dress.—Clubs.—Dinner Party.—Smokers.—Xefe Politico.—Hospitality of Baron de D——r.—British Consul.—Hanseatic Consul.—Manufactories.—Commercial Opinions of a Spanish Merchant.—Spanish Wool.

MADAME DE MAZARREDO holds *Tertulias* every day, but the most select are on Sundays. The company generally meet at ten o'clock. After having entered and paid their respects to the lady of the house, they seat themselves in a circle, and soon after commence dancing French cotillons, or some of their national dances; after which they play at a round game. The most fashionable one is this: they all form a circle; one stands in the middle, when they take a piece of money and pass it round very quickly, singing, "*El Rey pasa por aqui;*" and the person in the centre must

guess who has it. If he guess rightly, the person who has it must take his place.

I must observe, that in the evening, all the ladies are dressed after the French fashion; mostly in white; and when they converse, they constantly move their fans. These assemblies are not very expensive, and certainly differ very much from parties in other countries; as I never saw even a glass of water offered. At midnight they all retire, apparently much pleased; and as I understood, often sup at home afterwards; as they generally dine between two and three o'clock, and their repasts not of the most sumptuous kind. A stranger must not be surprised, on conversing with a lady, should he discover by her breath, that the odours of the *ajo* are more prevalent than those of Arabia.

Among the gentlemen, whom I met at these parties, there were several French officers, who had been compelled to quit France, in consequence of their political opinions. Also a great many Spanish offi-

cers of the Constitutional army. These gentlemen I found polite and attentive to foreigners; but I thought, I perceived reserve in their manners, and an appearance of unwillingness to form acquaintance with them; and they even observed the same conduct towards the French officers. They spoke little, were rather serious, and as I understood, of sober habits. It is a rare thing to find a gentleman intoxicated; and they very properly expressed their surprise, that persons of education and polite manners in other countries, could voluntarily deprive themselves of their senses by the use of strong liquors.

The Spanish ladies appear to be coquettes, but they are not so in reality; they have less reserve than the men; but their passions are strong; they love and hate with equal violence, and manifest great attachment to the Constitutional cause. The inhabitants have clubs in every part of the town, frequented by those of their own districts, where strangers are excluded. Here they play cards, and talk politics. The most re-

spectable one is that held at the *Café*, in the *Calle del Correo*, kept by a Swiss.

I had the honor of being invited to a dinner party, at the house of Don Francisco de Mazarredo, a gentleman who has passed some time in England. He speaks English perfectly well, and is very attentive to foreigners. The *Xefe Politico* was of the party. We sat down to dinner at half-past two, consisting of more than forty dishes; principally of *petits plats*, fish, and pastry in great variety; and I was not a little surprised to find oysters and fried fish served at the finale of the repast. Iced orange and currant juice was very palatable. The other dishes were, for a person not accustomed to Spanish cookery, too highly seasoned with oil, garlick, and saffron. The dessert consisted of more than twenty dishes of fruit, of a superior description, and many sweetmeats, with French and Spanish wines. At half-past four, the company rose and retired to the drawing-room, to take *café* and liqueurs. Those however, who were fond of segars, retired to the library to smoke: nevertheless I

have been at parties, where the gentlemen even smoked during the time the ladies performed on the piano-forte.

They are so much addicted to smoking, that several gentlemen told me, that their servants laid segars on the tables of their bedrooms, with which they regale themselves in bed; and every morning, at five, a lighted segar is brought which, when finished, they fall asleep again, until seven or eight. The Fire Offices in England would complain greatly of such habits.

The *Xefe Politico*, who was of the party, was rather young, wore large *mustaches* and whiskers. He was polite and pleasing in his manners, and well informed; yet said little: and although he knew French well, would not speak it; which may perhaps be attributed to his antipathy to the French government. I had the honor of being introduced to Baron de Die—r, a Hanoverian, who was, during the late war, one of the principal commissaries in the British service. He displayed the greatest hospitality to strangers of all nations, par-

ticularly the English. He not only keeps open house, but has fitted up an excellent library, for the accommodation of strangers. The Baron has had a superior education, and devotes a great part of his time to the cultivation of the sciences. I had the honor of receiving frequent testimonies of his hospitality; when his conversation generally turned upon England, and his attachment to its sovereign. He also expressed an anxious wish to visit Hanover once again, before death.

The Baron has a very faithful French servant, a native of La Vendée, named Chapeau, who has been in his service nearly forty years. He speaks many languages; and although the Baron has several other domestics, in order to manifest his attachment to his master, he faithfully discharges the respective offices of *valet de chambre*, cook, and *homme de confiance*. The Baron informed me that he had placed *Chapeau* at the *head* of his establishment, to which I answered, that he was in his *proper place*.

The British Consul, Mr. Charles Dawson,

who shows great attention to foreigners, particularly British subjects, is much respected by the inhabitants. Mr. W. Klee, the Consul of the Hanseatic towns,* who is at the head of a commercial concern of some magnitude, is also a desirable acquaintance for foreigners.

The general characteristic of the inhabitants is, to display a great antipathy to any thing which is not Spanish: yet not the slightest encouragement is given by the government, and no great desire manifested by the natives, to cultivate industry, or improve in the arts and sciences. There is hardly a single manufactory in the kingdom, belonging to a native, in a flourishing state. I was told by a merchant, that there were a large cotton and a paper manufactory near St. Ander; the former superintended by an Englishman, and the latter by a German;

* I take this opportunity of publicly manifesting to the Baron de Die--r, General Mazarredo, Mr. Dawson and Mr. William Klee, my sincere acknowledgments for the hospitality I received from them, during my stay in Bilboa.

but that neither received any encouragement from the natives, who pretend that they do not want foreigners to teach them how to work; having manufactories enough of their own. I suspect that his statement was exaggerated, or that the assertion was not founded on public opinion.

My friend observed, that these prejudices have taken root among the members of the administration; and until this evil is eradicated, trade will continue in its present languishing state: because, as long as this is the case, no raw materials can be advantageously imported into Spain; and to re-export them would not remunerate the importer.

Their cloth, paper, and tobacco manufactories, once sufficiently flourishing to consume part of the importations from their islands, are now totally neglected. It is true, that the unfortunate state of politics has deprived Spain of most of its transatlantic possessions; yet the produce of the island of Cuba, and their own growth of wool, may be advantageously

employed; as the exportation of the latter has of late much decreased; the natural result of large contracts having been made in Saxony, for the purchase of that article by English merchants, who find the price there more moderate. This gives an advantageous opening for British commerce; for should, at any future period, the anti-commercial spirit of the Spanish administration augment the duties on exportation;* this commodity from Spain might not pay the merchant; particularly, should he be obliged to pay heavy freightage and insurance. I am informed, that the Spanish fleece has lost much of its oily quality; and has therefore deteriorated; a circumstance, which has arisen from the great neglect, which the flocks have sustained during the recent political events.

* Frederick the Great, conversing with his War Minister, asked him, which country in Europe he thought the most difficult to ruin. The monarch, perceiving the minister to be rather embarrassed, answered for him; "it is Spain; as its own government has for many years endeavoured to ruin it;—but all in vain."

CHAPTER VII.

Climate of Bilboa,—Insects.—Cod fish.—Spanish Dustmen.—
Exportation by Liverpool Merchants.—Quay.—Dutch Vessels.
—French Chasses Marées.—Passage to Bayonne.—Spanish
Barges.

THE climate is not considered very healthy; Bilboa being surrounded by high mountains, and its situation very low;—it is considered very damp, and the weather is also very changeable. In the Autumn and Spring, heavy falls of rain are experienced, followed by sultry southerly winds. The sickly complexion of the inhabitants may be attributed partly to this, and partly to the bilious habit of their constitutions, arising from their unwholesome food, and the quantity of oil, with which they season almost every dish. Total

neglect of cleanliness, in and out of their houses, also, must naturally contribute to this effect.

