

LETTERS
OF A
TRAVELLER,
ON THE VARIOUS COUNTRIES OF
EUROPE, ASIA, AND AFRICA:
CONTAINING
SKETCHES OF THEIR PRESENT
STATE, GOVERNMENT, RELIGION, MANNERS,
AND CUSTOMS.
WITH
SOME ORIGINAL PIECES OF POETRY

EDITED
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ERRATUM.

For *agnire*, p. 479, read *agmina*.

VII.E.47

LETTERS

OF A

TRAVELLER, &c.

LETTER, I.

S I R,

IN compliance with your desire, I now commence a Series of Letters on the different countries of Europe, Asia, and Africa, those great divisions of the globe, which are usually denominated the ancient world. It is a subject of vast extent, and, from its nature, productive of rational entertainment, as well as information. It has never yet been the lot of any individual to visit all those countries ; and therefore in such an undertaking as the present, it becomes necessary to have recourse to the accumulated fund of observations made by travellers of the most approved discern-

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ment and veracity. In respect of the countries which I have visited in person, I know that you will be satisfied with my own authority; and in treating of the others, I shall faithfully adopt the account delivered by the latest travellers of the character above described.

As such an excursion will properly commence from one or other of the extremities of the globe, I shall begin with those regions which form the limits of the northern hemisphere, and thence pursuing my course southward and laterally, explore the numerous objects which particularly court the attention.

Imagination alone can supply the mind with a picture of the inhospitable scene which exists between the 81st or 82d degrees of north latitude and the Pole, where a frozen ocean, and excessive cold have placed eternal barriers to the farther approach of navigators. Near the boundary of this tremendous prospect lie East and West Greenland; on the coasts of which, and of Iceland, the enterprizing spirit of commerce has pushed its bold researches in the fishing for whales. The fields of float-
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ing ice, amidst which they venture on those oceans, are frequently more than a mile in length, and upwards of a hundred feet in thickness. How terrible must be the spectacle, when these enormous masses are put into motion by a storm ! By a dreadful catastrophe, resulting from such an incident, no less than thirteen Dutch ships were crushed to pieces in one season. It often happens that the wood which is drifted along between these floating mountains, is so much chafed, and pressed with such violence together, that it takes fire ; a circumstance which has excited an erroneous opinion that the ice was in flames.

In West Greenland, though the winter be incredibly severe, the country is not uninhabited ; and the natives experience, in the summer, the temperature of the opposite extreme : for in the longest days it is sometimes so hot, that they are obliged to throw off their garments.

There are various kinds of whales on the coast of Greenland, some of which are black, and others of a white colour ; but the former are most in esteem, on account of their magnitude, and the great quantity

of fat, or blubber, which they afford. The tongue of this huge animal is about eighteen feet long, enclosed on each side with 250 long pieces of what is called whale-bone; which are covered with a kind of hair resembling that of horses. He has no teeth, and is commonly between sixty and eighty feet long; exceeding thick about the head, but tapering thence to the tail. He is generally first known to the seamen by spouting water in the air; when the alarm, fall! fall! being instantly given, every one hastens from the ship to his boat. Six or eight men are appointed to this vehicle; and four or five boats usually belong to one ship. On approaching the whale, the harpooner strikes him with his harpoon, made in the form of a barbed dart; when the monster, conscious of being wounded, runs swiftly down into the deep, and would inevitably carry the boat along with him, if they did not give him line fast enough. After having dived some hundred fathoms, he is forced to come up for air, when the noise he makes with spouting is so loud, that it has been compared to the firing of cannon. He no
sooner

sooner appears on the surface of the water, than another harpoon is fixed in him; upon which he again plunges into the deep, and when he next comes up, they pierce him with spears in the vital parts, till he spouts out streams of blood instead of water. He now beats the waves so much with his tail and fins, that the sea is all in a foam; the boats continuing all the while to follow him some leagues, till his strength is exhausted. Then turning himself upon his back, he is drawn on shore, or to the ship, if they are at a distance from the land. Thus perishes this enormous animal, which is then cut in pieces, and communicates its strong smell to the ships, which either bring home the blubber barrelled up in pieces, or, if they have convenience, extract the oil from it on shore. It is computed that every fish yields between sixty and a hundred barrels of oil, amounting each to the value of three or four pounds.

The large whale resembles a cod, with small eyes, a dark marbled skin, and white belly: They spout out the water which they take in by inspiration through two

holes or openings in the head. They copulate like land animals, standing upright in the sea. A young whale, when first produced, is about nine or ten feet long; and the female sometime brings forth two at a birth. The whale devours such an incredible number of small fish, that his belly is often ready to burst; in which case he makes a most tremendous noise from pain. The smaller fish have their revenge; some of them fasten on his back, and incessantly beat him; others, with sharp horns, or rather bones in their beaks, swim under his belly, and sometimes rip it up; some are provided with long sharp teeth and tear his flesh. Even the aquatic birds of prey declare war against him when he comes near the surface of the water; and he has been known to be so tortured, that he has beat himself to death on the rocks.

It may appear surprizing, that though Iceland is situated so far to the north, earthquakes and volcanoes are more frequent than in many of the southern countries. Many of the snowy mountains have also gradually become volcanoes. Among these one of the principal is Hecla, situated in the
southern

southern part of the country, about four miles from the sea-coast. This mountain rises at the top into three points, the highest of which is that in the middle, computed to be more than five thousand feet above the level of the sea. Its eruptions were particularly dreadful towards the end of the last century, and have been several times repeated, though with less violence, since the middle of the present. While the country has been occasionally desolated by these calamities, in several parts, it has made in others an acquisition of territory from the bosom of the ocean. In 1783, the inhabitants of Iceland observed a phenomenon of something rising and flaming in the sea, to the south of Grinburg. It was afterwards discovered to be a new island, daily increasing in dimensions, and from two eminences of which there issued great quantities of fire.

Unfavourable as this country may seem to the genius of the muses, we are told that poetry formerly flourished in Iceland, and the names of five or six are mentioned as particularly eminent. The art of writing however, was not much in use before the eleventh century; though the Runic characters

acters were known in the country at a time preceding that period, and were probably brought thither from Norway. But this alphabet which consists only of sixteen letters, gave way to the introduction of the Latin characters, after the reception of the Christian Religion. It appears from the ancient chronicles of Iceland, that from the beginning of the eleventh to the fourteenth century inclusive, the sciences of morality, natural history and astronomy were much cultivated in this country ; and we are assured that more knowledge may be found among the lower class of people in Iceland, than is to be met with in most other countries. Like the Highlanders of Scotland, many of them can repeat the works of some of their poets by heart ; and besides being well instructed in the principles of religion, they are acquainted with the history of their own country : a knowledge acquired by the frequent repetition of their traditional histories, which constitutes one of their principal amusements.

I am, &c.

LETTER

LETTER II.

AMONG the natural curiosities in Iceland, the most worthy of attention are the hot spouting water-springs, with which the country abounds. Some of them spout columns of water, of several feet in thickness, to the height of many fathoms; and, as some affirm, of several hundred feet. They are of unequal degrees of heat. From some, the water flows gently as from other springs, and it is then called a bath; from others, it spouts boiling water with great noise, and is called a kettle. But though the degree of heat be unequal, Dr. Van Troil affirms, that he does not remember ever to have observed it below 188 degrees of Farenheit's thermometer. At Langer-vatin, in the ground, at a small hot current of water, the thermometer rose to 213 degrees.

degrees. It is very common for some of the spouting springs to cease, and others to rise up in their stead. In several of these hot springs, the inhabitants who live near them, boil their viſuals, only by hanging a pot, into which the flesh is put, in cold water, in the water of the spring. They also bathe in the rivulets that run from them, which by degrees become luke-warm, or are cooled by being mixed with rivulets of cold water. The cows that drink of these springs are said to yield an extraordinary quantity of milk ; and the water is likewise esteemed very wholesome, when drunk by the human species.

The largest of all the spouting springs in Iceland is that at Gayser, about two days journey from Mount Hecla. In approaching towards it a loud roaring noise is heard like the rushing of a torrent precipitating itself from a stupendous height. The water here spouts several times a day, but always by starts, and after certain intervals. Some travellers affirm, that it spouts to the height of sixty fathoms. The water is thrown up much higher at some times than at others. When Dr. Van Troil made his observations
upon

upon it, the utmost height to which it mounted was computed to be ninety-two feet.

Another natural phenomenon, very common in Iceland, is Basaltine Pillars, supposed to be the production of subterranean fires. They have generally from three to seven sides ; are from four to seven feet in thickness, and from twelve to sixteen yards in length, without any horizontal divisions. In some places they are only found scattered among the lava in the mountains ; but in others they extend two or three miles in length, without interruption. The lower sort of people imagine these pillars to have been piled upon one another by giants.

Great damage is done to this country every year by immense masses of ice, which also affect the climate, and commonly arrive with a north west wind from *Greenland*. What is called the field-ice is of two or three fathoms thickness, is separated by the winds, and less dreaded than the rock or mountain ice, which is often seen to the height of more than fifty feet above the water, and is at least nine times the same depth below water. These prodigious masses

masses of ice are frequently left in shoal water, fixed as it were to the ground: and in that state remain many months, it is said even years, undissolved, chilling all the circumambient part of the ætmosphere to the distance of many miles. In 1753 and 1754, the ice caused so violent a cold, that horses and sheep dropped down dead on account of it, as well as for want of food. Horses were observed to feed upon dead cattle, and the sheep to eat of each other's wool. Along with the ice there arrives yearly a number of bears, which commit great ravages, particularly among the sheep. Immediately on their appearance the natives attempt to destroy them, and sometimes drive them back to the ice, with which they often float off again. The government of Denmark encourages the people to destroy these animals, by paying a premium of ten dollars for every bear that is killed; and their skins are also purchased for the king.

It is commonly observed that wood thrives well in Iceland; nay, there are very few trees to be found in the whole island, yet indubitable proofs exist, that wood formerly grew there in great abundance. In General vegetation is remarkably deficient.

Corn

Corn cannot be cultivated here to any advantage ; though cabbages, parsley, turnips, and pease, may be met with in five or six gardens, which are said to be all that are upon the whole island.

Notwithstanding all the disadvantages of the climate, the number of inhabitants of Iceland is computed at about sixty thousand. This however is by no means adequate to the extent of the country, which is computed at four hundred miles in length, and an hundred and sixty in breadth. It has been much more populous in former times, but great numbers have been destroyed by contagious diseases ; and many parts of the island have also been depopulated by famine, chiefly occasioned by the Greenland floating ice, which, when it comes in great quantities, prevents the grass from growing, and puts an entire stop to fishing, the principal occupation of the inhabitants.

To the honour of the Icelanders, though they enjoy the comforts of life in a far less degree than most other nations, they are much inclined to religion. They never pass a river, or any other dangerous place, without

out previously taking off their hats, and imploring the divine protection; and they are always thankful for their preservation when they have passed the danger. I wish I could say as much in favour of the general piety and sensibility of the people of our own country; where, with a genial temperature of climate, we enjoy in an extraordinary degree all the physical blessings of divine Providence, and live under a political constitution which is the admiration and envy of the world.

LETTER

L A T T E R I I I .

PROCEEDING from Iceland towards the south-east, we come to Norway, which skirts the north-western extremity of the continent of Europe. The climate of this country varies according to its extent and its position towards the sea at Bergen, which lies in about the 60th degree of latitude. The winter is moderate, and the sea is practicable at that season; but in the eastern parts of Norway, which are commonly covered with snow, the cold generally sets in about the middle of October with intense severity, and continues till the middle of April, the waters being all that time frozen to a considerable thickness. As to the more northern parts of this country, called Finmark, the cold is so intense that they are but little known. The air is so pure in some of the inland parts, that it has been said the inhabitants

bitants live so long as to be tired of life, and cause themselves to be removed to a less salubrious air. A Norwegian of an hundred years of age is not accounted past his labour; and in 1733, four couples were married, and danced before his Danish Majesty, at Frederickstall, whose ages, when joined, exceeded eight hundred years.

Even frost and snow have here their conveniencies, as they facilitate the conveyance of goods by land; but sudden thaws, and snow-falls have sometimes dreadful effects, and destroy whole villages.

No country experiences greater vicissitudes from the revolution of the earth round the sun. At Bergen, the longest days consist of nineteen hours, and the shortest of about six. In summer the inhabitants can read and write at midnight by the light of the sky; and in the most northerly parts, about midsummer, the sun is continually above the horizon. In those parts, however, in the middle of winter, there is only a faint glimmering of light at noon, for about an hour and an half, owing to the reflection of the sun's rays on the mountains. Nature, notwithstanding, has been
so

so kind to the Norwegians, that in the midst of their darkness, the sky is so serene, and the moon and the aurora borealis so bright, that they can carry on their fishery and work at their several trades in the open air.

Norway is reckoned one of the most mountainous countries in the world, containing a chain of unequal mountains running from south to north ; of which that of Dofrefield is accounted among the highest in Europe. They are intersected by rivers and cataracts, which fall down dreadful precipices, and are passable only by slight tottering wooden bridges, which render travelling in this country exceedingly terrible and dangerous. But providence has endowed the inhabitants with an intrepidity proportioned to their exigencies. This appears from their astonishing activity in recovering sheep and goats, when penned up through a false step, in one of those tremendous precipices. The owner directs himself to be lowered down from the top of the mountain, sitting on a cross stick, tied to the end of a long rope ; and when he arrives at the place where the creature

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stands,

stands, he fastens it to the same cord, and it is drawn up with himself.

In the mountains of Norway there are caverns of such prodigious extent as surpasses all that we meet with in the accounts of other countries. One of them, called Dolsteen, was in 1750, visited by two clergymen, who reported that they proceeded in it till they heard the sea dashing over their heads ; that the passage was as wide and as high as an ordinary church, the sides perpendicular, and the roof vaulted ; that they descended a flight of natural stairs, but when they arrived at another, they durst not venture to proceed, but returned ; and that they consumed two candles going and returning.

The rivers and fresh-water lakes in this country are numerous, well stocked with fish, and navigable for ships of considerable burden. Some of those lakes contain floating islands, formed by the cohesion of roots of trees and of shrubs ; and, though torn from the main land, bear herbage and trees. Extraordinary instances are related of the formation of some of the smaller lakes. In 1702, the noble family-seat of Borge, near
Frede-

Fredericstadt, suddenly sunk with all its towers and battlements, into an abyss an hundred fathoms in depth; and its site was instantly occupied with a piece of water, which formed a lake nine hundred feet in length, and about half as broad. This melancholy accident was occasioned by the foundation being undermined by the waters of a river.

The most apparently fabulous accounts of the ancients, concerning sea-monsters, are rendered credible by the productions of the Norwegian seas; and the sea-snake, or serpent of the ocean, is no longer accounted a chimera. In 1756, one of them was shot by the master of a ship. Its head resembled that of a horse; the mouth and eyes were large and black, and a white mane hung from its neck. It floated on the surface of the water, and held its head at least two feet out of the sea. Between the head and neck were seven or eight thick folds, and the length of the snake was more than an hundred yards, some say fathoms. They have a remarkable aversion to the smell of castor; for which reason ship-masters provide themselves with quantities of that drug, to prevent being

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overfet; the ſerpent's olfactory nerves being endowed with great ſenſibility. The particulars related of this animal would be incredible, were they not attefted upon oath. We are informed by Egede, a very reputable author, that on the 6th of July, 1734, a large and frightful ſea-monſter raiſed itſelf ſo high out of the water; that its head reached above the main-top-maſt of the ſhip; that it had a long ſharp ſnout, broad paws, and ſpouted water like a whale; that the body ſeemed to be covered with ſcales; the ſkin was uneven and wrinkled, and the lower part was formed like a ſnake. The body of this monſter is ſaid to be as thick as a hogſ-head; his ſkin is variegated like a tortoiſe-shell; and his excrement, which floats on the ſurface of the water, is corroſive, and blifters the hands of the ſeamen who happen to touch it.

But a more wonderful production yet remains to be mentioned—the Kraken, or Kerven—which nothing but the ſtrongeſt proof of its exiſtence could admit into the catalogue of the animal kingdom. Its bulk is ſaid to be a mile and a half in circumference; and when part of it appears above
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the water, it resembles a number of small islands and sand-banks, on which fish disport themselves, and sea-weeds grow. Upon its emerging further, there appears a number of pellucid antennæ, each about the height, form, and size of a moderate mast; and by their action and re-action he gathers his food, which consists of small fishes. When he sinks, which he does gradually, a dangerous swell of the sea succeeds, and a kind of whirlpool is immediately formed in the water. In 1680, a young kraken perished among the rocks and clefts at Alstahong, and his death was attended by such a stench, that the channel where it died was impassable.