Should the traveller be informed, as I was, that Bilboa is the cleanest town in Spain, he will form no very favorable opinion of the rest. Numberless insects of all kinds, with rats and mice, swarm and carry on, unmolested, their diurnal and nocturnal depredations. There are large warehouses in the lower part of the dwellings, particularly in the *Calle de Stufa*, most of which are filled with dried cod-fish, of which the inhabitants consume a great quantity. This spreads a most disagreeable odour, throughout the whole neighbourhood: nevertheless, they sweep some of the main streets, and a cart, drawn by two oxen, carries away the filth. The dustman has a rattle to invite the people to bring out their dust, which is a much less deafening method than the one adopted in London.

During the last ten days of my residence,

it rained every day in the forenoon, and in the afternoon came on the southerly breeze, burning hot. The nights are rather cool, in consequence of which change in the temperature of the atmosphere, with other causes, the town is considered unhealthy. Many inhabitants were confined with dysentery, and many fell a prey to the disorder. This malady is sometimes occasioned by eating oysters, even when dressed. The persons of the lower class consume great quantities, as they are very cheap, and many oyster-beds are found on the coast. The water also is indifferent, and they have no idea of filtering it.

The principal branches of trade consist in the exportation of wool and chestnuts. The wool is bought up by London and Liverpool merchants, generally packed in square bales, and stored in Bilboa; whence it is exported by vessels * freighted in England, to go in ballast for that purpose.

* The exportation of wool in 1823 amounted to 27,000 bales.

Few vessels enter the Custom House with a general cargo; these are generally Dutch ships, which, after landing linen, butter, cheese, and other produce, return with chestnuts. They are of small tonnage; from about 80 to 100 tons. There was not a single French vessel in the port; but a few *chasses marées* were in the harbour to take passengers, and small articles to Bayonne.

In the summer season, it is the most comfortable and expeditious mode of going to that port, to take a passage in one of the *chasses marées*, which quit with the tide, and often make the passage in twenty-four hours. There are also open boats,—large barges carrying a sail, and from six to eight oars, for rowing in calm weather,—which take passengers for ten or twelve francs to Bayonne. This is the most economical, but certainly not the most comfortable, conveyance; as the passengers are obliged to sit during the whole voyage; which is never shorter than from nine to ten hours. In case of strong breezes or a high sea, too,

they are obliged to put into port for shelter. Should it rain, or should there be a great swell, they fix a straw mat over the boat, to prevent the passengers from getting wet. These barges are very long; draw but few feet of water; and are, therefore, by no means safe.

CHAPTER VIII.

Mails; mode of conveying them.—Stages.—Sang-froid of a young Englishman.—State of the Police.—Serenos.—Spanish precaution.—Servants.—Finesse to obtain admission.—Porters.—Women employed to unload the vessels.

THE government had recourse to the expedient of sending the mails by sea; as the Factious were in the habit of stopping them, and burning their contents, to the great annoyance of the Constitutional government and trade in general. They would not suffer the stage to run from Bilboa to Madrid, and Irun; they had repeatedly stopped it, and harassed the travellers; and had lately even burned the stage between Salinas and Vittoria, and ill-treated some of the passengers. They relate here a remarkable instance of sang-froid, evinced by a young English tra-

veller, who was in the stage from Iruia to Madrid, when stopped by robbers. All the passengers were tied to trees. While they were plundering the stage, the English traveller requested the robbers to do him the favour to untie his hands; which they did; when he drew from his pocket a book and pencil, and began sketching the confused scene before him, to the no small astonishment of the robbers, who, observing his skill, untied him altogether, in order to afford him greater liberty for executing his ingenious undertaking.

The police in this country is merely nominal; in fact Nature has done so much to facilitate the daily depredations committed in and out of the towns, that the Spaniards think it unnecessary to follow the plan, the French had adopted, of establishing brigades of gens-d'armes, which in the high roads might afford some safety. But at present, travellers find little security on the roads, and no police from whom to seek redress in the towns:—in consequence of which impunity, robberies are daily committed, the perpetra-

tors flying to the mountains, and afterwards for a trifling donation, obtaining from the neighbouring village, a refuge from their pursuers.

In consequence of the former frequent occurrence of assassinations in the bye streets, more particularly in the Arenal, the inhabitants have established a watch, consisting of young men carrying lanterns with long halberds. They are named *Serenos* ;* and they call the hour, and announce the state of the weather in a loud and distinct voice, to show that they are attentive to their duty.

The houses in the *Calle de Stufa* and other lonely streets are shut, as soon as it grows dark ; and as many of them are five stories high, and contain as many families, the person who wishes to obtain admission, must give a knock for each story. The person calling on one in the second story,

* It is said, that a merchant from Valencia, travelling through Europe, was the first who introduced *Serenos* into Spain.

must give two knocks; three for the third story; four for the fourth, and so on. This often sounded in the night like the peals of cannon, and a person of late habits easily disturbs the peace of the other inmates, as well as that of the neighbourhood.

It frequently happens that a person may stay half an hour before he obtains admission; for if the inhabitants of the upper stories are out, their servants have the conscience to allow a visitor to wait until it suits their fancy to descend. I was once tired of waiting, and gave one loud knock, in the hope that the servant of the first story would be more merciful and give me admission, as it rained violently. It had the desired effect of bringing him down; but, on opening the door, he very coolly told me, that should I ever make a similar mistake, and entice him down again to open the door, for his lazy fellow inmates, he would shut the door in my face.

In the day-time, most of the respectable houses have porters, sitting at the entrance, who are generally cobblers, and who appear

to pay more attention to their craft, than to the cleanliness of the entrances, which are, on this account, totally neglected.

The women of the lower class are employed in loading and unloading vessels; they receiving from the custom house, or owners of the ship, a ticket, which entitles them to assist in those duties. This is often the cause of great altercation in the street and on the quays. But they generally speak so loud that strangers suppose them to be quarrelling; when, in fact, they are only engaged in friendly conversation. The unloading of the codfish is the most profitable for them; as they are then employed for the day; otherwise they are engaged only by the hour. These women carry their loads with great dexterity on the head, which is also the usual manner with the servants in houses, who carry on their heads every thing, even lighted candles, without the least fear of their being extinguished.

CHAPTER IX.

Political Opinions.—Monks.—Spies of the Factious.—Spirit of Intolerance.—Militia.—Discipline.—Spanish Gasconading.—Franciscan Monk.—Destruction of a Convent.—Its Interior—The Booty.—Beautiful Devotees.

I never saw a country where political opinions are so much at variance, as they are here. It is true, many of the natives have no opinion at all, and live absolutely passive, except that they generally manage to coincide with the party which predominates.

Although it is a difficult thing to discover the sentiments of a people, who are so naturally reserved and averse to communicate with strangers, and who at that moment dreaded to be called *Serviles* (anti-constitutionalists); yet one might perceive, by their conversation, that many of the inhabitants are much averse to the present state of affairs; and wait anxiously for an oppor-

tunity publicly to manifest their opinions. The government appears fully aware of this, and watch in consequence with a suspicious eye those who seem to favour their opponents.

Knowing that the clergy and monks are inimical to the existing interests, as well as the immediate and powerful influence they possess over the lower order of people, the government removes the latter from the towns, as fast as it conveniently can. Not long ago the monks of the convent, situated opposite the *Posada san Nicholas*, at the corner of the *Calle Ascauo*, were removed to a small island; and a regiment was expected from St. Ander to take possession of the convent.

The *Xefe Politico*, who is a very active and enterprising man, marches out every week at the head of some regular troops and volunteers, either to escort the mail,* or to

* An order came from the Cortes, that the mails should be henceforth escorted by a body of troops, to be relieved by others stationed in the small towns. The mail was conveyed in a small vehicle with two

seek for the Factious, who infest the neighbouring mountains, and, as it is believed, are in secret communication with some of the inhabitants, who act as spies for them, send them provisions, and information of what passes in the town. They even venture so far, that they have been seen in the suburbs, purchasing provisions for their companions in the mountains.

Many inhabitants complain, that the present constitutional government is not so enlightened as it affects to be; as it will not permit protestants to have places of worship; nor will it permit them to eat meat on Fridays and Saturdays, without obtaining a bull from the Pope, for that purpose.

The militia is well equipped with blue uniform, faced with red, and perfectly well armed, mostly infantry; for in consequence

seats, drawn by one or two mules where a passenger may get a seat near the postillion. In some part of the Madrid Road, the escort consists of cavalry, which generally trot but when it is of infantry, the mail travels but slowly.

of the scarcity of horses, they have but few cavalry. They appeared very like the French soldiers under the government of Napoleon; the officers are chosen from the ranks, and have obtained knowledge of the men composing their respective companies.

I generally observed, that the militia went through the manual exercise, with greater precision than the regular troops. There appeared to be a want of artillerymen and field pieces; the few I saw being but five or six pounders; and those badly mounted. Their band was composed chiefly of Germans.

I understood that the *esprit de corps* of the regular troops was well known to the government, and they are always garrisoned accordingly. The principle of gascnade, in which some think proper to indulge, cannot but injure the cause they endeavour to support. I heard some officers in a *café*, after having spoken on the subject of hostilities with a neighbour-

ing nation, on drinking to one another, give as a toast, "*A notre entrée à Paris, à la tête de nos braves.*" A frequent visitor of the *café*, was a Franciscan monk, in his conventual habiliments. I was not a little surprised to hear this brother of the holy order of St. Francis laughing with the officers, and anticipating the sport he should have at the *Palais Royal* at Paris.

The *Arenal* was a short time ago in a bustle, in consequence of a victory, obtained by the *Xefe Politico* and a party of volunteers and militia. I was informed by an officer of the corps, that they had entered a convent, which they suspected of communicating with the Faction. The convent was situated near Durango, and they entered so unexpectedly, that the monks were taken completely by surprise. Their suspicions were but too well founded; for they found several soldiers, accoutrements, barrels of powder, and rations destined for the army of the Faith; besides a constitutional monk, chained to the wall in a small cell.

On the arrival of the troops, all the Monks took to flight, and, surprising to relate, they nearly all escaped. The constitutional troops liberated the poor prisoner, who had committed no other crime than that of being friendly to the present government. As soon as he was liberated, he requested a musket to join his friends and liberators in arms, which was acceded to. The *Xefe Politico* ordered his soldiers to take away all that might be useful. The officer told me, they found abundance of provisions, wine, and a few handsome devotees, who, it appeared, had assisted the monks in their domestic affairs. The soldiers, according to the order of the *Xefe Politico*, burned the convent to the ground.

This, no doubt, was a victory; as it punished treachery against the existing government; yet, at the return of the expedition, it was much magnified by the inhabitants. Some said, they expected several hundred prisoners, when to their

astonishment the party returned, and brought with them only two monks, besides the one they had liberated, and a peasant of suspicious appearance, whom they found in the neighbouring mountains. The spirit of the volunteers is excellent, although their number is small; not more than one hundred and fifty; who are every week employed in escorting the mails, and accompanying the *Xefe Politico* in his excursions.

CHAPTER X.

The Inquisition.—Tortures.—Capture of seven horses by the Factions.—Escape of the horses of the English Ambassador.—Recovery of Six Horses.—Remarks.

I HAD, a short time ago, a conversation with a Spanish officer, who said, he belonged to the party of soldiers, who entered, in Madrid, the building where the Inquisition held its tribunals; and he described with horror the scenes which had been committed there.

The soldiers, after searching the apartments, entered some cellars, where day-light had never, or but faintly, been admitted. There they found human Beings, more like skeletons, who had for many years been invoking death to put an end their suffer-

ings. They had been accused of crimes entirely unknown to them. The soldiers found many human bones of other unhappy beings, who had been sacrificed in this Tartarean abode; and where the prerogative of the king could not extend to protect them, nor justice interfere. The officer informed me, that many foreigners had suddenly disappeared, and had never been heard of afterwards. Every one was fearful of enquiring about the fate of any of his friends, who might have disappeared, lest he should meet a similar fate. Age, sex, or wealth claimed no exemption from the effects of this infernal power. Here the officer became animated, and continued with energy: "Religion alone is not the pretext for their displeasure and persecution; private hatred, jealousy, or a thirst for revenge have furnished reasons, for the exercise of their demoniacal vengeance."

I repeatedly interrupted the narrative of the speaker, manifesting some doubts of the accuracy of his statement, particularly as far as regarded the accounts he had heard

of the tortures, which had been inflicted by this tribunal; which would draw tears from the most inveterate tyrant, and can hardly, one would suppose, be a true description of any punishment decreed in the present century.

Some of the tortures alluded to, were, according to his narrative, as follows: the victim was fastened on large planks with iron hooks, and was compelled to swallow, through pipes, great quantities of water. In the mean time they placed on his stomach heavy burdens, some of them as heavy as five hundred weight. Others had their heads shaved, were chained to the walls, and cold water dripped in drops upon their heads. "This," exclaimed the officer, "must fill every human being with horror, when he reflects that such cruelty could be tolerated in the present enlightened age, and practised, too, in the name and under the sanction of religion!*

* Since writing these remarks, I have been informed by a person of distinction, that the later proceedings of the Inquisition have been much more

At an early hour, one morning, Bilboa was in a state of great agitation, in consequence of news having been communicated by the British consul to the commandant of the town, that seven saddle-horses, the property of an English gentleman of distinction, had been taken by the Faction, at the distance of only two English miles from Bilboa. The fact was thus related; the horses and a carriage had been seized, on their arrival, by the custom-house, as being prohibited. In vain was the copy of an order from the Spanish minister in Madrid shewn to the collector of the customs; which order desired him to release the horses and carriage, and

lenient than the above described; that the prisoners have occupied the best part of the building, and, when released, have all confessed, that they had been treated much better than prisoners usually are. But they complained of not having been informed of their accusers, nor permitted to defend themselves during the process of trial, which took place without their knowledge; and they were not informed of it until the day on which the punishment, dictated by the tribunal, was put into execution. The gentleman, who, animated by feelings of justice towards both parties, gave me this candid information, had visited the prison, a few days after it had been quitted by the prisoners.

take security for their re-exportation. The collector pretended that he had not received the original order, as many of the mails on the road had been seized by the Factious. The horses were ordered to be taken under the care of the Custom House, and were much neglected.

The English grooms, enraged at the neglect of the Spaniards, very earnestly interfered, and, by the assistance of the English Consul, succeeded in obtaining permission to attend their horses themselves. It was necessary that they should be taken out, at least three times every week to be exercised; having already suffered much from horse-flies, and want of hay. As the middle of the day was too hot, the grooms rode them out in the morning. They were hardly two English miles from the town, when the party were suddenly stopt by three men, habited as peasants, armed with muskets, and one on horseback, having a large sword. This man wore a green uniform, a fur cap, large blue pantaloons, and tremendous mustachios.

Wishing to be taken for the officer of the party, on approaching them, he drew his sword, and with an oath desired the grooms to halt and dismount. Resistance would have been vain; as there were but two grooms, and two boys to take care of the seven horses. To escape was equally impossible, as the peasants had their muskets levelled, to fire at the first who should attempt it.

The head groom tried in vain to expostulate with the *soi-disant* officer; he even went on his knees, requesting him to spare the horses, and offered as well as he could explain himself, to send a ransom for them; but nothing could stay their rapacity. The head groom finding that all was in vain, and that they should be subjected to ill-treatment, unless they surrendered the horses, jumped down and ran away; leaving them in the hands of the robbers. In this he was followed by the second groom and one of the boys; the other, who was a German, not being so nimble in jumping off, and perhaps not so good a horseman

was seized together with his horse, and threatened with death unless he rode with them to the mountains. In vain did he twice try to get off, and follow his dismounted companions, the officer struck him, and compelled him to proceed.

The horses soon finding that the Spanish peasants were not such good jockies as the English grooms, began to kick and plunge; and, throwing their riders, galloped away. The German boy seeing the distressed situation of the Spanish cavalcade, not one being able to govern his horse, lost no time in profiting by this favorable circumstance to save himself, and to rid himself of his unpleasant companions. He only waited until the officer rode on, to give assistance to his partly dismounted squadron; he then fell back in the rear, and made his escape, leaving his horse behind; and he acknowledged that he never looked back, to see what became of the animals, until he reached the suburb.