On the coast of Norway, in lat. 67 deg. is that dreadful vortex or whirlpool, called by navigators the Navel of the Sea, and by some Malestrom, or Moskoestrom. The island Moskoe, from whence this stream derives its name, lies between the mountain Hesellegen in Lofoden, and the island Ver, which are about one league distant; and between the island and coast on each side, the stream makes its way. Between Moskoe and Lofoden it is near four hundred fathoms

deep ; but between the former and Ver, is so shallow as not to afford passage for a small ship.—When it is flood, the stream runs up the country with a boisterous rapidity ; and when it is ebb, returns to the sea with a violence and noise unequalled by the loudest cataracts. It is heard at the distance of many leagues ; and so violent is the current, that if a ship comes near, it is immediately drawn irresistibly into the vortex, and carried down to the bottom in a moment, when it is dashed to pieces against the rocks : and just at the turn of the ebb and flood, when the water becomes still for about a quarter of an hour, it rises again in scattered fragments, scarcely to be known for the parts of a ship. When it is agitated by a storm, it has reached vessels at the distance of more than a Norway mile, where the crews have thought themselves in perfect security. Even animals, which have come too near the vortex, have expressed their utmost terror when they find the stream irresistible. Whales are frequently carried away ; and the moment they feel the force of the water, they struggle against it with all their might, howling and bellowing

ing in a frightful manner. The like happens frequently to bears, which attempt to swim to the island to prey upon the sheep.

The Norwegians themselves are almost as extraordinary as the country which they inhabit. Every native is an artizan, and supplies his family in all its necessaries with his own manufactures; so that in Norway there are very few trades by profession. From being formerly the most turbulent and refractory, they are now the most quiet and loyal subjects in Europe; which may be accounted for from the barbarity and tyranny of their kings, when a separate people. Since the union of Calmar, which united Norway to Denmark, their history and interests are the same with those of that kingdom; the sovereign of which derives from them an annual revenue of near two hundred thousand pounds, chiefly from the produce of the immense forest with which the country abounds.

LETTER IV.

PASSING the Scaggen Sea, or Categate, on the south of Norway, we arrive in Denmark, which is divided into two parts. One of these is the peninsula of Jutland; and the other the islands at the entrance of the Baltic. It deserves to be remarked, that though all these collectively constitute the kingdom of Denmark, yet not any one of them is separately called by that name. Copenhagen, the metropolis, stands in the island of Zealand.

Jutland is the largest, as well as most fertile, of all the provinces of this kingdom, and produces abundance of all sorts of grain and pasturage. A great number of small cattle are bred in this province, and afterwards transported into Holstein, to be fed for the foreign markets. Zealand is for the
most

most part a sandy soil, but not unfertile in grain and pasturage ; and is agreeably variegated with woods and lakes. Spring and autumn are seasons scarcely known in Denmark, on account of the sudden transitions from cold to heat, and from heat to cold, which distinguish the climate of this kingdom. In all the northern provinces of Denmark the winters are extremely severe, and during those seasons all the harbours are frozen up.

The feudal system still prevails in this country, in a degree most injurious to the interests of the people, The greatest part of the lands in Denmark and Holstein are fiefs ; and the ancient nobility, by grants which they extorted at different times from the crown, acquired such a power over the peasantry, and all those who resided upon their estates, that at length they reduced them to a state of extreme slavery. The situation of the people has indeed been rendered somewhat less grievous by modern edicts, but they still are subject to the oppression of aristocratical tyranny ; continuing to be disposed of at the will of their lords, many of whom retain the power of life

life and death upon their estates. Nothing is more common in this country than to see an industrious peasant, after labouring several years to cultivate a poor farm, with a view of enjoying at last the profit of his toil, removed by his rapacious landlord to another spot of a similar description, where the same ungrateful task, and the same disappointment again await him. This pernicious practice throws the greatest damp upon the efforts of industry, and prevents those improvements in agriculture which would otherwise be introduced ; the consequence of which is, that nine parts in ten of the inhabitants are in a state of great poverty.

By an actual numeration made in 1759, of his Danish majesty's subjects in his dominions of Denmark, Norway, Holstein, the islands in the Baltic, and the counties of Oldenburgh and Delmenhorst in Westphalia, they were said to amount to 2,444,000 souls, exclusive of the Icelanders and Greenlanders. However disproportioned this number may seem to the extent of the Danish dominions, yet it is greater than could be expected from the uncultivated state of the country.

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The ancient inhabitants of Denmark possessed a degree of courage which approached even to ferocity ; but they are now greatly declined from that enterprising spirit, which, in the ninth, tenth, and eleventh centuries, rendered them formidable to the British dominions. They are now become indolent, timid, and dull of apprehension. They are much addicted to intemperance in drinking, and convivial entertainments ; but their nobility, who now begin to visit the other courts of Europe, are gradually refining from the vulgar habits of their ancestors.

Denmark Proper affords fewer curiosities than the other parts of his Danish majesty's dominions, if we except the Royal Museum at Copenhagen, which contains a numerous collection, both natural and artificial. We find here a noble assemblage of ancient coins, particularly those of the Consuls in the time of the Roman Republic, and of the Emperors, after the seat of empire was divided between Rome and Constantinople. Among the contents of this repository, is a beautiful cabinet of ivory and ebony, made by a Danish artist who was blind. Here are likewise
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to be seen two famous antique drinking vessels; one of gold, the other of silver, and both of the form of a hunting horn. That of gold seems to be of Pagan manufacture; and from the raised hieroglyphical figures on its outside, it probably was used in religious ceremonies. It is about two feet nine inches long, weighs an hundred and two ounces, and contains two English pints and a half. The other, of silver, weighs about four pounds, and is called *Cornu Oldenburgicum*. This, they say, was presented to Otho, first Duke of Oldenburg, by a ghost; but the more probable opinion is, that this vessel was made by the order of Christian I. King of Denmark, the first of the Oldenburg race, who occupied the throne about the middle of the fifteenth century. This museum is likewise furnished with a prodigious number of astronomical, optical, and mathematical instruments. Many curious astronomical instruments are likewise placed in the round tower at Copenhagen, which is so contrived that a coach may drive to its top. With this extraordinary structure the name of Tycho Brahe, the celebrated astronomer of Denmark, and one of the greatest men it ever

ever produced, obtrudes itself upon our remembrance.

Among the curiosities in Denmark are the ancient inscriptions upon rocks, which are mentioned both by antiquaries and historians. These characters are Runic, and so imperfectly understood even by the learned, that their meaning is extremely uncertain. They are however conjectured to be historical, and to be the old and original manner of writing, before the use of paper of any kind, and waxen tables was known. The village of Anglen, lying between Kensburg and Keswick, is also esteemed a curiosity, as giving its name to the Angles, or Anglo-Saxon inhabitants of Great Britain, and the ancestors of the bulk of the modern English. In contemplating such an incident in the history of our country, I know not whether the national pride of an Englishman receives addition or abasement; and it would seem, that to determine the point, he must have a more perfect acquaintance with his genealogy than ever can be acquired. To those, however, who esteem themselves descendants of the Anglo-Saxons, it may afford some pleasure to reflect, that the
purity

purity of the Latin language was revived in Scandinavia, in the person of Saxo-Grammaticus, at a time (the twelfth century,) when it was dormant in all other parts of the European continent. This northern Historian, like his cotemporaries, has adopted the most ridiculous absurdities of remote antiquity; but he has enobled them by a style which gives dignity even to the extravagance of fiction. We learn from him, at the same time, that the ancient Danes had their bards, who recited the military achievements of their heroes; and that their first historical productions were composed in verse.

The famous city of Hamburg lies, geographically speaking, within the limits of Ducal Holstein, the property of the King of Denmark; but it is an imperial, free, and Hanseatic city, having the sovereignty of a small district round it, of about ten miles in circuit. It is one of the most flourishing commercial towns in Europe; and though the kings of Denmark still lay claim to certain privileges within its walls, it may be considered as an independent commonwealth. The number of its inhabitants
amount

amount to near 200,000. Besides a vast variety of noble edifices, both public and private, it has two spacious harbours, formed by the river Elbe, which runs through the town ; and no less than eighty-four bridges thrown over its canals.

LETTER

LETTER V.

THE country next in my rout is Lapland, part of which belongs to the Danes; the most valuable to the Swedes; and the eastern district to the Russians. But the Swedish Lapland is the object chiefly considered by authors in describing this country.

From the northern situation of Lapland, you will easily conceive, that for some months in the summer, the inhabitants have perpetual day, and during winter, their night is of similar duration; but in the latter season they are so well assisted by the twilight and the aurora borealis, that they are never obliged to discontinue their work on account of darkness. The heats of summer are excessive for a short time; but such is the severity of the winter cold, that it is no unusual thing for the lips to be frozen.

frozen to the cups attempting to drink; and the limbs of the inhabitants are very often exposed to mortifications from extreme frigidity.

Lapland consists of a vast mass of mountains, irregularly crowded together, but intersected by rivers and lakes, containing an incredible number of islands, some of which are exceedingly pleasant, and regarded by the natives as the terrestrial paradise. Dark forests, unhealthy morasses, and barren plains, constitute a great part of the flat country, where the state of the inhabitants, notwithstanding the powerful influence of habit, must be extremely uncomfortable. If any thing can compensate the intemperatures of these dreary climates, it is when a frost, succeeding a temporary thaw, presents the Laplander with a smooth level of ice, over which he travels with a rein-deer in a sledge, at a rate of prodigious rapidity. This celebrated animal has a great resemblance to the stag, only it somewhat droops the head, and the horns project forward. On moving its legs, it makes a cracking noise, which is attributed to the separating, and afterwards bringing together the divi-

sions of the hoof, the under part of which is entirely covered with hair. The same necessity which obliges the Laplander to use snow-shoes, makes the extraordinary formation of the rein-deer's hoof to be equally convenient in passing over snow, by preventing it from sinking too deep, which would unavoidably be the case, did the weight of the animal's body rest only on a small point.

In summer the rein-deer provide themselves with leaves and grass, and in the winter they live upon moss. This they have a wonderful sagacity in finding out; and when found, they scrape with their feet the snow that covers it. It is inconceivable on how small a quantity of food they subsist, and the length of journey which they are nevertheless able to perform. The rein-deer is harnessed to a kind of sledge, shaped like a small boat, in which the traveller, well secured from cold, is laced down; holding in one hand the reins, and in the other a kind of bludgeon, to keep the vehicle clear of any impediments from ice or snow. The rein-deer are so safe and tractable, that the driver is at little or no risk.

ble

ble in directing them; their instinct in choosing the road, and shaping their course, being assisted by their acquaintance with the country during the summer months, when they live in the woods. At night they look out for their provender; and scanty as is their usual fare, their milk often helps towards the support of their master. Their flesh is a well-tasted food, as are likewise their milk and cheese; their skin forms excellent cloathing both for the bed and the body; and their intestines and tendons supply their masters with thread and cordage.

With all these excellent qualities, the rein-deer have their inconveniences: they are sometimes buried in the snow, and they frequently grow restive on their journey, to the no small danger of the driver.

The Laplanders have neither writing nor letters among them, but a number of hieroglyphics, that they use in their Rounds, a sort of sticks which serve them for an almanack. These hieroglyphics they also use instead of signatures in matters of law. An attempt has been made to introduce among them the Christian religion, by missionaries

from those parts of Scandinavia, where the light of the gospel has reached; but they cannot yet be said to be Christians, though the king of Denmark has instituted some religious seminaries among them. The majority of the inhabitants practise as gross superstitions and idolatries as are to be found amongst any people; and those of a nature so absurd, that they scarcely deserve to be mentioned, were it not that the number and extravagance of them have induced the northern traders to believe that they are skilful in magic and divination. To favour this deceit, their magicians, who are a peculiar set of men, employ what they call a drum, made of the hollowed trunk of a fir, pine, or birch tree, one end of which is covered with skin. On this they draw with a kind of red colour, the figures of their own gods, as well as of Jesus Christ, the apostles, the sun, moon, stars, birds, and rivers. To some of these they loosely attach one or two brass rings, which, when the drum is beaten with a little hammer, dance over the figures; and, according to their progress, the forcerer forms his prognostications. These whimsical ceremonies
are

are usually performed for gain ; and the northern ship-masters are such dupes to the arts of these impostors, that they often buy from them a magic cord, containing a number of knots, by loosening which, according to the magician's directions, they have the weakness to expect that they shall obtain what wind they desire. The Laplanders still retain the worship of many of the Teutonic gods ; but have likewise amongst them great remains of the Druidical institutions, and they believe the transmigration of the soul.

To this account of Lapland I have to subjoin the translation of an ode, composed, as you will see, by a young peasant of that country, on the courtship of his mistress ; and I am persuaded you will esteem it as no small curiosity. It is written in the verse which we call the Sapphic.

A LAPLAND ODE.

What mean these tedious forms and ways,
That still by fresh and fresh delays,
Protract a lover's pain?
Five years I've woo'd my Orra fair,
Five years my sighs have fill'd the air,
But woo'd and sigh'd in vain.

Of brandy-cags almost a score,
Of beaver's tongues a hundred more,
I've giv'n her kin by turns :
But neither cags their hearts can warm,
Nor tongues prevail to soothe the charm,
With which my bosom burns.

The longest night that Lapland knows,
The longest day that ever glows,
Though they for months endure ;
Are nought, compar'd to one sad bout,
In which my heart is rack'd with doubt,
That Orra's not secure,

O! could I but obtain consent,
And lead her smiling with content,
Home in her bridal' gown ;
No swain in Lapland could outgo
The joy, the raptures I should know,
When Orra was my own !

Our happy days and nights would then,
Pass noted 'midst the haunts of men,
In a delightful round ;
Smooth as the ice, swift as the race,
When rein-deer in the rapid chace,
O'er frozen vallies bound,

When

When years on years had flown away,
At last we'd seal 'our closing day
 With a perpetual kiss;
And lips to lips adhering fast,
As a cup * by the northern blast,
 Expire in mutual bliss!

An explanation of this will be found in the preceding account of Lapland, where mention is made of the extreme severity of the cold.

LETTER

LETTER VI.

RETURNING from Lapland we enter the kingdom of Sweden, the face of which resembles much that of the neighbouring countries, in mountains, marshes, and barren plains ; with this difference, that it has the advantage of a few navigable rivers. It is computed to be in length eight hundred miles, from south to north, and in breadth five hundred. The soil is much the same with that of Denmark, and some parts of Norway, generally very poor, but in other places surprizingly fertile. The riches of Sweden are chiefly in the bowels of the earth, having mines of silver, copper, and iron, which exceed any in Europe. The first gallery of one silver mine is a hundred fathoms below the surface of the earth : the roof is supported by prodigious ashen beams,
and

and from thence the miners descend above forty fathoms to the lowest vein. This mine is said to produce 20,000 crowns a year. The produce of the copper mines is uncertain. The iron mine employs a vast number of smelting houses ; but this manufacture begins to suffer considerable diminution, by the importation of American bar iron into Europe. The whole of the Swedish mines is loaded with vast taxes to the government, the exigences of which are chiefly supported by the resources arising from those subterranean treasures.

The Swedes, till of late years, were extremely negligent of tillage, but they now begin to follow the agriculture of France and England ; and, according to some accounts, they raise almost as much corn as is necessary for internal consumption. Gothland produces wheat, rye, barley, oats, pease, and beans ; and in case of deficiency the people are supplied from Livonia and the Baltic provinces.

The national character of the Swedes has varied greatly in different ages ; at one time bold, martial, enterprizing ; at another, languid, inactive, and unambitious :
some-

sometimes high-spirited and jealous of liberty; at other times passive and submissive. At present the bulk of the people are a heavy plodding race of men, strong and hardy, but without any other ambition than that of subsisting themselves and their families as well as they can; but to whatever object they apply, their perseverance is indefatigable. The nobility and principal gentry of Sweden are brave, polite, and hospitable; have high notions of honor, and are jealous of their national interests. They are in general more conversant in polite literature, than those of many other more flourishing states.