Four horses of the English ambassador, who had but a few days previously landed,

were not twenty paces from the spot where this occurred; as an English groom who conducted them had followed the other party. One of the boys had just time and the presence of mind, to warn him to fly; as he would have been in danger of being taken, had he advanced. He did not wait for his friend to repeat his warning, but galloped off, with the four horses of the ambassador, as fast as he could.

As soon as the grooms reached Bilboa, the news spread like lightning; on which about twenty volunteers offered their services to march out in search of the Faction, who had taken the horses; which offer was accepted by the Commandant, and they immediately went in pursuit of the robbers, animated with the desire of revenging the daring insult offered to the town.

At eleven o'clock, the *Arenal* was crowded; every one was anxious to hear the fate of the heroes who had so courageously volunteered to recover the

horses, which, it was reported by some peasants, had been seen scampering over the mountains without a rider. Groups, led by curiosity, were standing before the empty stable where the horses had formerly stood. It was near two o'clock, when the agreeable tidings reached the crowd in the *Arenal*, that the volunteers had arrived in the suburbs safe; after having recovered five out of the seven horses, which they found on the road standing near a tree, much exhausted. It appeared that the Factious had contented themselves with taking two horses, and all the saddles and bridles; as those recaptured were left without even a halter.

After the volunteers had brought the horses to the suburb, they wrote a handsome letter to the English Consul, wherein they informed him that they had succeeded in recovering part of the booty; and that they would restore the horses to the stable they had previously occupied; at the same time observing, that, as many of them were married men, and would have risked their

lives, in case of opposition from the Factious, they expected the Consul would allow them a salvage.

The day had not closed upon this event, before another horse was triumphantly brought in, by a party of soldiers, returning from Durango, whither they had been escorting the mail. They said that the horse had passed them about five or six miles from the town, at full speed. They directly suspected it to be a booty made by the Factious; having seen the horse before in Bilboa. They immediately gave it pursuit, and after a tedious race, obtained possession of it; they said the animal appeared much frightened. The seventh horse, and the caparisons of the others, were never heard of after. It was reported in a few days, that the seventh horse had been again captured by robbers from the Factious; but the truth was not traced.

I mention these facts, to shew the excesses that are committed in the present convulsed state of the country; when evil

disposed persons take their muskets, rove about the mountains and highways, plundering travellers and the peaceful inhabitants; and as a subterfuge, declaring themselves to be of the Faction. I have been assured that the partizans of the Army of the Faith eagerly seek for these marauders; and, if they find them, instantly inflict just punishment by shooting them as highwaymen.

CHAPTER XI.

Constitutional Fête.—Feu-de-joie.—Vivas.—Spanish Grandee.
—Theatre.—Public Ball.

A discharge of cannon, and the ringing of bells at daybreak, announced that it was a public fête. On enquiry, I found it was the Anniversary of the Installation of the *Cortes extraordinaire* of 1810. About eleven o'clock, the troops of the garrison passed our windows, with a band playing the hymn of Riego, and other national airs. They marched, to hear grand mass, to a church opposite the Arenal, which at an early hour was filled by the inhabitants, in their Sunday dress. Most of the shops were closed, and the day was observed almost universally as a holiday.

After church all the troops, regulars and volunteers, formed a line in the *Arenal*; and the latter, being in new uniform, made a very good appearance. After going through several evolutions, they fired a *feu-de-joie*, which was followed by several vivas:—

Viva el rey Constitucional :

Vivan los Cortes :

*Viva Mina el Romano :**

Viva Riego el héroe de las Cabezas.†

After this they marched off the ground. The first of these vivas was uttered rather faintly, particularly by the soldiers; but the two last with the greatest enthusiasm.

A person was pointed out to me, as being a grandee of Spain, living in the *Calle del Correo*, very retired. He is said

* *El Romano*; because they compare him to one of the old Roman generals; being valiant and active, he has often been associated with *Scipio*. They say "*Es Mucho reservado y mucho intrépido.*"

† "*Las Cabezas*" is the name of the village, where Riego began the revolution.

to be a great friend to his sovereign ; but had been banished from the capital for his political sentiments. He wore the uniform of the volunteers, a corps of which he commanded, decorated with a star, the order of St. Charles. I saw him afterwards sitting on a bench in the *Arenal*, in a melancholy attitude, as though he joined not in the festivity of the day.

In the evening a ball was given at the theatre, by subscription among the wealthiest of the inhabitants. I had the honour of accompanying the family of the Admiral Mazarredo thither. The playhouse is a small wooden building ; having two tiers of boxes, where the spectators sat who did not dance, and who were mostly of the second class. The pit and stage were made level, which the ladies of the first families occupied.

They danced country dances, but to my surprise, the national ones were excluded. All the officers of the line in the garrison,

as well as the volunteers, were present at this fête, where the greatest harmony and hilarity prevailed. I also observed some French officers, who were much noticed by the Spanish military; very little, however, by the inhabitants.

CHAPTER XII.

Departure from Bilboa. — Constitutional Troops. — Female Squadrons. — Commander. — The March. — Villages. — Accommodations. — Orduna Mountains.

I WAS informed that about five hundred men, belonging to a regiment of infantry, would shortly quit Bilboa for *Miranda de Ebro*, and would pass through the *Orduna* mountains. I, in consequence, applied to Mr. La Patè* to furnish me with a conveyance, that I might take advantage of this escort; it being unsafe for a single traveller to attempt a passage through

La Patè * Mr. La Patè, who lives in the *Calle del Correo*, furnishes post horses for the mails, and procures conveyance for travellers either by land or sea.

the Orduna mountains, which were considered to be the head quarters of the Faction. Mr. La Patè promised to furnish me with a carriage and four mules, for which I was to pay the sum of forty Spanish dollars (about ten guineas). As all the horses were taken by government for the use of the regiment, and the owner could not risk his mules for a less sum, notwithstanding the shortness of the distance, I had no alternative but to accept his proposal.

On the day of our departure the driver came at seven o'clock to fetch the baggage, and informed me that *la générale* was beating for the troops to collect for march. I left my lodgings and went to the suburbs, where I found, to my surprise, the market square and the streets, filled with carts and waggons, loaded with baggage belonging to the soldiers, and with ladies, whose husbands were officers of the regiment. There were not less than twenty-seven small carts, each drawn by two oxen, filled with ladies

and children*. Although the carts were ready loaded and waiting for the troops, it was nearly twelve o'clock before the march began.

It was a most amusing sight to see the ground, for more than one English mile, covered with carts and waggons, loaded with females, some in black silk gowns, black hats and white feathers, with fans moving like so many windmills; and what surprised me most was, that besides these, above twenty females walked with the soldiers; some of whom were dressed more fitly for a *Tertulia*, than to undergo the fatigues of a march.

I delivered the letter of introduction,

* These carts (*carretas*) are made of wooden planks, with chairs placed inside, serving as seats:—they have but two wheels or rather circular pieces of timber, which have no spokes. When the wheels turn, they make a dreadful noise. The oxen are tied to the cart by the horns, which are covered with a piece of linen or sheepskin, sometimes so long as to cover their eyes. The driver walks by the side of them, with a long thin cane, with which he directs their motions.

with which I had been honoured by General Mazarredo, to the commander of the troops, who was rather an elderly man. He rode on horseback; his wife and family being in one of the waggons. He expressed himself in the politest terms, assuring me that he would do all in his power to render our journey agreeable. I joined the vanguard, at his request, preceded by three officers and about fifty soldiers. The troops had loaded their muskets on leaving the suburbs.

The carriage, in which I travelled, must have been built in the last century; for the springs were wooden, the wheels low; it was painted outside with all the colours of the rainbow, and there was room for eight persons inside. I had given to a gentleman of *Saragossa*, and his servant, seats in the carriage, he having been introduced to me by some friends in *Bilboa*. There was no seat for the servant on the outside of the vehicle, for the part, where trunks were placed, was occupied by the muleteer and his postilion.

At half-past one, the whole troop, with van and rear-guard, were on full march. For a passive observer, it must have been a most ridiculous sight: for some of the officers were riding with umbrellas, followed by ladies in full dress on mules; some on chairs or pillions fastened to the saddles of the horses, all having silk umbrellas open, of various colours; in the midst of an immense cloud of dust raised by the cavalcade. Our old carriage came next, followed by all the other vehicles loaded with females and children, together with a great quantity of dogs and parrots. Then came the chaplain of the regiment, in his clerical dress, and three cocked hat, riding on a mule; and next the troops with their female companions. The confused noise of the drums, the loud talking of the females, the screaming of the children, the barking of the dogs, the noise of the parrots, the creaking of the wheels, formed indeed a most delightful concert!

Our march was not very rapid; being obliged to halt every half mile, in conse-

quence of the intensesness of the weather. The commander, in passing the narrow defiles of the mountains, always took the precaution of sending parties of troops in different directions, to reconnoitre, that he might not be taken by surprise.

In the afternoon we arrived at a village, where the troops halted two hours to dine, and the commander and most of the ladies took their *siesta*.

I walked about the village, where I was informed, that the Factious had been the day before, and knew of the approach of the troops;—they had in consequence retired to the neighbouring mountains. The peasants told me, that the Factious had obtained some recruits from the village. The peasantry seemed much alarmed by the appearance of such a numerous train of visitors, and did not seem to be very willing to administer to their wants, though they were honourably paid. As I had laid in some store, I invited several of the

company, of both sexes, with whom I thought it a duty to share my repast. We took our refreshment in and about the carriage with great hilarity; but nothing appeared to gratify them more than some segars, which I distributed to the officers and soldiers. The latter said, they liked the segars better than the dinner they had just partaken of.

We arrived late in the evening at another village only three leagues from Bilboa, where we halted for the night. Most of the soldiers were quartered in the stables for want of better accommodation; but great difficulty arose how to obtain lodging for the ladies; and it was more than an hour before this point could be settled to their satisfaction.

By order of the commander, strong picquets were under arms, during the whole night, at different stations about the village, in case the Factious should make an attack; as the peasants were not con-

sidered to be very friendly to the constitutional government. I offered a part of the room, I had taken, to three officers, who were quartered in the same house, and could obtain no other accommodation than a very miserable garret. We had more than twenty soldiers in the stable, besides which, many were compelled to pass the night in a passage, leading to the staircase. The house was literally crammed with soldiers, yet not the slightest altercation or confusion arose; all parties appeared contented, and manifested no dissatisfaction; nor did they in the least complain of their host. We did not leave the village, the following morning, till eight o'clock, although the drums summoned the soldiers to assemble; and the carts and other vehicles were in motion at six.

At noon as the Orduna mountains opened upon our sight, the commander advised us not to advance far from the troops; as the inhabitants were known to be hostile to the constitutional government.

He expressed, also, his conviction, that we should meet some of the Factious before we reached the town of Orduna: but, contrary to this anticipation, we arrived there without interruption.

CHAPTER XIII.

Arrival at Orduna. —Alcalde. — Hotel. — Anti-Constitutional Landlady.—Factionous Inhabitants.—Description of Orduna.—Constitutional Fracas.—Prudence of the Commander.—Veteran Ensign.—Female hints on Discipline.

A short distance before the entrance of Orduna, the troop halted, unfurled their standard, the band took its station, and entered the town playing national airs. This was not only part of their discipline, but it was done in order to strike the inhabitants with greater awe. We left the regiment about half a mile previously to entering the town, where we were met by the *Alcalde* and several priests, who came out to welcome the arrival of the commander and troops.

My travelling companion, who had often been in this town, knew the landlady of the hotel, which is a very large building, situate in the market square. We in consequence found very comfortable lodgings, and a friendly reception. The old lady told my friend, that she was determined not to allow an officer of the constitutional army to enter her house, even though he should pay her, unless he came in by force, which she, of course, could not resist.

The inhabitants of the town looked very savage: few were collected in the market place, and even those few were attracted by the music and appearance of the soldiers. But we observed many, standing at the windows viewing the troops as they passed, with looks, which did not express much satisfaction. Great difficulty arose where to billet the soldiers, as most of the inhabitants appeared adverse to receiving them.

Although the town appeared considerable, the commander found more difficulty here in providing accommodation for his troops,

than in the small village, where we had passed the preceding night; notwithstanding the number to be accommodated was considerably diminished, by the circumstance of many being disposed of, to guard different parts of the town, and to protect the baggage in the market-square.

Orduna is a very ancient town, containing a large market place, where there are some handsome houses, built of freestone, four stories high, with colonnades in front. Most of the streets are narrow and badly paved, without any footpath; the town has generally a gloomy aspect, and the inhabitants a very poor appearance; while the shops are far from being ornaments. The neighbouring scenery, however, is very picturesque. For, immense mountains, which almost surround the town, tower their lofty heads far above the spires, and excite in the spectator feelings of admiration. The avenue, leading to the town, is broad and lined with beautiful poplars, and the road is in very good repair.

Towards evening we perceived a crowd gathered in the market square, and several officers at high words with the Commander and Alcalde. My companion and myself hastened to the spot and inquired the cause of it, when we were informed that the officers complained of having been insulted in the street by some of the inhabitants, because they had manifested their displeasure at the difficulty of obtaining mules and vehicles; as those from Bilboa had returned, having been hired only for the journey hither; and they naturally expected, that a town, so large as *Orduna*, could furnish sufficient quantity for the use of the soldiers. Besides, they said, they had understood, that the inhabitants, on hearing of the approach of the troops, had sent all their oxen and carts from the town into the neighbouring villages, to remain there; rather than let them to the troops.

In consequence of this, the Commander was much perplexed, how to find conveyance for the females. The officers began to be

impatient, and accused the commander of being too lenient towards these unfriendly people; as by such gentle conduct, he only encouraged their unaccommodating spirit; since, should he think fit to enforce their requests, by the aid of a strong patrol, they might obtain every accommodation, of which they stood in need. But this suggestion was wisely opposed by the commander, who foresaw that it would lead to serious consequences; and he requested them to have patience, and behave in an officer-like manner towards the people, who were rude and uneducated; assuring them, at the same time, that mildness would have a greater effect than severity.

The officers, far from being appeased by the speech of the Commander, became more noisy, particularly when they heard several of the inhabitants say, that they should have no conveyance from them, even though they burned down their houses. This caused great confusion for some time, and we therefore expected serious consequences.

The soldiers took no part in this disturbance, but stood aloof from the crowd, while the officers were making their complaints. One of the most turbulent of the complainants was an elderly officer. His uniform appeared to coincide with his age; and he drew his sword, pretending that the only means he had of obtaining redress for the insults committed by the inhabitants against him and his comrades, who were proud to sacrifice their lives in the cause of their country, against treachery and tyranny, was to cut off their heads; at the same time brandishing his sword. His wife, an elderly lady, who most likely knew the temper of her husband, had followed him closely; she endeavoured to drag him away by the skirt of the coat, apparently much alarmed, saying, that he had no right to interfere, being only an ensign, and that it was the duty of the commander to settle the difficulty. All eyes were fixed upon the ensign, who was acting so rashly, and who now replaced his sword, not without many oaths, in the scabbard.

The commander did not notice the violence of some of the party. The inhabitants would have been glad to have come to blows, though, no doubt, they would have had the worst of it, and would have paid very dearly for their conduct towards the officers. Finally, hearing the calm reasoning of the *Alcade* and the Commander, whom they called *hombre de bien*, they resolved to make the best of their situation, and after some further discussion all parties dispersed.

Next morning, when the troops collected to march, the difficulty was renewed; the ladies being deprived of their mules; and there being no carts to convey the children, many were compelled to walk, and therefore suffered greatly, particularly as we had during the day, at intervals, heavy showers of rain.

CHAPTER XIV.

Precaution of the Commander.—Factious in Ambuscade.—
Surprize.—Booty.—Rencontre with the Factious.—Passage
over the Orduna Mountains.—*Vita del Hombre*.—*Berguenda*.
—Anti-constitutional Peasants.—Inn.—Landlord.