Stockholm, the capital of the kingdom, stands upon six contiguous islands, and is built upon piles. The castle, which is covered with copper, has neither strength nor beauty; but is commodious, and accommodates the royal court, as well as the national courts and colleges. The harbour is spacious and convenient, though difficult of access; and the city displays all the exterior marks of magnificence. But the comparative poverty of the kingdom must appear in an unfavourable light, when we know

know that the capital of the national bank scarcely amounts to half a million sterling. An academy of arts and sciences was some years since established at Stockholm, and flourished under the patronage of the late king, whose unmerited fate reflects disgrace on the annals of the country. It is probable, however, from the education of the present sovereign, that he will extend to such an institution the same benefits of the royal influence with his illustrious predecessor.

The principal university in Sweden is that of Upsal, instituted about the beginning of the fifteenth century, and patronized by several successive monarchs; particularly by the great Gustavus Adolphus, and his daughter Queen Christiana, who emulated the glory of her father by her liberal encouragement and example, in promoting the arts of peace. There are in this university near fifteen hundred students; but for the most part they are extremely indigent, and lodge five or six together in very poor hovels. The professors in different branches of literature are about twenty-two, but their salaries in general are small. There is another

other university at Abo in Finland, but less flourishing than the preceding: A third, which formerly existed at Lunden; in Schonon, is now fallen into decay. In every diocese a free school is established, where the youth are qualified for the university:

Sweden, like the northern countries in general, can boast of few antiquities, or artificial curiosities; and those of the natural class are likewise not numerous. A few leagues from Gottenburg, there is a hideous precipice, down which a dreadful cataract of water rushes with such impetuosity, that large masts and other bodies of timber that are precipitated, disappear, some for half an hour, and others for double that space, before they are recovered. The bottom of this abyss has never yet been found, though sounded by lines of several hundred fathoms in length. In the southern part of Gothland, there is a remarkable limy lake, which sings things put into it.

That powerful instinct, which attaches animals, as well as the human species, to the climates of their native country, is strongly evinced in Sweden by various tribes of the birds of passage. The Swedish
hawks,

hawks when carried to France have been known to re-visit the Scandinavian shores; as appears from one that was killed in Finland with an inscription on a small gold plate, importing that it belong'd to the French King.

I cannot avoid mentioning the inconvenience experienced in this country from the nature of its coin, which brings to one's mind the iron money of Lycurgus. Copper is here the chief medium of commerce. Large pieces of this metal bear upon them the stamp of their current value. Some of them are as large as tiles, and a cart or wheel-barrow is often required, to carry home a moderate sum.

The annals of Sweden have been, in several ages, illustrious by the achievements of heroic princes and a martial people; yet the forces of the country consist only of a regulated militia, calculated at present at about forty thousand men, but before the loss of Livonia, at sixty thousand. The cavalry is cloathed, armed, and maintained, by a rate imposed upon the nobility and gentry, in proportion to their estates; and the infantry by the peasants. Every farm

farm of sixty or seventy pounds per annum, is charged with a foot soldier, furnishing him with diet, lodging and ordinary cloaths, and about one pound a year in money. In lieu of this a little wooden house is sometimes built for him by the farmer, who allows him hay and pasturage for a cow, and ploughs and sows land enough to supply him with bread. In former times, Sweden has likewise made a considerable figure as a maritime power, and fitted out forty ships of the line; but of late years, their ships, as well as their docks, have been greatly neglected.

Christianity was introduced into Sweden in the ninth century, and the people are now of the Lutheran church; the tenets of which were propagated amongst them by Gustavus Vasa, about the year 1523. So great is their aversion to popery, that castration is the fate of every roman-catholic priest discovered in their country. A conversion to popery, or a long continuance under excommunication, which cannot pass without the King's permission, is punished by imprisonment and exile.

The

The ascendancy acquired by France some years since, in the councils of Sweden, in consequence of an annual subsidy, has had a pernicious effect upon the interests of that kingdom, and proved the cause of much domestic jealousy among the friends of the constitution. To this, doubtless, the Swedish crown was strongly induced by the deficiency of its own finances, and the desire of securing an alliance which might protect it against any hostile designs from Russia and Denmark.

LETTER

L E T T E R VII

THE country comprised under the name Russia, comprehends the northern parts of Europe and Asia ; stretching from the Baltic and Sweden on the West, to Kamtschatka and the Eastern Ocean ; and on the North, from the Frozen Ocean, to the 47th degree of latitude. It is, of an extent nearly equal to all the rest of Europe, and greater than that of the Roman Empire in the zenith of its power. The extremes both of climate and soil, are exemplified within the limits of this vast dominion. The cold at St. Petersburg, during the months of December, January, and February, is usually from 40 to 52 degrees below the freezing point ; though commonly, in the course of the winter, it is for a week or ten days, some degrees lower.

You

You may form some idea of a cold so great, on being told, that when a person walks out in that severe season, the cold makes the eyes water, and that water freezing, hangs in little icicles on the eyelashes. As the common peasants usually wear their beards, you may see them hanging at the chin like a solid lump of ice. Even in this state, however, the beard is found very useful in protecting the glands of the throat; so that the soldiers who do not wear their beards, are obliged to tie a handkerchief under the chin to supply the defect. When the thermometer has stood at 25 degrees below 0, boiling water, thrown up into the air by an engine, which made it spread, has fallen down perfectly dry, and formed into ice.

Notwithstanding this severity of the cold in Russia, the inhabitants are furnished with such various means to guard against it, that they suffer much less than might be expected. They warm their houses by an oven constructed with several flues, and the country abounds with wood, which is the common fuel. They can regulate the warmth in their apartments by the ther-

E

mometer,

nometer, with great exactness ; opening or shutting the flues, to increase or diminish the heat. Add to this, that the windows in the huts of the poor are very small, that as little cold may be admitted as possible ; while in the houses of persons of condition, the windows are caulked up against winter, and have commonly double glass frames.

Such is the situation of the Russians within doors ; and when they go out, they are cloathed so warmly, and covered with furs, that they almost bid defiance to frost and snow. It is observable, besides, that the wind is seldom violent in winter ; but when it blows much, the cold is exceedingly piercing.

The Russians derive from the rigor of their climate, one advantage unknown to the inhabitants of other nations, which is that of preserving provisions by the frost. About the end of October, it is usual for good housewives to kill their poultry, and keep them in tubs packed up with a layer of snow between them, and then take them out for use as occasion requires. By this means, they likewise save the nourishment

rishment of the animal for several months. Frozen provisions are brought in this way even from the distance of Archangel ; and the markets in Petersburg are supplied with them in winter, at a cheaper rate than would otherwise be possible. One may there see vast stacks of whole hogs, sheep, fish, and other animals, which are piled up in the markets for sale.

The method they have of thawing frozen provisions is by immersing them in cold water, by which the ice seems to be extracted out of the body, and forms a transparent incrustation round it. The same end has been attempted by the means of heat, but such a process occasions a violent fermentation, and almost a sudden putrefaction of the body immersed.

In the warmer provinces of Russia grain grows in great plenty ; but in those towards the north this article of life, so common in most other countries, is extremely defective. In some parts, the inhabitants, like the people of Scandinavia, use, instead of bread, a kind of saw-dust, and a preparation of fish bones. In others, they are known to subsist chiefly on mushrooms,

which the soil produces in great abundance. In a word, the bulk of the people are hitherto miserably fed, though the most laudable efforts have been made by Peter the Great, and the subsequent sovereigns, to promote an acquaintance with agriculture. This extensive country is particularly favoured by nature in one respect, I mean, the vast communication by means of rivers, which the inland parts of the nation have with each other. The most considerable of these are the Wolga, or Volga, running east and south, which, after traversing the greater part of Muscovy, and winding a course of 3000 English miles, discharges itself into the Caspian sea. What deserves to be remarked, there is not in the whole of this course, a single cataract to interrupt the navigation. While it produces all kinds of fish, it fertilizes the lands on each side with the richest trees, fruits, and vegetables of various kinds; increasing likewise in its progress the benefits it communicates, by dividing itself, in the end, into more than seventy branches, by which it enters the Caspian. By means of this noble river, the city of Moscow preserves a communication

ation not only with all the southern parts of Russia, but even with Persia, Georgia, Tartary, and many other circumambient countries.

Next to this is the Don, or Tanais, which separates the most eastern parts of Russia from Ana. In its course towards the east, it comes so near to the Wolga, that the Czar Peter had projected a communication between them by means of a canal; but this grand design was frustrated by an irruption of the Tartars. This river discharges itself into the Palus Mæotis, or Sea of Azoph; and exclusive of its turnings and windings, runs a course of four hundred miles. The Boristhenes, or Dnieper, which is likewise one of the largest rivers in Europe, runs through Lithuania, the country of some tribes of the Cossacs, and of the Tartars, and falls into the Euxine, or Black Sea, at Rinburn, near Oczakow; exhibiting thirteen cataracts at a small distance from each other. To these may be added, the two Dwinas, one of which discharges itself at Riga into the Baltic; the other, dividing itself into two branches near Archangel, falls there into the White Sea.

Russia is in general a flat level country, except towards the north, where lie the Zimnaporas mountains, supposed to be the famous Montes Riphæi of the ancients. On the western side of the Dnieper, a part of the Carpathian mountains extends; and between the Black Sea and the Caspian, Mount Caucasus borders a range of vast plains stretching to the Sea of Oral. The northern and north-eastern provinces are in a manner desert; but in general, forests abound over the face of this extensive country: and the wildness of the scenes is equalled by that of the inhabitants, who in many parts may justly be accounted Pagans rather than Christians.

Among the species of fishes with which nature has plentifully provided the Russians, is that called Beluga, which resembles a sturgeon. It is commonly from twelve to fifteen feet in length, weighing from nine to sixteen or eighteen hundred weight. The flesh is white and delicate, and of the roe of it is made the famous caviar, so much esteemed for its richness and flavour.

The nuptial ceremonies of the Russians are peculiar to themselves; and formerly consisted

consisted of some very whimsical rites, many of which are now fallen into disuse. Matches are frequently made by the parents, without the parties ever seeing each other. After the preliminaries have been settled, the bride is examined stark naked by a certain number of females, who have the charge of correcting, if possible, any defects that may be discovered in her person. On the day of solemnizing the marriage, she is crowned with a garland of wormwood ; and after the priest has performed his part of the ceremonial, his clerk or sexton throws a handful of hops upon the head of the bride, expressing at the same time a wish that she may prove as fruitful as that plant. She is then conducted home to the house of the bridegroom, amidst abundance of ribaldry and indecent gesticulations, which are now, however, daily declining even among the lowest ranks. The barbarous treatment of wives by their husbands, which formerly extended even to scourging, or broiling them to death, is now either expressly prohibited by law, or by particular stipulations in the marriage contracts.

The

The inhabitants of this country, like other uncultivated people, entertain many false notions with regard to the state of departed souls. Among the better sort of inhabitants, the dead body is usually kept above ground for eight or ten days ; during which time the priest, who is hired to pray for the soul of the deceased, sprinkles the body frequently with holy water. When it is carried to the grave, which is done with a parade of lamentation, the priest produces a ticket signed by the bishop and another clergyman, as a passport to heaven. This being put into the coffin between the fingers of the corpse, and the interment concluded, the company return to the deceased's house, where there ensues a scene of intoxication, which, among persons of condition, continues, with few intermissions, during the space of forty days ; the priest every day saying prayers over the grave of the deceased.

The barbarity of the Russians is in nothing more conspicuous than in the severity of their corporal punishments, which, however are frequently undergone with astonishing insensibility. The single and double

ble knout are both remarkably excruciating. The boring and cutting out of the tongue are likewise punishments not uncommon ; and Peter the Great used to suspend the robbers upon the Wolga, and other parts of his dominions, by iron hooks fixed to their ribs, on gibbets, where they writhed in agonies, to the number of hundreds, nay thousands at a time.

You may well imagine, that to travel over the deserts of Russia, in their naked state, must be both very tedious and fatiguing ; but in winter, when they are covered with snow, this is performed with great facility. The snow being frozen hard enough to bear them, the people travel in sledges, lined with thick felt, and many of them drawn by rein-deer. In the interior parts of Russia, however, horses are used for the purpose. The sledge-way becomes so well beaten towards February, that they erect upon those vehicles a kind of coach, in which they may lie at full length, and so travel night and day, wrapped up in good furs. In this manner they often perform a journey of about four hundred miles, such as that from Petersburg to Moscow, in three days

days and nights. Her late imperial majesty, in her winter journies, was drawn by twenty-four post horses, in an erection made of timber, which contained sufficient conveniencies to accommodate four persons.

Learning has for a considerable time begun to be cultivated in Russia, and made particularly great progress under the auspices of the late Empress. Peter the Great founded three colleges at Moscow ; one for classical learning and philosophy, the second for mathematics, and the third for navigation and astronomy : since which time an university has likewise been founded in that city. The late Czarina founded an university at Petersburg, to which she invited some of the most learned foreigners in every faculty, and settled upon them handsome salaries. She there also instituted a military academy, where the young nobility, and the sons of officers, are instructed in the art of war.

Petersburg, the modern capital of this vast empire, is situated in latitude 60, on both sides of the river Neva, at its junction with the lake of Ladoga. About the beginning of the present century, it consisted of a few
small

small fishing huts, on a spot so swampy, that the ground was formed into nine islands; but such is at present the state of this wonderful emporium, that it rivals in magnificence the most celebrated cities in Europe. Among the public structures worthy of notice, I cannot forbear mentioning a convent, in which four hundred and forty young ladies were educated at the expence of the late Empress. Two hundred of these were of superior rank, and the others, daughters of citizens and tradesmen; who after receiving a suitable education, were presented with a sum of money, to procure themselves a proper livelihood on quitting the convent. Petersburg is supposed to contain about four hundred thousand inhabitants, and is ornamented with thirty-five great churches. It also contains five palaces, some of which are superb, particularly that which is called the New Summer Palace, situated near the Triumphal Port, an elegant piece of architecture. The number of foreign ships trading thither in the summer time is prodigious; and in winter three thousand one-horse sledges are employed for passengers in the streets.

Before

Before the establishment of Petersburg, the city of Moscow was the capital of this vast empire, and though now declined from its former grandeur, it still continues to make an eminent figure among the first cities in Europe. The houses of the inhabitants in general are mean structures of timber: but the palaces, churches, convents, and other public edifices, of which there is a great number, are spacious and lofty. The Krimlin, or grand Imperial palace, is one of the noblest edifices in Europe.

Having mentioned the convent erected at Petersburg by the late empress, I cannot pass over in silence an institution of a similar nature in Moscow, promoted likewise by her patronage, and supported by voluntary contributions, legacies, and other charitable endowments. What I allude to is the Foundling Hospital, an immense pile of building, of a quadrangular shape, containing at present upwards of three thousand foundlings; and when the establishment is completed, it is intended to contain eight thousand.

Russia having only lately emerged from barbarism, we cannot here look for any of those

those antiquities usually met with in nations which have long been in a state of cultivation. She exhibits, however, some stupendous monuments of the public spirit of her sovereigns ; particularly the canals made by Peter the Great for the benefit of commerce: and I am persuaded you will agree with me that such peaceful achievements confer more real glory, as well as satisfaction, than that which is fought for amid the din of arms, and the brilliancy of conquest. With regard to the memorials of remote times, however, Siberia is not unproductive. It abounds with old sepulchres of an unknown people, whose instruments and arms appear to have been all made of copper. In the cabinet of natural history at Petersburg, there is shewn a rhinoceros, which was accidentally dug up on the banks of the river Valui. The skin, with the hair upon it, is entire. The city of Moscow is distinguished by containing the largest bell in the world. It is nineteen feet high, twenty-three in diameter, and is said to be 443,772 pounds weight. By a fall received in consequence of the beam on which it hung being burnt, a large piece

is broken out of it. By this accident, it has since lain useless, to the no small regret of the inhabitants of that capital, who are remarkable for a peculiar attachment to the ringing of bells.

The building of Petersburg, with its sudden transmutation from a few fishing huts into a populous and great capital, is an incident perhaps not to be paralleled in the history of the world; if we except the adjoining fortress of Cronstadt, which is almost impregnable. These wonderful objects, equal in magnitude of design, but infinitely superior in utility, to the pyramids of Egypt, employed, for some years, without any intermission even during night, three hundred thousand men in driving piles, and laying their stupendous foundations. Yet, astonishing to say, the whole plan of those works was drawn by the hand of Peter himself. with a very little assistance from some German engineers. But the extraordinary merit of this prince was not confined to greatness of conception; he united activity with invention; and wrought in person not only in those vast undertakings, but in the establishment of a naval force, which he raised by a sudden creation.