AFTER what had passed, the Commander did not expect any very friendly treatment from the inhabitants; and, recollecting the loss the French army had sustained in the last war, on their passage through the *Orduna* mountains, where the Spaniards threw stones upon them and killed eighteen hundred men, he took the precaution of sending secretly in the night, about one hundred soldiers to the mountains, with orders to take possession of the summits, at daylight; and to place sentinels at the seven defiles of the mountains, in order to secure the passage for

the troops and vehicles. He desired them, also, as soon as they should have taken possession of the summit, to blow a horn as a signal.

This plan was wisely arranged, and had the desired effect; for the troops, occupying the mountains suddenly in the night, took by surprise a party of the Factious, who were lying there in ambuscade, waiting for our troops, and intending to salute us, as their predecessors had saluted the French. The soldiers found large piles of stones and the iron implements with which they had dug them out of the quarry, besides some kegs of wine, and several muskets; but the Factious escaped; being favoured by the darkness of the night, and acquainted with the intricacies of the mountains, which afforded them a safe retreat. The soldiers assured the Commander, that several of the Factious were on horseback, as they could plainly hear the beating of their horses' hoofs; but the night was so dark, that they were obliged to fire at random, without being able to see the enemy.

When we came to the foot of the mountains, the Commander ordered the troops to halt, the officers to draw their swords, at their respective stations, and the soldiers to examine the priming of their muskets. Though he could distinctly hear the signal horn, and see four of the sentinels at each of the defiles, the Commander did not relax the cautiousness of his measures; and in order to prevent the rear guard from being cut off, he commanded the soldiers to form two lines, and march on each side of the road; so that they might, in case of attack, afford protection to the vehicles in the centre.

We had not proceeded far up the mountains, when we heard a strong firing. Our carriage being in the van, I could plainly perceive about thirty men, standing behind some large trees, on the brow of the mountain, firing upon the rear-guard, which, of course, caused much alarm among the females. But the troops being beyond the reach of their muskets, the Commander desired them to take no notice, but to march

forward; at the same time dispatching an officer with twenty men to observe the motions of the Factious, in order to prevent their advancing within gunshot of the rear-guard. In consequence of this precaution, we passed without accident the various defiles.

Of all the mountains I have seen, those of Orduna present the most imposing aspect; they are formed into seven different tiers, like an amphitheatre, covered with thick shrubbery and large oaks. The road was made by the French, and is very convenient for carriages. Precaution has been taken to prevent accidents, by placing pieces of wood a little above the plane of the road, in order to prevent carriages rolling back.

The view from the highest part of these mountains is the most extensive and grand I ever beheld! Numberless villages, scattered below and intercepted by rich woods and rivulets, tended much to enliven the prospect; and I could not refrain from

regretting, that so beautiful a scene should have been disturbed by the ravages of war.

In the centre of the mountains, stands a miserable half decayed inn. A party of the soldiers entered to search if any of the Factious were concealed; but found none. They were however informed by the people of the house, that about fifty sat drinking there the day before; but that they had taken to flight on hearing of the arrival of the soldiers, in the mountains.

We halted at the small village of *Vita del hombre*, for three hours and dined; the Commander taking here his *siesta*. As the soldiers were much fatigued with their march over the mountains, they remained here longer than they had halted the day before. This occasioned our late arrival at *Berguenda*.

Though the peasants were informed of our arrival, they were not prepared for our reception, and therefore some confusion ensued. The Commander heard, also,

that the Factious, or most likely some of the peasants from Berguenda, had fired upon part of the rear-guard; but, it being dark, they could not discover the enemy. The troops were reluctant to abandon the carts they were escorting, and were therefore obliged to pass along passively. They, however, reached *Berguenda* without any further inconvenience, than the terror occasioned to the females.

As there was not bread enough in the village, on our arrival, the peasants baked some, which was distributed, the following morning, to the soldiers. It was but too evident, that the peasants also here were very unwilling to provide comforts for the troops; for when my travelling companion and myself entered the inn, the landlord asked us, in a very rough manner, "if we were officers of the regiment?" After we had informed him, that we were mere travellers, he became polite, and shewed us a room. He pretended that the officers always behaved very rudely, paid little or nothing, and gave great trouble; and in consequence, he would

receive into his house no more of them than he could help.

The stables of the inn were filled with soldiers, and at night a guard was kept over several prisoners, three of whom were tied with ropes. My friend asking their crimes, the officer made no reply; but we heard that they had displayed dangerous principles, and had tried to inspire the soldiers with anti-constitutional ideas.

We were just retiring to rest, when a messenger came from the Commander, to request we would permit two officers to share our apartment; to which we of course acceded; but were not a little surprised to see them bring the standard into the room, and deposit it there for the night; contrary to military custom, which directs it to be placed in the sleeping room of the Commander. The landlord informed us, that the Factious from the mountains had passed the village the day before, and in a whisper told me, that they could have got as many recruits as they pleased; and that they

paid honorably for all the provisions they bought.

On the following morning after thanking the Commander and the officers for their kindness, during the time I had the honor of being under their protection, I left the troops at a short distance from *Berguenda*, and proceeded to *Miranda de Ebro*, where we arrived about one o'clock.

The village of *Berguenda* lies in a very beautiful situation, which the neighbouring mountains render magnificent. Some parts of the brow of those mountains are of rock; which, being barren, form a striking contrast to the more elevated ridges, which are covered with thick woods.

In our way from *Berguenda* to *Miranda*, we passed many fields well cultivated, mostly with Indian corn, and the road is lined with many species of fruit trees. The inhabitants were repairing several of the houses in *Berguenda*, many of which had been newly white-washed; a practice I had

seldom seen in any place I had visited in Spain. Not one of the houses had windows, but large wooden shutters.

We passed on the road two very large buildings, where they store the wool and pack it, previously to its being sent to *Bilboa* for exportation. The inhabitants, whom we passed on the road, were of a rough and unhealthy appearance, the features of both sexes being equally homely; and they seemed to have generally so little information, that in the inns, except the landlords, no one could either read or write.

CHAPTER XV.

Good Qualities of the Constitutional Troops.—Hotel at *Miranda de Ebro*; description of the Town.—Departure for Vittoria.—*Pueblo de Argenzon*.—The painter Murillo.—Arrival at Vittoria.

DURING the few days I passed in the society of the soldiers, I observed that the men, although not well equipped, and though they had undergone great fatigues, without regular rations, seemed not in the least discontented. If they got a segar and some water from a stream, they appeared fully satisfied. If a want of discipline is apparent, it is with the subalterns towards the superior officers, and by no means among the privates. I observed another good trait of the soldiers, that,

although the peasants in the villages received them coldly, and often withheld their provisions, either from a hostile sentiment towards the constitutional cause, or from fear of non-payment, they never shewed any evil disposition, or committed any outrage upon the persons or property of the inhabitants. They generally took a leathern bag (*borracha*), and got it filled with red wine as sour as vinegar; they did not appear to wish for meat; bread and cheese, with boiled soup, onions and garlic, forming the substance of their frugal repasts. Whenever the soldiers entered a village, or passed a straggling house on the road, a woman generally came out with a plate of lighted coals, and stood until every one had lighted his segar. I never once saw any insult offered to these females, or heard the least offensive expression escape, which might have shocked their modesty.

We alighted at an inn at a short distance from *Miranda*, situate near the bridge over the Ebro.

The town of Miranda is but small, consisting principally of a long narrow street, having a side pavement. The houses, in the lower part of which are shops, are irregularly built, mostly of brick, and three or four stories high, with many small balconies and curtains before them, to prevent the inquisitive intrusions of their opposite neighbours. There is a small market place, where stand the best houses in the town, mostly built of freestone, four stories high. In one of these resides the Comman-
dant of the town, and here also are the public offices. There are other more insignificant streets, mostly inhabited by poor people.

The river Ebro is not very broad, being only about a quarter of an English mile in breadth, and not deep enough for navigation. Its stream is rapid and yields great quantities of fish; and on its banks are some pleasing villas. The stone bridge over it is in good repair, and not in a decayed state, like many in Spain. On the opposite side of the bridge stand about forty houses. The posthouse is situated near the inn where we alighted,

and opposite a small chapel, containing nothing worthy of notice. The town is situate in a plain, well cultivated, on the high road to Madrid, but entirely open and unprotected.