The

The established religion of Russia is that of the Greek Church ; for the tenets of which I refer you to theological writers. It is sufficient for me to say, that the Russians deny the supremacy of the pope, and disclaim the worship of images. They retain, however, many idolatrous and superstitious customs.

LETTER

LETTER VIII

OUR northern excursion will receive some relief, from quitting the vast extent of the Russian plains, for a transitory visit to the numerous islands of Scotland; which are those of Shetland, Orkney, and the Hebrides, or western isles. The Shetland islands are forty-six in number, but many of them uninhabited. The largest, which is that of Mainland, is sixty miles in length, and twenty in breadth; but the whole number of families in the island does not exceed five hundred. On this island the Dutch begin to fish for herrings at midsummer, and their fishing season lasts six months.

Of the Orkney islands, which are about thirty in number, many are likewise uninhabited. The largest is Pomona, about
thirty

thirty-three miles in length, and its breadth is in some places nine. It contains nine parish churches, and some excellent harbours. The cathedral of Kirkwall, the capital of the Orkneys, is a fine Gothic building, dedicated to St. Magnus, but now converted into a parish church. Its roof is supported by fourteen pillars on each side, and its steeple, which has a good ring of bells, by four large pillars. The three gates of the church are checquered with red and white polished stone, embossed and elegantly flowered.

The Western Isles are more numerous than either of the preceding, and some of them large. Sky is forty miles long, and in some places thirty broad; fruitful and well peopled. The isle of Mull is twenty four miles long, and in some places almost as broad. Lewis, or Harries, forming both but one island, is a hundred miles in length, and thirteen or fourteen in breadth. Bute, which is about ten miles long, and three or four broad, is famous for containing the castle of Rothsay, which gave the title of Duke to the eldest sons of the kings

of Scotland, as it now does to the Prince of Wales.

Beside these, are Ila, Jura, Urst, St. Kilda, and a numerous list of inferior islands ; among which I must particularly mention the famous isle of Jona, or St. Columb-kill, once the seat and sanctuary of learning in the west, and the burying-place of many kings of Scotland, Ireland, and Norway. This place is still conspicuous for the relics of a sanctimonious antiquity. The church of St. Mary, which is built in the form of a cathedral, is a beautiful fabric ; within which are some Gaëlic inscriptions, and the bodies of the kings abovementioned. The tomb of Columba, who lies buried here is uninscribed. The steeple is large, the cupola twenty-one feet square, the doors and windows are curiously carved, and the latter is of the finest marble. Innumerable inscriptions of ancient customs and ceremonies may be observed in different parts of the island.

The island of Staffa exhibits a most beautiful scene of the Basaltis, rising amidst the waves, in the form of a new Giant's Causeway. For a mile in length, and half a mile

mile in breadth, the end of this island is supported by ranges of natural pillars, mostly above fifty feet high, standing in colonnades, according as the bays or points of land have formed themselves. Sir Joseph Banks, who visited this island in 1772, informs us, that upon a firm basis of rock above these, the stratum which reaches to the surface of the island, varied in thickness as the island itself formed into hills or vallies; each hill, which hung over the columns below, forming an ample pediment. Some of these, above sixty feet in thickness, from the base to the point, formed, by the sloping of the hill on each side, almost into the shape of those used in architecture. Proceeding further to the north west, "You meet (says Sir Joseph Banks,) with the highest ranges of pillars, the magnificent appearance of which is past all description: Here they are bare to their very basis, and the stratum below them is also visible."

In some parts of Staffa, instead of being placed upright, the pillars were observed to be on their sides, each forming a segment of a circle; but the most striking

object in this field of scenery is Fingal's Cave, which is described in the following terms : " We proceeded along the shore, treading upon another *Giant's Causeway*, every stone being regularly formed in a certain number of sides and angles, 'till in a short time we arrived at the mouth of a cave, the most magnificent, I suppose, that has ever been described by travellers. The length of this cave from the arch without, is 371 feet; the breadth at the mouth 53 feet; and the height in the same part 317 feet. The mind can hardly form an idea more magnificent than such a space, supported on each side by ranges of columns, and roofed by the bottoms of those which have been broken off in order to form it; between the angles of which a yellowish stalagmitic matter had exuded, which serves to define the angles precisely, and at the same time vary the colour with a great deal of elegance. To render it still more agreeable, the whole is lighted from without; and the air within being agitated by the flux and reflux of the tide, is perfectly dry and wholesome, free entirely from the damps of vapours with which natural caverns

verns in general abound." Sir Joseph Banks has assured me, that nothing he had ever seen afforded him greater pleasure than the survey of this Island.

In general the islands annexed to Scotland exhibit many pregnant proofs in their churches, the vestiges of old forts and other buildings, both sacred and civil, that they were formerly more populous than at present. The use and construction of some of these works cannot now be easily accounted for. In a gloomy valley in the island of Hoy, one of the Hebrides, is a kind of hermitage, cut out of a stone, called a dwarf stone, thirty-six feet long, eighteen broad, and nine high; in which is a square hole, about two feet in height for an entrance, with a stone of the same size for a door; within is the resemblance of a bed, with a pillow cut out of the stone, large enough for two men to lie on; at the other end is a couch, and in the middle a hearth, with a hole cut out above for a chimney.

I should tire you to recount the various vestiges of the Druidical temples remaining in these islands; some of which must have been raised with prodigious labour, and are

stupendous erections, of the same nature as the famous Stone-henge, near Salisbury. Others seem to be memorials of particular persons or actions, consisting of one large stone standing upright. Some of them bear the marks of having been sculptured; and others have served as sepulchres, and are composed of stones cemented together. Cairns, or barrows, as they are called in England, are frequent in these islands, and the monuments of Danish and Norwegian fortifications might afford ample room for description. The gigantic bones found in many burial places here, afford room to believe that the former inhabitants were of larger size than the present. It seems likewise probable, from some ancient remains, particularly catacombs, and some silver fibulæ or clasps, found at Stennis, one of the Orkneys, that the Romans were well acquainted with these parts. There is not a doubt but one of the islands on the north of Scotland, was their *Ultima Thule*.

It has been the opinion of many learned men, that the Hebrides, being the most westerly islands where the Celts settled, their language must remain there in its greatest purity

purity : but this opinion, though very plausible, is contradicted by experience. It is true that many Celtic words, as well as customs, are found in these islands ; but the great intercourse which the Hebrides had with the Danes, the Norwegians, and other northern people, whose language is mixed with Slavonian and Teutonic, the latter of which has no affinity with the Celtic, has rendered their language a compound ; so that it approaches in no degree to the purity of the Celtic, commonly called Erse, which was spoken by their neighbours in Lochabar and the opposite coasts of Scotland,, the undoubted descendants of the Celts, among whom their language remains more unmixed.

There is very little difference in the climate of these islands, the air being keen, piercing, and salubrious ; so that many of the natives live to a great age. In the Shetland and Orkney islands they see to read at midnight in June and July ; and during four of the summer months they have frequent communications, both for business and curiosity, with each other. The rest of the year, however, they are almost inaccessible,

cessible, through fogs, darkness, and storms. It is a curious fact, that in May, 1689, a Scottish fisherman was imprisoned in the capital of the Orkney islands, for publishing the account of the Prince and Princess of Orange being raised to the British Throne the preceding November; and he would probably have been hanged, as a political impostor, had not the news been confirmed by the arrival of a ship.

It does not appear from history, to whom the Shetland and Orkney islands were subject before the close of the eleventh century; but they were conquered by the Normans in 1099, some years after the reduction of England by William the Conqueror. In the year 1263, they were in the possession of Magnus of Norway, who sold them to Alexander, king of Scots, and he gave them as fiefs to a nobleman of the name of Speire. After this period, they became subject to the crown of Denmark. Christian I. in the reign of James III. conveyed them in property to the crown of Scotland, as a marriage portion with his daughter Margaret, and all future pretensions were entirely ceded on the marriage

riage of James VI. of Scotland, with the Princess Anne, of Denmark.

It might be thought unpardonable to give an account of the Hebrides without mentioning the *second sight*, for which the inhabitants are said to be remarkable. It is pretended, that there swims before their eyes, either real or typical, representations of certain events which are to happen within the space of twenty-four or forty-eight hours. The truth perhaps is, that those highlanders by indulging themselves in indolent habits, acquire visionary ideas; and these giving birth to extravagant phantoms, they mistake the latter for the result of fatidical or prophetic revelations. They therefore begin to prophecy, and there being a great chance that amidst many thousands of predictions, some or other should happen to be fulfilled, one well-attested instance of accomplishment confers credit on the general imputation. I shall, however, relate to you one fact of this kind, which I had myself from a reputable schoolmaster on the borders of the Highlands, when I visited that part of the country, and it is among the
most

most remarkable instances of the kind that I have heard on the subject.

Mr. M— went one evening about some business into a small house adjoining his own, where there happened to be an elderly woman from Glenlioni. On seeing him enter she uttered in the Gaëlic language some expressions which indicated surprize; and fixing her eyes on his legs, exclaimed with a look of astonishment, *Te chafs! te chafs!* that is, “your leg, your leg.” He thought no more of the incident till next night, when returning home from a house in the neighbourhood, a beetle was maliciously thrown at him by a worthless person who had formerly been his pupil, by which one of his legs was fractured. Recollecting the incident of the preceding evening, he was told by those who had been present on that occasion, and understood the Erse, that one of his legs appeared to the woman of Glenlioni to be broken and bloody, and she was astonished to see him walk in such a condition. I told this anecdote to the late Dr. Samuel Johnson, who wished he had known it before the publication of his *Tour to the Hebrides*.

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The inhabitants of the Hebrides, like the Highlanders on the continent of Scotland, are a hardy and martial race of people ; and had they come within the verge of Homer's description in the *Iliad* or *Odyssey*, it is probable that many of these islands would have been no less distinguished by their lords or chieftains, than Ithaca by the celebrated Ulysses.

LETTER

LETTER IX.

I COME now to the continent of Scotland, a country celebrated both for the martial achievements of its inhabitants, and the genius of many of its writers. The air of Scotland is more temperate than could be expected in so northerly a climate. This arises partly from the variety of its hills, vallies, rivers, and lakes; but still more, as in England, from the vicinity of the sea, which affords those warm breezes that not only soften the natural keenness of the air, but by keeping it in perpetual agitation, renders it pure and healthful. The soil in general is not so fertile as that of England; and, in many places, less fitted for agriculture than for pasture. Yet there are particular plains and vallies of the most luxuriant fertility; and the whole of the eastern

eastern coast, for many miles up the country, is abundantly fertile.

Scotland contains several capital rivers, such as the Forth, the Tay, the Spey, the Tweed, and the Clyde ; with many of an inferior sort, well provided with salmon, trout, and other fishes, which equally enrich and beautify the country. Its principal mountains are the Grampian Hills, which run from east to west, almost the whole breadth of the kingdom. Two other chains of mountains, towards the south, run in the same direction ; besides which, I may mention the Cheviot or Tiviot Hills, on the borders of England.

The face of Scotland is agreeably diversified by a charming intermixture of natural objects. The great inequalities of the ground, in many parts, though unfavourable to the labours of the husbandman, are particularly pleasing to a traveller, and afford those delightful situations for country-houses, of which many of the Scottish nobility and gentry have so judiciously availed themselves.

I do not exaggerate when I assure you, that Scotland contains a greater number of
ancient

ancient castles and noble edifices than are commonly to be met with in countries of an equal extent. This is owing not only to the general taste of the nobility and gentry, but to the cheapness of the materials for building; by which their passion for architecture may be gratified at a moderate expence. Many of these seats are embellished with beautiful pleasure-grounds, where art and nature seem to have vied in the production of agreeable prospects. To form an adequate idea of those scenes, you must visit Dunkeld, and Blair in Athol, the residence of the Duke of that name; but you will find all the charms of local beauty yet more happily united, some miles towards the west, where Taymouth, the incomparable seat of the Earl of Breadalbane, displays all her attractions to the view. Verbal description can but faintly express the delightful assemblage of objects by which this place is distinguished. Hill and valley, wood and water, form the general intermixture of topographical variegation; but here the effect of them is enhanced with peculiar felicity. The position and shape of the hills are not only highly advantageous,

ous, but they are ornamented with natural rocks, picturesque both in form and situation, and adorned with hermitages, or ruins, or towers, or traces of antiquity, that afford the most pleasing prospects. The vallies are stretched in an expanse so agreeably romantic, that for a just representation of them I refer to your own conceptions, of the celebrated Tempe. The woods are delightfully mixed in variety as well as arrangement; and the river Tay, besides the prospect of a beautiful lake, proceeds in such meanders as seem to have been accommodated by nature to the perfection of a landscape. To all these circumstances let me add, the temples and cascades, the walks, the terraces, and the nutting-paths, which in extent, variety, and beauty, surpass all I ever met with in travelling.

You have heard, perhaps, of the *Maiden*, an instrument of decapitation, introduced into Scotland by the Earl of Morton, who was himself the first who suffered by it; and you are sufficiently well acquainted with the *Guillotine*, which disgraces the annals of France; but I question whether you
ever

ever have been informed of a similar instrument, called the Lochabar Axe. This I have seen where it is deposited, in the penetralia of Taymouth. It was employed for extirpating the clan of M'Gregors, whose outrages rendered them universally so obnoxious to government, that those among them who wished to avoid a capital punishment, were obliged to change their name ; which, I have been told, was not, till lately, revived in the country.

Scotland abounded anciently with magnificent Gothic cathedrals, and other religious edifices, but they were mostly demolished by the fury of the mobs at the time of the reformation. The Carthusian Abbey at Perth, which was also a royal residence, and where James I. was murdered, is celebrated for the grandeur of its architecture. The cathedrals of Elgin in Murray, Dunkeld, Dumfermline, Kelso, Melrose, Jedburg, and others, with the Gothic Chapel at Roslin, about four miles from Edinburgh, are beheld with veneration and pleasure by every traveller. Many of those edifices were founded by King David, who was remarkable for his piety and liberality

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to religious institutions; but the structure last mentioned was founded towards the middle of the fifteenth century by William St. Clair, Prince of Orkney, and Duke of Oldenburg. Exclusive of romantic situation, it is confessedly one of the most curious pieces of workmanship in Europe.

The palaces of the Scottish kings, in general, were likewise magnificent buildings. That of Dumfermline, the residence of the famous king Malcolm, has long been in ruins; but there still exists, close by it, a memorial of celebrated royalty. Under the pulpit of the ancient cathedral, are interred the remains of the great King Robert Bruce, whose heart, at his own desire, was carried at his death to Jerusalem. The palace of Scone, where the kings of Scotland were usually crowned, is distinguished by an elegant simplicity; while that of Falkland exhibits a magnificence corresponding to the dignity of a crown; and the palace of Linlithgow, the favourite resort of James V. has been the admiration of subsequent ages for the beauty of its architecture.

Edinburgh, since the addition of the new town, may be regarded as one of the handsomest cities in Europe ; and the new University, when completed, will be a structure proportionably noble. Between the old and new town, lies a narrow bottom or vale, at the west end of which the castle, situated on a solid rock, near two hundred feet high, looks down with awful magnificence ; and the eastern extremity is bounded by a lofty bridge, the middle arch of which is ninety feet high ; erected for the purpose of joining the new buildings to the city, and of rendering the descent on each side the vale more commodious.

Facing the castle, at the distance of a mile, stands the palace of Holyrood-House, commonly called the Abbey. It is a quadrangular building, of magnificent architecture, begun by James V. and finished by Charles I. Round the quadrangle runs an arcade, adorned with pilasters ; and the inside contains noble apartments, now occupied by different noblemen. The chapel belonging to this palace was an elegant piece of Gothic architecture. It had a very lofty roof, and two stonie galleries, supported

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ed by curious pillars. The inside was demolished and rifled of all its rich ornaments by the fury of the mob at the Revolution. They even broke into the repositories of the dead, and discovered a vault, till then not generally known, which contained the bodies of James V. his first queen, and Henry Darnley. The walls and roof of this beautiful chapel gave way and fell down in 1768, occasioned by the enormous weight of a new stone roof, laid over it some years before, which the walls were unable to support.

The hospital founded by George Heriot, goldsmith to James VI. for the education of poor children belonging to the citizens of Edinburgh, is situated south-west of the castle. It was planned by Inigo Jones, who went to Scotland as architect to Queen Anne, wife of James VI. and is the finest specimen which he has left us of his Gothic manner.

Besides the University of Edinburgh, there are in Scotland three others, which are those of St. Andrew's, Aberdeen, and Glasgow. Even before the time of Charlemagne, the Scots began to be signalized by

their literary pursuits ; and of their successful progress we meet with ample documents in the writings of Adamnarus, and other authors, who were nearly contemporary with the period of the Norman Invasion. Barbour, a Scottish poet, is celebrated even prior to the time of Chaucer ; and the Latin style of Buchanan's history is hitherto regarded as one of the most classical of modern productions. Indeed, classical learning seems to have been more cultivated even at the court of Scotland than at any other in Europe ; as appears from the letters of the Scottish kings to the neighbouring princes, which are incomparably the most elegant compositions of the times in which ~~they~~ were written.

The discovery of the logarithms, so useful in the science of navigation, will ever render the name of Napier of Merchestone one of the most conspicuous in the catalogue of memorable inventors. In mathematical sciences, Keil, Gregory, Mac-laurin, Simson, and Stuart, are particularly eminent ; while in philosophy, history, and the belles-lettres, several natives of Scotland
have

have shone likewise with distinguished lustre.

So numerous are the Roman and other antiquities found in Scotland, that a minute account of them might extend to many volumes. The most remarkable for extent is the Roman Wall, called by the people of the country Graham's Dyke, but by others named the Wall of Antoninus, under whose direction it was completed, though first marked out by Agricola. It stretched the whole way from the Clyde to the Forth, crossing the country in the narrowest part. The course of it is still discernible, but the structure has long since vanished, with the necessity of its continuance.

Near the western extremity of this wall, at Duntocken, some labourers, in digging a trench on the declivity of a hill, upon which are seen the remains of a Roman fort, turned up several uncommon tiles, which led to the discovery of a subterraneous building. The tiles are of various sizes, the smallest being seven, and the largest twenty-one inches square. They are from two to three inches in thickness,
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of a reddish colour, and in good preservation. The smaller tiles composed several rows of pillars, which form a labyrinth of passages about eighteen inches square; and the larger tiles being laid over the whole, served as a roof to the ~~structure~~. The building is surrounded by a wall of hewn stone. From the bones and teeth of animals, with a footy kind of earth found in the passages, some have conjectured that this building served as a hot-bed for the use of the neighbouring garrison.

One of the most entire and best preserved of any Roman antiquity in North-Britain, is situated at Ardoch in Perthshire. It has five rows of ditches and six ramparts on the south side; and of the four gates which led into the area, three of them, viz. the prætorium, decumana, and dextra, are still very distinct.

Upon the banks of the river Carron, in Stirlingshire, there stood a Roman temple, or building, in the form of the Pantheon at Rome, but which has lately been demolished by its Gothic proprietor, for the purpose of mending a mill-pond. Its height was twenty-two feet, and its external circumference

cumference at the base eighty-eight feet ; so that upon the whole it was one of the most complete Roman antiquities in the world. As it stood near the northern boundary of the Roman empire in Britain, it is thought to have been built by Agricola, or some of his successors, as a temple to the god Terminus. Near it are some artificial concealments of earth, bearing still the name of Dunipace, or *Duni pacis* ; which seem to confirm that there was a kind of solemn compromise between the Romans and the Caledonians, that the former should not attempt to extend their empire beyond those limits.

By inscriptions found on stones near the wall, we are made acquainted with the names of the legions that built it, and the particular departments of each. The remains of Roman highways are frequent in the southern parts of Scotland.

Near Auchterarder, in Perthshire, there is a barrow, resembling the figure of a ship, with the keel uppermost. It appears to be of remote antiquity, and is the most beautiful of the kind I have ever seen. As it lies not many miles distant from the scene
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of Agricola's operations, there may be room for conjecturing that it was erected to the memory of some British prince, who acted as auxiliary to the Romans.

There are in Scotland some buildings of a very extraordinary construction, and supposed to be of Pictish origin, from their standing within the dominions of that people. One of these is at Brechin in Angus, and the other at Abernethy in Perthshire. Both of them are columns, hollow in the inside. That of Brechin is the most entire. It is covered at the top with a spiral roof of stone, and has three or four windows above the cornice. It consists of sixty regular courses of hewn stone, laid circularly, and regularly tapering towards the top. Upon it are some sculptures, denoting it to be of Christian origin; but these, perhaps, are of a later date than the building.

At a place called Aberlemno, near Brechin, there are still to be seen four or five ancient obelisks, called the Danish stones of Aberlemno. They have been erected to commemorate the victories of the Scots over that people; and are adorned with
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bas-reliefs of men on horseback, with many emblematical figures and hieroglyphics.

But there stands near the town of Forras in Murray, a column, which surpasses all others in grandeur. It rises about twenty-three feet in height above the ground, and is said to reach about twelve or fifteen feet below ; so that the whole height is at least thirty-five feet, and its breadth near five. It is all one entire stone. Many figures in relieve have been carved upon it, some of which are still visible ; but the injury of the weather has much affected those of the upper part. It is probable that this monument was erected in commemoration of the final expulsion of the Danes out of Murray, where they occupied their last settlement in Scotland, after the great defeat they had received from the celebrated King Malcolm.

At Sandwick, in Ross-shire, is likewise a noble ancient monument, surrounded at the base with large well-cut flag stones, formed like steps. Both sides of the column are enriched with a variety of sculpture ; among which is a sumptuous cross, with a figure
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of St. Andrew on each hand, and the representation of many birds and animals.

The ruins of the cathedral of Elginfill, exhibit a remarkable grandeur in their appearance. The west door in particular is highly ornamented, and there is much elegance in the sculpture.

Among the remains of ancient castles deserves to be mentioned that of Keldrummy, in the north of Scotland. It was formerly a place of great strength and magnificence, and often resorted to, as an asylum, by noble families, in times of civil wars. Inverugie Castle, the ancient seat of the Earl Marshals of Scotland, situated on a steep rock upon the bank of a river, is a large and lofty pile. The front is terminated by two high towers, which, even in their decaying state, give the building an air of much grandeur and antiquity.

LETTER

LETTER X.

I NEED not inform you that the transition from North to South Britain, is imperceptible to a traveller, unless he crosses the river Tweed, which separates the two countries only for some miles towards the east. In other parts they are contiguous along an extensive frontier ; and they seem not more happily adapted to form one united kingdom, by geographical situation, than by the habits, commercial intercourse, and interests of each.

If we entered Scotland with emotions of triumph, on account of its civilization and ancient celebrity, we shall find the same reason to congratulate ourselves on our arrival in England, where arts and arms have long been cultivated with peculiar success, and the glory of her military achievements

achievements is diminished only by the facility with which she repeatedly submitted to the yoke of foreign powers. But let us draw a veil over transactions the apparent incongruity of which was alleviated by the circumstances of the times. She has, since the last of these conquests, displayed such feats of valour, as will ever throw lustre on her annals.

In respect of the temperature of the air, perhaps no country in the world is, upon the whole, preferable to England. But it is peculiarly exposed to sudden vicissitudes of the weather ; and the succession of the different seasons is in most years very irregular. Its insular situation subjects it to all the variety of winds that agitate the face of the surrounding ocean ; while to compensate this disadvantage, not a current of air can blow from any point of the compass, in which many of her ports are not open to the benefits of commerce. The numerous canals made within the space of half a century, have extended her internal navigation to an astonishing degree ; and so great are the improvements in agriculture and manufactures, that the prosperity of
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her traffic is unrivalled in every quarter of the globe.

The Rivers in England add greatly to its beauty as well as its opulence. The chief of these are the Thames, the Medway, the Trent, the Ouse, and the Tyne. There are here but few lakes ; though it is evident from history, and indeed, in some places from the face of the country, that meres and fens have been frequent in England, till drained and converted into arable land. Though most parts of the country are full of delightful rising grounds, yet it contains few mountains. The most noted are the Peak in Derbyshire, the Endle in Lancashire, the Wolds in Yorkshire, the Cheviot Hills on the borders of Scotland, the Chiltern in Bucks, Malvern in Worcestershire, Elswold in Gloucestershire, and the Wreken in Shropshire ; to which may be added, those of Penllyn and Snowdon in Wales. In general, however, Wales and the northern parts may be termed mountainous.

In ancient times England contained large woods, if not forests, of chestnut trees, which exceeded all other kinds of timber for the purposes of building, as appears from
many

many houses still standing, in which the chestnut beams and roofs remain undecayed, though some of them are above six hundred years old. The first Norman Kings, partly for political purposes, and partly from the wantonness of power, converted immense tracts of ground into forests, for the benefit of hunting. The number of these amounted at one time to no less than sixty-nine; but by degrees they have all been disforested excepting four, which are those of Windsor, New Forest, the Forest of Dean, and Sherwood Forest.

Among the minerals in this country, the tin mines in Cornwall deservedly take the lead. They were known to the Greeks and Phœnicians, the latter especially, some ages before that of the Christian æra.

London, the capital of the British Empire is of great antiquity. It appears to have been founded between the reigns of Julius Cæsar and Nero, but by whom is uncertain. It was first walled about with hewn stones and British bricks, by Constantine the Great; and the walls formed an oblong square, in compass about three miles, with seven principal gates. London

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is now the emporium of commerce; and enjoys, by means of the river Thames, on which it is situated, all the benefits of navigation, without the danger of being surprised by foreign fleets. Of the extent of this city, Westminster included, an idea may be formed from the number of edifices devoted to the service of religion. Of these, besides St. Paul's Cathedral, and the collegiate Church of Westminster, there are a hundred and two parish churches, and about seventy chapels of the established religion, exclusive of a vast number of chapels appropriated to the use of foreigners, and independent meetings of various kinds.

The Cathedral of St. Paul's is, beyond doubt, the most capacious, magnificent, and regular protestant church in the World. It is built, you know, upon the model of St. Peter's, at Rome, but greatly inferior in extent; the whole length of this cathedral measuring no more than the breadth of the latter. The length within the walls is five-hundred feet; and its height from the marble pavement to the cross, on the top of the cupola, is three-hundred and forty.

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The expence of re-building it, after the fire of London, was defrayed by a duty on coals, and is computed at a million sterling. Monuments to eminent persons are now begun to be erected in this Cathedral; and it has likewise been recently decorated with the trophies of naval victories, obtained over our different enemies, in the last three memorable engagements.

Westminster-Abbey, or the collegiate church of Westminster, is a venerable pile of building, in the Gothic taste. It was originally erected by Edward the Confessor. King Edward III. rebuilt it from the ground; and to the east end of it was added by Henry VII. a fine chapel, in which is the burying-place of the Royal-Family. The walls of this abbey are now almost entirely occupied with the accumulated monuments of persons either high in rank, or celebrated for extraordinary actions in arts or arms.

Westminster-hall, though it displays no grandeur of appearance without, is a noble Gothic building, two hundred and twenty feet long, and seventy broad. It is supposed
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to be the largest room in the world, the roof of which is not supported by pillars.

The stately column, called the monument of London, erected at the charge of the city, to perpetuate the memory of the great fire in 1666, is worthy of attention. It is of the Doric order, two hundred and two feet in height, with a staircase in the middle to ascend to the balcony; whence there are other steps leading thirty feet higher, to the summit, which terminates in the form of an urn, with a flame issuing from it. On the base of the monument next the street, the destruction of the city, and the relief given to the sufferers by Charles II. and his brother, are emblematically represented in bas-relief.

When such monuments are erected for the purpose of mere commemoration, what may not be expected from those which are destined to public utility? Of this kind are the three noble bridges over the Thames; those of London, Westminster, and Blackfriars. The first was built about the middle of the twelfth century in the reign of Henry II. by a tax laid upon wool, which in course of time gave rise to an erroneous

idea that it was founded upon wool-packs. It has nineteen arches, each about twenty feet wide, but the centre one is considerably larger.

Westminster-bridge is reckoned one of the most elegant structures of the kind. It stands at a place where the river is twelve hundred and twenty-three feet broad, which is about three hundred feet more than at London-bridge. On each side is a fine balustrade of stone, with places of shelter from the rain. It consists of thirteen large, and two small arches, all semicircular; that in the centre being seventy-six feet wide, and the rest decreasing four feet each from the other. This structure was begun in 1738, and completed in 1750, at the expence of three hundred and eighty-nine thousand pounds, defrayed by the parliament.

Black-friars-bridge, in point of workmanship is not inferior to that of Westminster; but the situation of the ground on the two shores, obliged the architect to employ elliptical arches. This bridge was begun in 1760, and finished in ten years, at the expence of about a hundred and fifty-three thousand

thousand pounds, to be discharged by a toll upon the passengers, which is now taken off.

Eastward of the monument, at the distance of almost half a mile, stands the Tower of London, which was anciently a royal palace, and has been for many ages the fortress of the city. It is supposed to have been originally built by William the Conqueror, about the year 1076, when it consisted only of that part called the White Tower, which was new built in 1637, and 1638. A great number of other buildings have been since added. Here are now a church, the offices of ordnance and of the mint; those of the keepers of the records; of the jewel office, the Spanish armoury, the horse-armoury, and the new or small armoury; with barracks for the soldiers of the garrison, and handsome houses for several officers who reside here. In 1098, King William Rufus surrounded the Tower with walls, and a deep ditch, in some places a hundred and twenty feet wide; but on the west side it is narrow. In this quarter is the principal entrance, by two gates, one within the other; both large enough to ad-

mit coaches, and parted by a bridge, built over the ditch. In a part of the Tower, several lions, and other foreign animals are constantly kept for the gratification of the curious, at the expence of the crown.

Tower-hill has been lately embellished with an elegant building, called the Trinity-House, for the accommodation of the Trinity-company at their meetings: a Company which, considered both in a commercial and nautical point of view, is of great utility to the public.

Among the late decorations of the capital is a noble pile of buildings, erected at the public expence, in the Strand, where formerly stood Somerset-house. This magnificent edifice is appropriated to public offices, and affords likewise elegant apartments for the use of the Royal Society, the Royal Academy of Painting and Sculpture, and the Society of Antiquaries.

I should exhaust your patience were I to describe to you all that is remarkable in this celebrated capital, pertaining either to the purposes of government, those of great commercial companies, or of private individuals ; and shall therefore mention only
one

one more structure, but such a one as unites scientific improvement with national grandeur; I mean the British Museum, deposited in a noble edifice, which had been built by the Duke of Montague for his town residence. Sir Hans Sloane, who died in 1753, may not improperly be called the founder of this vast treasure of curiosities, which, with his valuable library, he left to the public, on condition that the parliament would pay to his executors twenty thousand pounds, about a third part only of the sum which the whole had cost him. To this collection were added the Cottonian Library; the Harleian Manuscripts, collected by the Oxford family, and purchased likewise by the Parliament, and a collection of books, the property formerly of Dr. Mead. His late majesty was graciously pleased to enrich the repository further, by a donation of the royal libraries of books and manuscripts collected by the several kings of England. The catalogue of the whole of this vast collection occupies a number of large volumes.

In the royal library just now mentioned, is the most ancient manuscript of the Old
and

and New Testament that is extant. It is written in Greek, on parchment, and called the Alexandrine manuscript, from the place where it was found. This valuable piece of antiquity was sent in the year 1628 to King Charles I. a present from Cyfillus Lucaris, then patriarch of Constantinople. An account of it is written in Latin, at the beginning of the first volume by the donor, importing that it was the work of Thecla, an Egyptian lady of quality, who lived about the time of the council of Nice. It is probable that this manuscript was written before the year 396; for, except the Evangelists, none of the books of this New Testament are divided into chapters, that custom not having been introduced till the above period. We may therefore conclude, these manuscripts to be upwards of fourteen hundred years old. The gospel according to Matthew is mostly wanting. A beautiful fac-simile of this celebrated manuscript was published a few years ago.

I had the curiosity to examine some of the poetical manuscripts in the Museum, among which I found a short Latin poem, written by John Seward, in the time of
Henry

Henry V. who conquered Charles VI. of France ; with which, and a translation of of it, I shall close my present letter.