My travelling companion here left me, to my no small regret, in order to return to *Saragossa*, his native town. He was a warm-hearted and noble-minded man; strongly attached to the welfare of his country; and would often express, with tears in his eyes, his sorrow at its present convulsed and unfortunate state; where Castilian was armed against Castilian, a parent's blood doomed perhaps to be shed by a son, and a brother's hand raised against the breast of a brother.

I left *Miranda de Ebro* the next morning for *Vittoria*, in the same carriage which had conveyed me from *Bilboa*. The road is rather hilly and uninteresting; we passed, about half way to *Vittoria*, a village named *Pueblo de Arganzon*, resembling most of the

small places, I had hitherto seen in Spain; and the appearance of the inhabitants was in unison with that of the village. At the sight of such wretchedness, it became no longer a subject of surprise to me, that *Murillo*, the celebrated painter, should have chosen, as subjects for his pencil, those miserable objects which appear to live again on his canvases; when I reflected, that his fancy had caught impressions from, and his feelings been inspired by such powerful emotions of pity, as a sight of such misery must necessarily have awakened.

The numerous villagers going to and returning from Vittoria, with mules loaded with commodities, announce to the traveller, that he approaches one of the principal towns. I passed several country houses, bordered by a beautiful walk. The first street I entered, did not disappoint the expectations I had previously entertained. It was very broad, with a side pavement, and the houses, built of brick, were mostly four or five stories high, or-

namented with balconies in front, which added much to the cheerfulness of their appearance; to which effect, a new row of houses, nearly finished, belonging to a rich merchant, did not a little contribute.

CHAPTER XVI.

Hotel; *Table-d'hôte*. — Description of Vittoria. — Theatre. — Audience. — Criticism and National Spirit. — Café. — Assassination. — Field of battle at Vittoria. — Remarks. — *Bon-mot* of an old Statesman.

WE alighted at the hotel *Posada del Nuevo Parador*. This establishment is very extensive, and affords the best of accommodations, which in this part of Spain may be regarded as a luxury. The traveller will experience the greatest attention from the host. There is a *table-d'hôte* prepared every day. No one was present but the officers of the garrison, who talked during the whole dinner nothing but politics. The subject seemed to infuse brilliancy into their conversation, and they at last be-

came so vehement in their declamations, that I was happy to see the cloth removed. The dinner was served up in the same manner, as I have described in a former chapter, for which I paid a *duro*, or Spanish dollar (about four and sixpence sterling.)

The views from the window of the hotel are very cheerful and extensive, varying agreeably with the position of the spectator, and divested entirely of that monotony, which so soon overwhelms an observer, fixed for a length of time to the same prospect, with *ennui*. Vittoria is a large handsome town, has several broad streets lined with trees, containing numerous shops, and also several well built churches; the interiors of which, like that in Bilboa, are too much ornamented with gilding, and display too great a number of images, to inspire solemnity, or to fix the attention of a devotee.

The public square is built after the style of the *Palais Royal* in Paris: the houses being of freestone, with shops below

covered in front by a colonnade, which affords an agreeable *promenade*, as well as shelter from the rays of the sun, and is much frequented by the superior class of inhabitants. The public buildings, in the market square, are the town-house and two convents, and there is likewise a very fine fountain. The market affords abundance of choice fruits, and provisions of every description. In the street where I alighted, lived the most opulent of the inhabitants; and there was another hotel having equally commodious accommodations.

The town is surrounded by a large double wall, of which the side, facing the public walk, is fantastically painted with figures of urns and trees.

In the evening I visited the Theatre, (*Teatro Nacional*), a new building, situate not far from the new square; rather small, but neatly constructed. The interior corresponds with the chaste appearance of the exterior; it has two tiers of boxes, a gallery, a parquet, and a pit: most of the

audience were of the military, yet the pit contained a motley mixture of different dresses and fashions. The seats in the parquetry are marked and bespoken, so that the visitor is sure of his place, however late he may arrive. The noise in the pit was insupportable, and the effluvia of garlic absolutely obnoxious; many persons during the performance sat, with small round hats on their heads, and large brown cloaks wrapped round them. Their appearance was by no means prepossessing to any one, who regarded their sickly faces, and forbidding features, the sombre appearance of which was greatly heightened by their dark beards.

Both tiers of boxes were occupied by ladies, who, I understood, retained them by subscription. They appeared to follow their French neighbours in the fashions of their dress, notwithstanding their avowed national antipathy to French innovations. A tragedy was performed, in which were some passages alluding to liberty and the downfall of tyranny. These were

received by the audience with shouts of applause; but when a sentence, the purport of which was "down with the slavery of the citizens" was uttered, their rapture was carried to its highest pitch, and could only be silenced by the bursting forth of some national airs, which at once delighted them and calmed the ebullitions of their transports. The scenery was well painted, and the colouring vivid and pleasing. I could not help regarding, with great pleasure, one scene, representing a country town, with its surrounding landscape, the features and composition of which were much in the style of *Claude Lorraine*.

After the play, I visited, in the company of a friend, one of the *cafés*, whither the fashionables resort to take refreshments. It is situated nearly opposite the hotel, *El Nuevo Parador*; but its interior displayed none of the elegance, which so particularly distinguish places of this description in Paris. The numerous company were attended by three young females, who I

understood were the daughters of the proprietor. They were neatly dressed, and rather pretty. I remarked that the general demand was for *Sorbete*, of which they appeared very fond, as I observed several ladies repeat their demand for that beverage two or three times, in the course of a quarter of an hour.

My friend informed me, that as a Portuguese *Caballero*, who had resided some time at Vittoria, was one evening walking from the Theatre to this *café*, he was suddenly surrounded by three men in large brown cloaks, and being stabbed in many places, expired a few hours after. The assassins were never discovered; yet, it was supposed that jealousy was the cause of the assassination.

I visited the spot, which is consecrated by the victory, obtained in 1813, by the English and Spanish forces, under the immortal Duke of Wellington, over the French army commanded by Jerome Bonaparte, and Marshal Jordan. To my great surprise, I found

nothing but barren mountains, a true symbol of ingratitude! Not the slightest monument was there, to point out to the traveller, the spot where so many heroes slumber, who fell fighting for the cause of Spain. In vain do the barren mountains silently upbraid the ingratitude of those, whose battle was fought, and whose victory was won; the action is past and the memory of it in Spain has perished with it. Not so, however, to the world at large; for while the spirit of military glory, and the admiration of heroic achievements, find an echo in the generous breast, the fame of the heroes who repose here, and of those who trod the path of glory with them, shall survive; and the lapse of time, far from weakening the remembrance of their valour, shall consecrate it to the veneration and glory of posterity.

The consequences of this battle were so fatal to the invading army, that the foundation was laid, for its ultimate expulsion from Spain; and, perhaps, the answer given by an old statesman, to Bonaparte after the

catastrophe of Moscow might here be well applied. Bonaparte, asking his opinion of the tragic event in that city, the statesman, answered "*Sire, c'est le commencement de la fin.*"*

* The keen wit of this politician has not been blunted by age: at the eve of the late hostilities, a council of French Ministers was held which lasted three hours. The veteran was met by a French nobleman, who asked him "*Que s'est il passé dans ce conseil?*" He answered drily, "*Trois heures!*" —

CHAPTER XVII.

Departure from Vittoria.—Emigration.—Salinas.—Mondragon.
—Postmaster at Tolosa.—Ernani.—Escort attacked by the
Faction.—Custom-House at Irun.—Quarantine removed.
—Recrossing the Bidassoa.—French Custom-House.—Arrival
at Bayonne.

I was rather disappointed, in not being able to procure a carriage to proceed to Bayonne; they having been all engaged by travellers going from Madrid to France. The postmaster told me, that the emigration was so considerable, that had the town double the quantity of carriages, they would all be in requisition for the numerous travellers quitting the kingdom. He kindly offered me a few lines to a driver, who had arrived the day before, with six mules from Madrid; he having been hired to carry a Spanish lady of

distinction and her son to Bayonne, and who, most likely, would permit me to share the conveyance.