*Ite per extremam Tanain, hictosque Triones,
Ite per arentem Lybiam, superate calores
Solis, Et arcanos Nili deprendite fontes,
Herculeumque sinum, Bacchi transcurrite metas ;
Angli juris erit quicquid complectitur orbis.
Anglis rubra dabunt pretiosas æquora conchas,
Indus ebur, ramos Panchaia, vellera Seres,
Dum viget Henricus, dum noster vivit Achilles.
Est etenim laudes longe transgressus avitas.*

Go, where the streams of utmost Tanais roll,
Where endless winter reigns around the pole ;
Go, where the sands of scorched Lybia glow,
And hidden sources of the Nilus flow :
In glorious conquest, press beyond the bounds
Where Fame the deeds of ancient heroes sounds :
To England's empire shall the nation's bend,
Far as the limits of the world extend.
To her the sea, on Egypt's eastern shores,
Shall pay the tribute of its pearly stores,
Arabia spices, India ivory, yield,
And Cathay, golden fleeces from each field ,
While Henry lives, while our Achilles' name
Shines forth transcendent in the list of fame.

LETTER

LETTER XI.

IT is probable that civilization was introduced into England by the Romans ; and there is no doubt but the Latin Language was cultivated in this country while it continued to be a province of that empire. The night of darkness, which succeeded the extinction of the Roman power, involved England with the other nations in the general wreck of learning ; but this country was among the first to dispel the obscurity ; and so early as the ninth century, an attempt towards the restoration of science, amidst all the obstructions arising from barbarism, was made by the great King Alfred. He it was who first instituted the seminary which has since encreased to the famous University of Oxford ; and Cambridge, in a subsequent period, claims likewise

wife the distinguished honours of literary renown. I forbear giving any account of these Universities, as the subject would prove too copious for my present design ; and shall proceed to take a succinct view of the antiquities found in England. These are of different periods, corresponding to those of the particular people, who, for the time, were masters of the country ; and may be divided into British, Roman, Saxon, Danish, and Normanic.

The chief British antiquities, like those of most other nations, are such as have a connection with the religious institutions of the early inhabitants of the country. They consist of circles of stones, which were probably places of worship in the times of the Druids. The most celebrated of those is that called Stonehenge, which is situated on Salisbury Plain, six miles north of the city of that name, in Wiltshire. It is a pile of huge stones, concerning the origin, use, and structure of which, antiquaries are much divided in opinion. The name *Stonehenge* is purely Saxon, and signifies *hanging-stones*, or a *stone gallows*. It probably alludes to the disposition of several of the
stones

stones of which this extraordinary fabric consists. Some, however, conjecture the name to be *Stonhengeſt*, and suppose the stones to be a monument erected by Ambrosius, a British King, in memory of the Britons slain, at or near this place, by Hengist the Saxon. But Dr. Stukely, who has written a learned treatise on this piece of antiquity, endeavours to shew that the original name of Stone-henge was *Ambres*, whence he supposes the ancient town of Ambresbury to have been denominated. The ancient Britons called it Choir-gaur, which Dr. Stukely is of opinion signifies the great church, or cathedral. The Choir-gaur of the ancient Britons was by the monks Latinized Chorea Gigantum, or the *Giant's Dance*, a name suited to the superstitious notions they entertained of its structure.

Stone-henge consists of the remains of two circular and two oval ranges of rough stones, having one common centre. The outer circle is a hundred and eight feet in diameter, and when entire, consisted of thirty upright stones, seventeen of which are yet standing, and seven more lying upon the ground, either whole or in pieces. The
upright

upright stones are from eighteen to twenty feet high, from six to seven feet broad, and about three feet thick. Being placed at the distance of about three feet and a half from one another, they are connected at top by imposts, or stones laid across, with tenons fitted to mortises in the uprights. Of the imposts, or cross-stones, six are yet standing, each of which is seven feet long, and about three feet and a half thick. The upright stones have been wrought a little with a chissel, and are something tapered towards the top, but the imposts are quite plain. All the uprights are fixed in a kind of sockets, dug in a chalky soil, with small flints rammed between the stone and the socket.

The inner circle, which never had any imposts, is a little more than eight feet from the inside of the outward one, and consisted originally of forty stones, the general proportions of which are half the dimensions of the above-mentioned uprights every way. Of the forty stones which originally composed this circle, about nineteen remain, and of these only eleven are standing. The space between the two circles

cles is three hundred feet in circumference, and from this spot the structure has an awful effect on the beholders.

At the distance of about nine feet from the inner circle, is the outer oval range, which is supposed to be the principal part of the work, and by most writers is called the Cell, or the Adytum. The stones that compose it are stupendous, some of them measuring thirty feet in height. This range consists of five compages, or trilithons, as they are sometimes called, being formed of two uprights, with an impost at top, like the outer circle; and of these compages three are entire, but two somewhat decayed. The inner oval is composed of twenty stones, each about six feet high; and near the eastern extremity of this oval, is a stone of coarse blue marble, about sixteen feet long, and four broad, which lies flat upon the ground, is somewhat pressed into it, and supposed to have been an altar.

This work is enclosed by a deep trench, near thirty feet broad, and upwards of a hundred feet from the outer circle. Over this trench are three entrances, the most considerable of which faces the north-east.

At

At each entrance, on the outside of the trench, there seems to have been two huge stones set up in the manner of a gate; and parallel to these, on the inside, two other stones, of a smaller size. The whole number of stones originally composing this structure, is computed to be exactly a hundred and forty.

The rude magnitude of Stone-henge has rendered it the admiration of all ages; and the use and origin of this work has been the subject of various conjectures. The opinion most generally received however is, that it was a temple of the Druids, built, as Dr. Stukeley thinks, before the Belgæ came into Britain, and not long after Cambyfes invaded Egypt, where that Prince committed such horrid outrages among the priests and inhabitants in general, that they dispersed themselves into all quarters of the world, when some of them, it is imagined, arrived in Britain.

The heads, of oxen, deer, and various animals, with wood-ashes, and other apparent relics of sacrifices, have been dug up in and about these ruins. Around them is also a great number of barrows, or monumental

mental heaps of earth thrown up in the form of a bell, and each enclosed with a trench, from a hundred and five, to a hundred and seventy feet in diameter. The Barrows extend to a considerable distance, but are all so placed, as to be seen from the supposed temple. In such barrows as have been opened, skeletons, or the remains of burnt bones have been found. In one of them was an urn, containing ashes, some bones, and other substances, which the funeral pile had not consumed.

Upon the whole, the most probable conjecture is, that Stone-henge has been a temple in some remote period; and antiquaries must ever regret, that a table of tin, with an inscription, which was discovered here in the reign of Henry VIII. and might probably have confirmed this opinion, should not be preserved. But as the characters were not understood by such as were consulted upon the occasion, the plate was destroyed, or at least thrown by and lost.

Monuments of the same kind are to be met with in many parts of England, as
well

well as in Scotland and the Isles ; particularly in Anglesey, which appears to have been the last asylum of Druidical superstition in the west.

Of the Roman antiquities in England, the most conspicuous are the vestiges of roads, many of which serve as foundations to our present highways. The remains of Roman camps are discernible in various parts of the country. There is one in particular, very little defaced, near Dorchester, where likewise is a Roman amphitheatre ; but the most amazing monument of the Roman power in England, is the Wall of Severus, commonly called the *Pict's Wall*. It begins at *Tinmouth*, on the eastern coast, and running westward through *Northumberland* and *Cumberland*, terminates in the *Soleway Frith*, a course of about eighty miles in length. At first, this præ-tenture consisted only of stakes and turf, with a ditch ; but *Severus* built it with stone forts, and turrets at proper distances ; so that intelligence could be speedily communicated along the whole of its extent. It was attended from one end to the other by a deep ditch, or vallum, on the north side,

side, and on the south, a military highway. In some places, the wall, the vallum, and the road, are plainly discernible ; and the latter has been employed as a foundation for a modern work of the same kind. Other Roman antiquities in England consist chiefly of altars, urns, and monumental inscriptions ; and many private cabinets, as well as public repositories, contain a vast number of Roman arms, coins, fibulæ, and a variety of domestic utensils.

The Saxon antiquities in this country are mostly those of ecclesiastical edifices, and places of strength. At Winchester is shewn the celebrated Round Table of King Arthur, with the names of his knights. The antiquity of this relic is disputed by several writers, but if not of British, it is undoubtedly of Saxon origin. The cathedral of Winchester was used as the burying-place of several Saxon kings. Many monuments of Saxon antiquity present themselves all over the kingdom, though they are often not to be distinguished from those of Norman erection ; and numerous Saxon charters, signed by the king and his nobles, with

with a plain cross, instead of their names, are to be met with in different parts.

The Danish erections, which are also numerous, are hardly discernible from the Saxon. The form of their camps is circular, and they are generally built upon eminences, but their forts are square.

All England abounds with monuments built under the reign of princes of Norman extraction.

Wales, the refuge of the ancient Britons, likewise displays many antiquities. Several of its castles are stupendously large; and in some, the remains of Roman architecture are plainly discernible. Some appear to be partly British and partly Roman. Among other artificial curiosities, is King Offa's Dyke, which is said to have been a boundary between the Saxons and the Welch, or Britons. Charphilly Castle in Glamorganshire, is accounted the largest in Great Britain, next to Windsor; and the remains of it shew that it has been likewise a beautiful fabric. One half of a round tower has fallen quite down, but the other overhangs its basis more than nine feet, and is

deemed as great a curiosity as the leaning tower of Pisa in Italy.

Among the natural curiosities in Wales, I shall only mention the high mountain of Penmanmawr, in Carnarvonshire. Across the edge of it the public road is so remarkably situated, that it occasions no small terror to many travellers. On one hand, the impending rock seems ready every minute to crush them to pieces; while the vast precipice below, which hangs over the sea, is so hideous, and till very lately, when a wall was raised on the side of the road, full of danger, that one false step would have been productive of fatal consequence.

I have reserved for the conclusion of my letter an account of one of the greatest antiquities in the world, and which now lies deposited in the University of Oxford; I mean the Parian Chronicle, otherwise called the Arundelian marbles.

The Parian Chronicle, engraved on a marble tablet of considerable extent, is supposed to have been written 264 years before the Christian æra. In its perfect state, it contained a chronological detail of the principal

principal events of Greece, during a period of 1318 years, beginning with Cecrops, before Christ 1582 years, and ending with the archonship of Diognetus. But the chronicle of the last ninety years is lost; so that the part now remaining ends at the archonship of Diotimus, 354 years before the birth of Christ; and in this fragment the inscription is at present so much corroded and effaced, that the sense can only be discovered by very learned and industrious antiquaries, or, perhaps more properly speaking, supplied by their conjectures. The date of the Chronicle coincides with the twenty-first year of the reign of Ptolemy Philadelphus in Egypt, the splendid age of the Poëtarum Pleias, and the reign in which chronologers usually place the Seventy Interpreters.

This Chronicle, and many other relics of antiquity, were purchased in Asia Minor, in Greece, or in the islands of the Archipelago, by Mr. William Petty, who in the year 1624 was sent by the Earl of Arundel, for the purpose of making such collections for him in the East. They were brought into England about the beginning of the

year 1627, and placed in the gardens belonging to Arundel-house in London. Soon after their arrival they excited a general curiosity, and were viewed by many inquisitive and learned men; among others, by Sir Robert Cotton, who went immediately to Selden, and entreated him to exert his abilities in explaining the Greek inscriptions. Selden readily complied with his request; but desired the assistance of their common friends, Patrick Young, or, as he styled himself in Latin, Patricius Junius, and Richard James.

The next morning, these gentlemen met in Arundel-gardens, and commenced their operations, by cleaning and examining the marble, containing the league, which the cities of Smyrna and Magnesia entered into, in favour of Seleucus Callinicus, king of Syria. Afterwards, they proceeded to the Parian Chronicle, and other inscriptions.

The following year Selden published a small volume in quarto, including twenty-nine Greek, and ten Latin inscriptions, copied from the marbles; with a translation, and a commentary.

In

In the turbulent reign of Charles I. and the subsequent usurpation, Arundel-house was often deserted by the illustrious owners; and in their absence, some of the marbles, which were deposited in the gardens, were defaced or broken; and others either stolen, or used for the ordinary purposes of architecture. The upper part of the chronological marble, containing almost half of the inscription, is said to have been worked up in repairing a chimney in Arundel-house: but a copy of it has been luckily preserved by Selden. In the year 1667, the Hon. Henry Howard, grandson of the first collector, on the application of John Evelyn; Esq. presented these curious remains of antiquity to the University of Oxford.

LETTER

LETTER XII.

CROSSING from England the Irish sea, we soon reach the shores of that country, which it has become usual with many to denominate the Sister Kingdom. The climate of Ireland differs little from that of England, excepting that it is more moist, and more frequently productive of rain. The soil in general is rocky, but in many parts extremely fertile; and requires only a greater attention to agriculture, to improve its natural advantages. The bogs of Ireland, however, are very extensive; that of Allen extends no less than eighty miles, and is computed to contain three hundred thousand acres. There are others also which occupy large tracts; and bogs of smaller extent are scattered over the whole kingdom: but it has been observed, that there are in general not more than are
wanted

wanted for peats and turfs, the common fuel of the country, where wood and coal are scarce.

Many theories have been invented to account for these phenomena in the natural history of this country. It is observable that in these bogs, various roots of trees, some of them of a great size, are generally found, and usually at the bottom; the common kinds being oak, fir, and yew. The roots of these trees are fast in the earth. Some of the trees seem to be broken off, others have the appearance of being cut; but more of them bear the marks of fire. Under some bogs, of considerable depth, are yet to be seen the furrows of land once ploughed. The black bog is a solid weighty mass, which cuts almost like butter, and upon examination, appears to resemble rotten wood. Under the red bogs is always a stratum, not quite so solid as the former species, but makes as good fuel. Both kinds of bog are covered with a spongy vegetable moss, which is thicker on the surface of the black. The spontaneous growth is most commonly heath, with some bog-myrtle, rushes, and a little sedgy

fedgy grafs. The depth of the bogs is various, many of them having been fathomed to that of fifty feet, and ſome are ſaid to be yet deeper. They differ extremely from the bogs in England in the inequality of the ſurface; the Irish being rarely level, but riſing into hills.

Ireland rears vaſt numbers of black cattle and ſheep; and the prodigious quantities of butter and ſalt provisions, exported to all parts of the world, afford the ſtrongest proof of the natural fertility of the Irish ſoil. In ſome of the northern parts of the kingdom, hemp and flax are greatly cultivated; from the latter of which the country has, for many years, been famous for the linen manufacture.

A notion has been induſtriouſly propagated, that Ireland is entirely exempted from noxious animals; but this opinion ſeems not to be founded upon any juſt obſervation of her natural hiſtory, which, ſo far as my enquiries have reached, is ſimilar to that of the neighbouring countries.

Dublin, the capital of Ireland, ſtands about ſeven miles from the ſea, at the bottom of a ſpacious bay, to which it gives
name

name, upon the river Liffey, which divides it almost into two equal parts. In point of magnitude, and the number of inhabitants, it may be regarded as the second city in his Majesty's dominions. The increase of it within the last thirty years is incredible. Over the Liffey are two handsome bridges, lately built, of stone, in imitation of that of Westminster; besides three others of an inferior kind. There has likewise been erected a new exchange, which is an elegant structure of white stone, richly embellished with pilasters of the Corinthian order, a cupola and other ornaments.

The parliament house, which was completed about sixty years ago, at the expence of forty-thousand pounds, is a superb structure, of the Ionic order. The portico, in particular, is much admired; and the manner in which the building is lighted, discovers great ingenuity in architecture. But one of the most laudable and public spirited undertakings that distinguish the present age, is the building a stone wall, about the breadth of a moderate street, of a proportionable height, and three miles in
length

length, to confine the channel of the bay, and to shelter vessels in stormy weather.

In speaking of the public buildings of this kingdom, one's attention is excited by the numerous barracks where the soldiers are lodged. This measure has, by some, been considered as unfavorable to liberty; but it contributes equally to the ease and conveniency of the inhabitants, which are circumstances essentially connected with the enjoyment of public freedom. It must likewise be admitted that the refractory disposition of the lower classes of the Irish in many parts, renders expedient such means as are calculated for the speedy suppression of any tumults which may arise. The great source of political calamity in Ireland is the ignorance of the people, the bulk of whom are under the influence of Romish priests, who instil into their minds the most pernicious prejudices, both civil and religious. But it is to be hoped that this evil will abate with the growing prosperity of the country.

In the interior parts of the kingdom, some of the old uncouth customs still prevail, particularly their funeral howlings; but the
same

same remains of barbarism may be traced in some countries on the Continent. Their disorderly meetings on Sunday afternoon, with dancing to the bag-pipe, and the brawlings in which they commonly terminate, are offensive to every stranger. My first visit to Dublin happened on a Sunday evening; and though I had, from previous information, in some degree anticipated the scene, I really was struck with equal astonishment and disgust. The extremely tattered, or naked condition of the lower people, the barbarous fierceness of their manner, the jargon, the oaths which they uttered, the savage tone of their exclamations, and the general inebriety which seemed to prevail, afforded altogether such a picture of wretchedness and profligacy as I had never before seen realized in any country. The celebrated Dean of St. Patrick's has, you know, been charged with misanthropy: whether justly or not I leave to others to determine; but it must be owned, that these odious examples of human nature in a state of barbarism, of which he was daily an eye witness, afford a strong apology for prejudices the most unfavorable

unfavorable to the species. But let me at the same time observe, that to counterbalance such prejudices, he enjoyed the friendship of men who were ornaments of the age in which they lived. He might transport himself in imagination to Twickenham, or Battersea, and partake with Pope and Bolingbroke a flow of sentiments congenial with his own.

In various parts of Ireland we meet with caverns, romantic prospects, cataracts, and other pleasing and uncommon natural objects. Of artificial rarities, the chief are the round Pharos, or stone towers, on different parts of the coasts. They are supposed to have been erected by the Danes and Norwegians in their piratical incursions, to serve them as light-houses or beacons.

The greatest natural curiosity in Ireland is the Giant's Causeway, in the county of Antrim, about eight miles from Colerain. It is composed of pillars all of angular shapes, from three sides to eight. Each pillar consists of several joints or stones, lying one upon another, from six inches to about one foot in thickness. The pillars are from one to two feet in diameter, and generally
consist

consist of about forty joints. From the Cliff where it begins, it extends upwards of four hundred feet, till it is lost in the Sea.

The Cliffs themselves exhibit likewise an extraordinary appearance. From the bottom, which is of black stone, to the height of about sixty feet, they are divided at equal distances by stripes of a reddish stone, about four inches in thickness, resembling a cement. Over this lies another stratum of the same black stone, with a stratum of the red five inches thick. Then follows a stratum of the red stone twenty feet deep, over which is a stratum of upright pillars. Above this lies another stratum of black stones twenty feet high; above this again another stratum of upright pillars, rising in some places to the tops of the Cliffs, in others not so high; and in others again above it, where they are called the Chimnies. The face of these Cliffs extends about three English miles.

A difference of opinion has prevailed with respect to this extraordinary phenomenon, some imagining it to be really the work of human art, and others conjecturing
with

with greater probability, that it is the effect of natural operation. When we consider every circumstance relative to this production, such as its total inaptitude to any useful purpose, and the analogy which it bears to other objects of a similar kind, which have never been regarded as factitious, we cannot hesitate a moment to join in opinion with those who ascribe it entirely to natural causes ; and this seems to be fully confirmed by the appearance of the Cliffs.

It reflects honor on the memory of Queen Elizabeth, that she founded a university at Dublin, before which time the advancement of learning in Ireland must have been greatly obstructed. This seminary consists now of two squares, and is named Trinity-College. Three sides of one of the squares are of brick, and the fourth is a superb library ; but being built of bad stone, it is unfortunately mouldering away. The inside is commodious, and embellished with busts of several ancient and modern worthies. The New Square, three sides of which have been built more than thirty-years by parliamentary bounty, and thence called Parliament-Square, is of hewn stone ;
having

having the front of it towards the City of Dublin ornamented with pilasters, festoons, and other architectural decorations.

Learning seems to have been cultivated in Ireland at an early period ; though we cannot admit the hyperbolical assertion of one of her historians, that the Irish appear to have been, from the most remote antiquity, a polished people ; and that with propriety they may be called the “ Fathers of Letters.” We are even told, by the same authority, that Egypt received arts and letters from Niulus the Phœnician, who is represented as the great ancestor of the Irish nation. But this is repugnant both to analogy and the most credible historical documents. Little doubt can be entertained that Ireland was first peopled from Great-Britain. According to the most general account, St. Patrick, the titular Saint of Ireland, was a Scotsman ; and no literary monuments have yet been discovered in Ireland previous to the introduction of the Christian religion by him in the fourth century. The evidence, therefore, of all transactions preceding that period, rests entirely on the credit of Irish bards,

bards, upon whose authority, in matters of fact, it would be very absurd to rely.

In modern times, however, the Irish have undoubtedly distinguished themselves in the republic of letters. Archbishop Usher stands high in the list of literary fame. Dean Swift, who will ever be renowned in the walk of humour and satire, was also a native of this country; to which are likewise to be ascribed the respectable names of Farquhar, Sir Richard Steele, Bishop Berkley, Parnel, Sterne, and Goldsmith.

LETTER

L E T T E R • XIII.

R E T U R N I N G to the continent, I shall take my route by France, as the nearest in situation to England. But, Good God!—how much is it changed since first I visited that country! I then beheld it a great and united nation, warm in its attachment to the king, and flourishing in the blessings of commerce. No more now a kingdom, it has torn up monarchy by the roots, and carried to such a length its detestation of the ancient government, as to raze even the minutest memorial of regal power from the annals of the nation. Not content with the extinction of the crown, and even of the life of the sovereign, the people, in the frenzy of revolution, have proceeded to the impiety, unparalleled in modern times, of attempting to abolish the worship, and I know not whether I may

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not

not add, to deny the existence of God himself! Through what a deluge of blood have they waded, to establish a species of temporary government, neither suited to the extent of the state, nor to their own inherent dispositions! But I am weary of the prospect. Let us turn our attention from the people, towards the country itself, which forms an extraordinary contrast.

France, from its great extent, comprehends a variety of climates; but though the air is more clear and settled than in England, it is not, upon the whole, especially in the interior parts, more salubrious than that of our own country. In the southern provinces, the summers are sometimes immoderately hot, and in the northern, the winters are more intensely cold than with us; the inhabitants, at the same time, being not so well supplied with firing, which in France is chiefly of wood. The country, however, is happy in an excellent soil, and the animal and vegetable productions are found in great plenty.

The country is watered by the Loire, the Rhone, the Garonne, the Seine, and other considerable rivers; the advantages
of

of which, in point of commerce, are wonderfully improved by the artificial rivers and canals, which form the chief glory of the reign of Lewis XIV. That of Languedoc was intended for a communication between the Ocean and the Mediterranean, for the speedier passage of the French fleet, but though carried on at an immense expence, for a hundred miles, over hills and valleys, and even through a mountain in one place, it has not answered that purpose. By the canal of Calais, travellers easily pass thence by water to St. Omer, Graveline, Dunkirk, and other places. The canal of Orleans is another noble work, and runs a course of eighteen leagues, to the immense benefit of the adjacent parts of the country. Besides these, there are other canals, which render the inland navigation of France extremely commodious.

The reign of Francis I. was auspicious to the literature of the country; and many learned men then distinguished themselves by their writings: among whom was the celebrated Rabelais. But Lewis XIV. may be considered as the Augustus of France. The protection he gave to letters, and the

pensions he bestowed on learned men, both at home and abroad, which did not however amount to above twelve thousand pounds per annum, have gained him more glory than all the military enterprizes, upon which he expended so many millions. Then arose among others, the famous tragic poets, Racine and Corneille; the former distinguished for skill in moving the passions, and the latter for peculiar elevation of sentiment and language. The facetious Moliere shone conspicuous in comedy; and in works of satire and criticism Boileau displayed classical abilities. As a historian De Thou is entitled to high praise. The writings of Pascal place him among the most eminent benefactors to religion; and the works of the amiable Archbishop of Cambray breathe alike the dictates of morals and the genius of poetry. Montesquieu, as a political philosopher, may be said to be unequalled. I say nothing of D'Argens, Voltaire, and others who have written miscellaneous productions. Their works are comparatively recent and generally known.

It has been remarked that sculpture is in general better understood in France than

in most countries of Europe. Their treatises on ship-building, and engineering stand unrivalled in didactic observation; but happily, in practice they are both outdone by our own country.

Few countries, if we except Italy, display more valuable remains of antiquity than France. Some of the French antiquities belong to the time of the Celts, and consequently, compared to them, those of Rome are modern. At Rheims, and in other parts, are to be seen triumphal arches; but the most entire is at Orange, erected on account of the victory obtained over the Cimbri and Teutones, by Caius Marius and Lucatius Catulus. After Gaul was reduced to a Roman province, the Romans industriously adorned it with magnificent edifices, both civil and sacred; some of which are more entire than any to be met with in Italy itself. The ruins of an amphitheatre are to be found in Chalons, and likewise at Vienne.

Nîmes however, exhibits the most valuable remains of ancient architecture of any place in France. The famous Pont du Garde was raised in the

Augustan age by the Roman colony of Nîmes, to convey a stream of water between the two mountains, for the use of that city, and is at this day as entire as any modern building. It consists of three bridges, or tiers of arches one above another. The height is a hundred and seventy-four feet, and the length extends to seven hundred and twenty-three. Many other ruins of antiquity are found at Nîmes; but the chief are, the Temple of Diana, the vestiges of which are still remaining; the Amphitheatre, which is thought to be the finest and most entire of the kind of any in Europe; but, above all, the house erected by the emperor Adrian, called the *Maison Carrée*. The architecture and sculpture of this building are exquisitely beautiful, and, what is extraordinary, are very little affected by the ravages of time. At Paris, in La Rue de la Harpe, may be seen the remains of a palace, or *thermæ*, supposed to have been built by Julian, surnamed the Apostate, about the year 356, after the same models as the baths of Dioclesian. The remains of this ancient edifice consist of many arches, and within them a large saloon. It is fabricated of a
kind

kind of mastic, the composition of which is now unknown, intermixed with small square pieces of free-stone and bricks.

At Arles, in Provence, is to be seen an obelisk of Oriental granite, fifty-two feet high, and seven feet diameter at the base, but all of one stone. Roman temples are frequent in France. The most remarkable are in Burgundy and Guienne. The passage cut through the middle of the rock near Briançon in Dauphiny, is thought to be a Roman work, if not of greater antiquity; and the round buckler of massy silver, relative to Scipio, taken out of the Rhone in 1665, is imagined to be coeval with that great general. It is twenty inches in diameter, weighs twenty-one pounds, and contains the celebrated anecdote relative to Scipio's continence.

It would be endless to recount the different monuments of antiquity to be found in France, particularly in the cabinets of the curious; and the collection must be greatly encreased by the depredations which the French have lately committed among the most celebrated of the portable antiquities at Rome. It is, however, the pride of conquest, more than any taste for the arts, that

that has excited them to this outrage on the prescriptive rights of that capital ; and should those elegant specimens of Roman genius escape the peculation of their new possessors, they will, in addition to their former purpose, remain to future ages, monuments of the violence and rapine which actuated the revolutionary handitti of France.

It may perhaps be imagined, by the political enthusiasts of that country, that the celebrated rarities of ancient Rome will transfer, like a palladium, to the new republic, the seat of sovereign empire in the west ; or, if their ambition cannot be gratified with so flattering a distinction, that they will at least attract to Paris the curious of other nations, by the magnet of Roman antiquity. In the latter of these notions, their expectation indeed may be fulfilled ; and a democratical constitution of citizens will doubtless require some adventitious attraction, to compensate the lustre of which the nation has been deprived by the desolating hand of equality.

Paris, with all its advantages, will not bear a comparison with London, in the
more

more essential circumstances of public prosperity and comfort. By these I mean a thriving foreign and domestic trade, the cleanness of the streets, the elegance of the houses, especially within, the plenty of water, and that of a better quality than the Seine. The Parisians, however, as well as the natives of France in general, are temperate in drinking ; but whether from any regard to sobriety, as a virtue, or from a natural propensity to more fantastic modes of dissipation, I shall not take upon me to determine. Happy were it for them, had they been as little disposed to intoxication from the Dæmon of civil rage, as they are from the excesses of Bacchus.

Though Paris and Versailles be no new objects to you, I cannot conclude my letter without giving some account of them.

Paris is usually divided into three parts ; the largest of which, called the Town, stands on the north side of the river Seine ; the City, which is the most ancient part, consists of three small islands in the middle of the river ; and the other part, or the University, is seated on the south side of the Seine, having in it several little hills. The whole

whole town is of a circular form, and about eighteen miles in circumference ; but tho', according to this computation it occupies more ground than London, it is not near so populous, the inhabitants of Paris not amounting to more than seven hundred thousand, whereas those of the former are supposed to exceed this number, in the proportion of almost a third part.

The houses of Paris are built of white hewn stone; five, six, or seven stories high ; and there are a great many palaces, with beautiful gardens, which formerly belonged to the nobility ; but being shut up from the streets by high dead walls, they rather increase the bulk, than add to the embellishments of the city. The streets are generally narrow : till within these few years there was no where any pavement for foot passengers ; and they were illuminated by lamps suspended on ropes placed across.

About twelve miles south-west of Paris stands Versailles, situated on an eminence in the midst of a fine sporting country, and encompassed with hills. It consisted originally of a Castle built by Lewis XIIIth. as a hunting seat, which was afterwards converted

converted into a magnificent palace, by Lewis XIV. who also annexed to it a handsome town. The avenue leading to the palace divides the town into two parts; one of which is called Old Versailles, the other the New Town. On the side towards Paris this avenue forms three vistas, that in the middle being sixty feet wide, and the others thirty feet each, all planted with elms.

The great court of the palace is four hundred and eighty feet long, with a large pavilion at each corner. It is enclosed with an iron balustrade and two large buildings that form the wings on each side, which have balconies supported by columns, and adorned with fine statues. These wings with the pavilions, serve for offices, and have behind them others for the same purpose.

From this court is an ascent of three marble steps, into a large landing place, and thence by five more into a little court paved with black and white marble; in the middle of which is a marble fountain and basin, with statues of copper, gilt. The front and wings are of brick and free-stone, adorned with marble busts and brackets; and before this front is a balcony, supported by

by eight marble columns of the Doric order, with red and white spots like jasper, and their bases and capitals of white marble. In the two angles of the wings in the front, are hanging pedestals, which support two closets, encompassed with gilt iron cases ; and underneath are two basins of white marble in the form of shells, where young Tritons spout water. The middle building has three gilt iron doors in the porch, with apartments on the right and left.

On quitting the great court, through an open porch, we ascend by a stair-case eighty one feet long, and thirty broad. From the porch an entrance leads to two painted halls. The ceiling of one of them is supported by eight marble columns of the Doric order, with red and white veins. The capitals and bases are of a greenish colour, and the columns, of which there are four on each side, divide the hall into three parts. On the sides opposite to each column, are pilasters that support a cornice under a platform ; and fronting the windows are niches with statues.

The other hall is supported by twelve columns of the Ionic order, which have
behind

behind them marble pilasters, with red, black, purple, and yellow veins, their capitals and bases being of white marble. From this we enter a third hall of the same dimensions, the cieling of which is an octagon, with twelve double pedestals of fine marble, on which are placed emblematical figures of the twelve months, in gilt copper. All the parts not hung with tapestry are lined with marble.

The royal apartments are extremely magnificent, and richly ornamented with sculptures and paintings. Their furniture, even to the bedsteads, balustrades, and rails, consist chiefly of massy plate.

Such was the palace of Versailles in the days of regal splendor; but in what condition it is at present, or to what use appropriated, I know not. It was said, some time ago, that, owing to the desolated state of the place, the valuable tapestry was greatly injured by rats. The massy plate, without doubt, has become the prey of the rapacious revolutionists; who we may be assured, have indulged themselves in every democratical outrage, against a fabric which had long been the favorite habitation of royalty.

LETTER XIV.