I called on *Senor Domingo*, the driver, with whom I stipulated for one hundred and fifty francs; having previously obtained permission of the party, to whom the carriage, for the time, particularly belonged. We left Vittoria the following day at three in the morning. We passed the defiles of *Salinas* without any accident, which was the more agreeable, as carriages are generally stopped in that neighbourhood by the *Factionis*.

We arrived at dinner time, at *Mondragon*, a small town, where they were building a wall round the guard house in the market square, that the soldiers might not be surprised at night, as they were expecting a visit from the *Factionis*. There were some volunteers and regular troops, employed to escort the mails. It being Sunday, the market square was covered with inhabitants of the vicinity. The soldiers and peasants were forming

country dances, and a man stood on the balcony of the first floor of a house playing the guitar. I observed among the throng several priests with their large brimmed hats, and those spiritual shepherds seemed to enjoy the gaieties of their flocks.

After having taken something like a dinner at the posthouse which is, as usual in Spain, an inn, we departed for *Villa Franca*, where we remained that night. On the following day we dined at *Tolosa* at the hotel, kept by the post-master in the centre of the main street. The accommodations here were superior to those of the inn near the bridge, which I had used when passing through before. The postmaster speaks French, and is very desirous of pleasing his guests.

The incessant showers of rain which fell, contributed much to the gloomy appearance of the town, and the prevailing south-east wind occasioned much sickness. The following night we met with very indifferent accommodation at *Ernani*, a small mise-

rable looking town, a few miles from Irún. The mail from France arrived about ten o'clock that night, under escort of some soldiers, who had been fired upon by the Factionists from the neighbouring mountain; and one of the soldiers was so near being killed, that a ball passed through his cap.

We sent our passports hence to *St. Sebastian*, to obtain the visa from the *Xefe Politico*, and they were returned to us at Irún, about three hours after.

Since the quarantine had been removed we found Irún more lively, and many Frenchmen were there, having brought goods and provisions from France to the market. The custom-house officers demanded a written account of the quantity of Spanish gold we had with us; as they do not allow more than six ounces (about twenty-four Napoleons) to be exported.

We saw about forty constitutional soldiers, stationed not far from the *Bidassoa*, who were waiting to escort a quantity of

gold to Madrid for the use of the government.

We made but a short stay at Irun, and crossed the *Bidassoa*, with our carriage and mules in a ferry-boat, which had been re-established, on the removal of the quarantine:—and after having had our passports signed by the *Commissaire* of the Police at the *Lazaretto* of *Behobia*, who dismissed us with courtesy, we repaired to the French custom-house, where we found the officers though lenient, not negligent of their duty. After quitting the custom-house, and repassing *St. Jean de Luz*, I was happy to see once more the *Hotel St. Etienne* at Bayonne, where I took leave of my travelling companions, whose agreeable manners, and polished intellects, had contributed to render my journey not only agreeable, but delightful.

CONCLUSIVE REMARKS.

FROM the preceding narrative, I draw the conclusion, that the constitutional cause finds but few partizans in the villages and small towns of the North of Spain; where ignorance and superstition hold divided empire over the minds and passions of the inhabitants. In fact, the peasants are of so listless a nature, that they are, generally speaking, little better than passive observers of the actions of either party. Some are so peaceably engaged in agricultural occupations; so little enlightened on the subject of politics, and

exhibit so little desire to interest themselves respecting ; it that they are ignorant of the principles and views even of their nearest neighbours. Others, adverse to the pursuits of industry, connect themselves with the various parties of Guerillas, who hover about the villages, and harass travellers by extorting from them involuntary contributions, under the pretext of being badly paid by their chiefs. Frequently it even happens, that evil-disposed peasants, in small parties, armed with muskets, infest the roads, and rob all parties without mercy or distinction, and under the pretence of belonging to the Factious, exercise all the privileges of warfare. The real soldiers of the Army of the Faith, however, do not molest travellers farther than demanding and examining their passports ; which done, they allow them to pursue their journey ; unless they happen to intercept volunteers belonging to the constitutional cause ; in which case the latter are detained until they can procure a ransom.

The Army of the Faith, of course, en-

courage those Guerillas, who are regularly organized; but openly disavow any connection with those, who have no chief, and whose principal object is to plunder the unoffending and defenceless traveller:—nay, they even go out in search of those marauders, who bring discredit on their cause; and whenever they take any armed upon the road, they immediately inflict upon them summary justice.

It is said, that the peasantry of *Catalonia* are attached to the constitutional cause, in consequence of the judicious conduct of some of its commanders, who have gained the affections of the peasants, by displaying towards them a more friendly conduct than the other party.

If there were, in the large towns, more academies and fewer convents, it would contribute much towards extending the cultivation of the sciences, which are at present almost neglected. A circumstance the more surprising, when we consider the celebrity which their French neigh-

bours have obtained for their literary and scientific acquirements.

It would be adviseable to establish schools in the villages and small towns, under the immediate direction of the *Alcalde*, whose duty should be, to provide proper masters, who should attend to the cleanliness of their pupils' habits, as well as to their morals and learning.

This would have the effect of releasing the minds of the natives from the fetters of monkish tyranny, which at present influences their principles and biasses their choice, with regard to political and indeed almost all other pursuits. It is to be lamented, that there should exist many unprincipled members of holy orders, who, contrary to the laws of their religion, compromise the allegiance due to their sovereign, as well as to the interests of their country; and that many of these ministers of a religion, whose doctrines inculcate peace and harmony among mankind, should, instigated by party feel-

ing, endeavour to kindle and feed the flames of discord, by abusing that influence, which their sacred office grants them.

Merchants, in general, ought to be regarded by their governments, as the most powerful of all auxiliaries; since—more especially in Spain—they seldom interfere in party subjects; but generally support that government, which encourages their industry most; and which protects their property with the most paternal care. Where governments are negligent of this most important duty, in vain may they expect pecuniary assistance in the time of difficulty.—Their loans must be contracted in a foreign country.

This is partly the case at the present crisis in Spain; since, in consequence of the little encouragement trade receives, the spirit of the commercial class is not only damped, but the class itself rendered either unwilling or incapable of advancing pecuniary aid to their government; as even

where the power exists, force is sometimes necessary to ensure the requisite subsidies.

The nobility in Spain are so numerous, that they extend over whole provinces ; nay, every inhabitant of Biscay, the Asturias, and the mountains of St. Ander, boasts of the nobility of his extraction ; it cannot, therefore, excite surprise, that they are so much divided in political opinion.

Many of these numerous *soi-disant* offsprings of nobility are more influenced, in their political career, by jealousy, interest, and ambition, than by the love of their country ; and are therefore often not very punctilious observers of the principles of honor and integrity, in their pursuit after glory. It is not difficult to infer, that the constitutional party has but feeble support from the real grandees ; as the new constitution has had the effect of depriving them of many prerogatives, which they derived from birth. But it is not to be doubted, that the cause has powerful

auxiliaries in the second and third classes of the people.

The feelings of soldiers are generally regulated by the conduct of their chiefs: for those who blindly rush to battle, obedient only to the command of a general, will easily imbibe the principles that general professes to espouse. Are the present commanders of the constitutional forces all devoted, at heart, to the cause they profess to defend? This is a question, it is impossible to determine; I shall, therefore, leave it to the development of time.

THE END.

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1848
The first of the year was a
very dry one, and the
crops were much injured
by the drought. The
winter was also very
cold, and the snow lay
on the ground for a
long time. The
spring was very
warm, and the
crops were much
injured by the
drought. The
summer was very
warm, and the
crops were much
injured by the
drought. The
autumn was very
warm, and the
crops were much
injured by the
drought. The
winter was very
cold, and the
snow lay on the
ground for a
long time.





c30

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Irún - Tolosa - Villafranca - Durango - Bilbao - Orduna - Miranda del Ebro - Vitoria.

Alberich 988. Farinelli III p.202. Jaime del Burgo p.133.

v/k