QUITTING the ancient limits of France, we step immediately into a country where we find the revolutionary system operating with all its concomitant train of violence and disorder. Here the Emperor is relinquishing his hereditary dominions; there the Stadtholder is abdicating an established government. On one hand, we behold ten extensive provinces, which had been confirmed to the house of Austria by a long succession of ages; on the other, a whole confederated heptarchy, which has withstood the assaults of the ocean, by the strength of its dykes; all giving way to the irresistible inundation of French principles and politics. On the waving of the three-coloured flag, as by the magical wand of Circe, see infatuated provinces dance to the
frantic

frantic sound of *Ca, ira*; while with a fatality, to which nothing but popular delusion could be blind, wherever the tree of liberty is planted, that instant, slavery takes place. We thenceforth behold those people nothing more than the miserable vassals of usurpation; bereaved of their independence, despoiled of their property, and reduced to maintain a shadow of political existence, at the mercy of the citizens of France. These are the precious fruits that ensue from the hug of fraternity! from the deceitful embraces of men who have laboured to establish their own power by a series of enormous crimes; who have industriously rent asunder the sacred bands of civil society, and impiously trampled on all laws both divine and human.

The seventeen provinces have obtained the general name of the Netherlands, or Low Countries, from their situation in respect of Germany. The northern contains the seven United Provinces, usually known by the name of Holland; and the southern, those which were hitherto the Austrian, and French Netherlands.

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The former of these countries is only a narrow strip of low swampy land, lying between the mouths of several great rivers, and what the industry of the inhabitants has gained from the sea by means of dykes, which have been raised, and are still supported, with incredible labour and expence. On account of this situation, the air of the United Provinces is foggy and gross, until it is purified by the frost in winter; when the east wind usually sets in for four months, and their harbours are frozen up. The soil is unfavorable to vegetation, but, by the industry of the inhabitants in making canals, it is rendered fit for pasture, and in many places even for tillage. The whole face of the country, when viewed from a tower or steeple, (for there is no natural eminence,) has the appearance of a continued marsh or bog, drained, at certain distances, by innumerable ditches; and many of the canals which in that country serve as high roads, are in the summer months no better than offensive stagnated waters.

The chief rivers are the Rhine, the Maese, the Scheld, and the Vecht. There
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are few good harbours in the United Provinces. The best are those of Rotterdam, Helvoetslooy, and Flushing: for that of Amsterdam, though one of the largest and safest in Europe, has a bar at the entrance of it, over which large vessels cannot pass without being lightened. But with all the natural disadvantages of the Seven United Provinces, they are perhaps the best peopled of any spot of the same extent in the world.

Though the inhabitants are in general of a phlegmatic temperament, Holland has the honor of producing many men distinguished for their genius and learning. At the head of these stand Erasmus and Grotius; and in medicine, the celebrated Boerhaave.—Haerlem disputes with the Germans the invention of printing; and the most elegant editions of the classics have come from the presses in this country.

The greatest curiosities in the United Provinces, abstracted from those in the museums, are the prodigious dykes, constructed by the Dutch to guard their country against inundation, from which it formerly suffered

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much.

much. Some of these are stupendous moles, and hardly to be equalled.

Amsterdam, the capital of Holland, is thought to be, next to London, the most commercial city in the world. Its conveniency for trade, and the grandeur of its public works, are almost beyond description. It labours, however, under two great disadvantages; namely, those of bad air, and the want of fresh wholesome water, which obliges the inhabitants to preserve the rain water in reservoirs.

Rotterdam is next to the preceding in respect of commerce and wealth; ~~but~~ contains not of inhabitants above a fourth part of the number. Leyden and Utrecht are both cities, and celebrated for their universities. The seat of government in Holland, was formerly at the Hague, which, though but a village, is distinguished by the magnificence and beauty of its buildings, and during the time of the Stadtholderian constitution, was regarded as the emporium of politics.

So great is the industry of the Dutch, there is scarcely a manufacture which they
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do not carry on, or a state in the world to which their traffic does not extend: I speak of the period before the commencement of the present war. In this they are favored by the populousness of their country, the cheapness of their labour, and above all, the water carriage, which, by means of their canals, gives them advantages beyond all other nations. It is doubted, however, whether the riches and luxury of individuals have not damped the general industry of the inhabitants; for there is reason to think that their commerce, navigation, manufactures, and fisheries have not been for several years in so flourishing a state as they were in the beginning of the present century.

The southern Netherlands are a beautiful tract of country, as well as remarkable, in many parts, for the richness of the soil. Flanders alone has been reckoned the granary of France, Germany, and sometimes likewise of our own country. The society of Jesuits formerly produced the most learned men in the Austrian Low Countries, in which they had many comfortable settlements. Their works related chiefly

to theology, and the civil and canon law; but among their publications, were likewise latin poems, and plays. Strada is distinguished for the elegance of his compositions, both as a poet and historian. The Flemish painters and sculptors have likewise great merit, and form a school by themselves. The works of Rubens and Vandyke are celebrated wherever painting is known.

Some Roman monuments of temples and other buildings are to be found in these provinces; but the scenes most interesting to a British traveller are those where the valour of our ancestors shone forth with unparalleled lustre, in the reign of Queen Anne. I formerly surveyed those memorable fields with a degree of enthusiasm; but were I again to visit that country, it is probable that the sentiments of triumph would be mixed with reflections of a different nature. I should be filled with regret, to behold that all the blood which had been spilt, and all the wonderful exertions of courage and conduct, which were displayed, could not perpetuate the object of our glorious efforts even to the end of the century. We ought not, however, from
contingent

contingent events, to condemn the policy which actuated the British nation at that period. Let modern patriots affect to ridicule the balance of power as a chimerical idea; but those who estimate more justly the interests of nations, will admit that the aggrandizement of any one power beyond a degree compatible with the interests of others, must ever prove highly dangerous to the general safety. Since the days of Charlemagne, the truth of this proposition was never more evident than at present. — View France, which was formerly confined towards the north, within her provinces of Luxemburg, Hainault, Cambresis, Artois, and her district of Flanders, extending her dominion over the whole of the Netherlands, and on the east, not only to the banks of the Rhine, but within the empire of Germany; and say, whether such an extensive usurpation is consistent with the general interests of Europe, or even with the interests of any individual power, maritime or not maritime.

The prosecution of this subject might perhaps excite in a real patriot some unfavorable apprehensions; but to preclude all

such, let us indulge ourselves in the animating reflection, that on the coast of this same country of which I am writing, the British fleet, under the command of Admiral, now Lord, Duncan, obtained, on the eleventh of October, 1797, the most decisive and glorious naval victory, of which there exists an account in the annals of any nation.

Having just now had occasion to mention the fortuitous succession of events in human affairs, I cannot forbear from reciting to you an anecdote of the same kind, which the name of Lord Duncan has suggested to my remembrance. To the medical skill of the uncle of this great Admiral, the Hon. Charles Fox is indebted for his life. When an infant, I believe, of about two years old, he was attacked with the measles, and no hopes were entertained of his recovery. A lady, who visited in the family, told his mother, Lady Caroline Fox, that she had known much benefit received from the advice of Dr. Duncan, and expressed a desire that he should be called. The proposal was immediately acceded to, and Dr. Duncan was requested to attend a consultation

consultation of the ordinary physicians at an hour which was fixed. Amongst them was the celebrated Dr. Mead, with two or three others. They all, of them looked with a jealous eye on their new associate; and having before prescribed, without any good effect, every thing which they thought most likely to remove the complaint, they with a supercilious air desired Dr. Duncan, if he could think of any thing else, to mention it. He told them, that in his opinion, there was only one thing necessary, and he doubted not but as soon as it was used, they ~~should~~ find the child to be much better.— On being desired to prescribe it, he ordered blood-letting in a proper quantity; which being performed, the infant patient quickly recovered, and his life was protracted to become a celebrated man. This anecdote I had from Sir William Duncan himself.

Much as the power of France must be encreased, by the acquisition of the Austrian Netherlands, and the subjection of the Dutch; much likewise as the general independence of Europe has been affected by the desertion of our allies, let Great Britain and Ireland only remain true to themselves,
and

and with the blessing of God upon our arms, we shall be able to frustrate all the efforts of our implacable enemy against us. While the known valour of our country bids defiance to their menaces, and the vigilance of administration continues to guard us from the danger of improvident security, we may reasonably hope still to preserve our national independence, and to compensate the preponderancy of power on the Continent, by asserting the empire of the ocean.

To take my farewell of the Netherlands: were I to pass the remainder of ~~my~~ life abroad, there is no spot I should sooner chuse for my residence than some part of the southern Provinces; and almost none which I should more dislike than any part of the northern.

LETTER

LETTER XV.

IN performing our next excursion, we have to pass the Rhine, that noble river which rises in the country of the Grisons, in Switzerland, and running northward, and towards the west, discharges itself by different channels into the German sea. No bridge, however, constructed like that of Cæsar, is necessary to transport us into the German empire.

This extensive tract of country is now divided into nine circles ; three of which are in the north, three in the middle, and three in the south. In the whole, it comprehends about three hundred princes, each of whom is arbitrary with regard to the government of his own estates ; but they all form a great confederacy, governed by political laws, at the head of which is the
Emperor.

Emperor. It is doubtless the most extraordinary assemblage of independent potentates ever exhibited to the world ; and it was only by such a confederacy that so great a number of princes, differing extremely from each other in the extent of their territories, could ever be so long preserved from becoming the prey of those who were the most powerful amongst them. The supreme power in Germany is the Diet, which is composed of the Emperor, or, in his absence, of his commissary, and of the three colleges of the empire. The first of these is the Electoral College ; the ~~second~~ the College of Princes ; and the third, that of Imperial Towns. In this collective body, the power of the Emperor is only executive ; but even this gives him extraordinary influence.

Under the race of Charlemagne the empire was hereditary, but afterwards became elective ; at which time all the princes, nobility, and deputies of cities enjoyed the privilege of voting ; but in the twelfth century, under the reign of Henry V. who was a weak and wicked prince, the chief officers of the empire altered the mode of election

election in their own favor. A few years after, the number of electors was reduced to seven ; since which period, two others have been added to that body.

The power of the Emperor is regulated by the capitulation which he signs at his election ; and the person who in his lifetime is chosen King of the Romans, succeeds to the vacancy of the empire without a new election. The Emperor can confer titles, and enfranchisements upon cities and towns ; but he can levy no taxes, nor make war or peace, without the consent of the Diet. When that consent is obtained, every prince must contribute his quota of men and money, as valued in the matriculation roll, though, perhaps, as an individual, he may espouse a different side from that of the diet. Of this there happened a curious instance within our own memory. George II. of Great-Britain, as Elector of Hanover, was obliged to furnish his quota against the house of Austria, and also against the King of Prussia, while he was fighting for them both.

The Emperor, as the head of so great a confederacy, claims a precedency for his
ambassadors

ambassadors in all foreign courts. His annual income, however, as Emperor, does not exceed six thousand pounds sterling, and arises from some inconsiderable fiefs in the Black Forest. The dignity of the empire has for some centuries been conferred on the house of Austria, as being the most powerful of the German princes; but of late years the aggrandizement of the King of Prussia seems to prognosticate a rivalry between those princes in a future period; and, what may prove yet more fatal to the Empire, an infringement of its ancient constitution. The symptoms of the latter of these events are already so threatening, that they cannot fail to excite apprehensions for the future tranquillity of the empire.

Some of the German princes have much larger revenues than others; but it is impossible to speak with any precision on the subject. The Austrian revenues, however, before the present war, were thought to amount to seven millions sterling in Germany and Italy; and it is probable, that by the revolutionary partition, lately concluded, they will be considerably increased. This is such a sum as goes far in Germany.

To

To behold the magnificence of many of the German courts, a stranger is apt to conceive very high ideas of the incomes of their princes ; which is owing to the high value of money in that country, and consequently of the low price of provisions and manufactures. It is unfortunate for the empire, that the petty princes affect the splendor of the more powerful in all their domestic arrangements ; to support which pomp and parade, many of them oppress their subjects to an extreme degree. In some parts the burghers of Germany enjoy great privileges. In Franconia, Swabia, and on the Rhine, the peasants likewise are generally a free people, or perform only certain services to their superiors, and pay the taxes ; but in the marquisate of Brandenburg, Pomerania, Lusatia, Moravia, Bohemia, Austria, &c. they may justly be denominated slaves, though in different degrees.

The climate of Germany, as in all large tracts of country, differs greatly, not only on account of situation, but according to the improvements of the soil, which has a great effect on the temperature of the air.

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The most mild and settled weather is found in the middle of the country, at an equal distance from the sea and the Alps. Upon the whole, there is no great difference between the seasons of Germany and those of Great-Britain. But there are more woods and chases yet standing in Germany than in most other countries ; owing to the passion which the inhabitants have for hunting the wild boar. The Hercinian forest, which in Cæsar's time was nine days journey in length, and six in breadth, is now cut down in many places, or parcelled out into woods, which have all their different names. Most of the woods consist of pine, fir, oak, and beech. There is a vast number of forests of less note in almost every part of the country ; there being scarcely a nobleman or gentleman, who has not a chase or park adorned with pleasure houses, and well stocked with game, such as roebucks, stags, hares, foxes, and boars.

The German wild boar differs in colour from our common hogs, and is four times as large ; but its flesh, and the hams made of it, are by many preferred to every other of the kind, both for flavour and
grain.

grain. The *glutton* of Germany is accounted the most voracious of all animals. It feeds on almost every thing that has life, which it can procure ; but its chief prey is birds, hares, rabbits, goats, and fawns. On these he feeds to such an excess, that he falls into a kind of torpid state, and not being able to move, he is killed by the huntsmen. His colour is a beautiful brown, with a faint tinge of red.

The Germans are naturally a frank, honest, hospitable people ; but the higher orders are ridiculously proud of titles, ancestry, and shew. Industry, application, and perseverance are the great characteristics of this people, especially the mechanical part of them. They have been charged with intemperance in eating and drinking, and perhaps not unjustly, owing to the vast quantity of wine, and provisions of every kind, which the country produces. But those practices seem now to be wearing out. At the greatest tables, though the guests drink pretty freely at dinner, yet after three or four public toasts have been given, the repast is commonly finished by coffee. No people, however, have more
feasting

feasting at marriages, funerals, and on birth days. " In no country is there to be found a greater taste for reading than in Germany. Printing is encouraged even to excess.— Books are therefore multiplied without number; and almost every man of letters is an author. There are in Germany thirty-six universities, of which seventeen are protestant, seventeen Roman catholic, and two which partake of each religion. Many of the Germans have distinguished themselves in various branches of learning; but it was not till about the year 1730, that they began to write with elegance in their own language. It is however, an unfavourable circumstance for the literature of this country, that the French language should be so fashionable in the German courts. Even Frederic the Great, King of Prussia, ordered the philosophical transactions of his royal society at Berlin, from the beginning of its institution, to be published in the French tongue.

With respect to the fine arts the Germans are by no means deficient. This country has produced some good painters, architects, sculptors and engravers. They even pretend

pretend to have been the first inventors of engraving, etching, and mezzotinto. Printing, if first invented in Holland, was soon after greatly improved in Germany. The Germans are generally allowed to have been the inventors of great guns, as also of gunpowder in Europe, about the year 1320. Germany has likewise produced some excellent musicians, at the head of which stands the immortal Handel.

The cities in Germany being so numerous, I must content myself with giving a very short account of the principal amongst them.

Berlin is now accounted the capital of his Prussian majesty's dominions, and affords the most extraordinary example of sudden improvement, of any place that I know. It is situated on the river Spree; and besides a royal palace, has many other superb edifices. The king's palace, and that of Prince Henry, are magnificent buildings. The opera-house is also a beautiful structure; and the arsenal, which is handsomely built in the form of a square, is said to contain arms for two hundred
M thousand

thousand men. The streets and squares are spacious, and built in a very regular manner.

Dresden, in the electorate of Saxony, is beautifully situated on both sides of the Elbe; and in the magnificence of its palaces and public buildings, is unequalled. It is likewise the school of Germany for statuary, painting, enamelling, and carving; not to mention its mirrors, and founderies for bells and cannon, and its foreign commerce carried on by means of the Elbe. The Electorate of Saxony is indeed, by nature, the richest country in Germany, if not in Europe.

The city of Leipzig, in upper Saxony, forty-six miles distant from Dresden, stands in a pleasant and fertile plain on the Plasse. It has long been distinguished for the liberty of conscience allowed to persons of different sentiments in religion; but that established in the place is the Lutheran. Here is a University, which is still very considerable. The exchange is an elegant building; and in this city there is an annual fair, during several days, to which great numbers resort from all quarters of the Germanic empire.

Hanover,

Hanover, the capital of that electorate, stands on the river Leins, and is a neat, thriving, and agreeable city, containing about twelve hundred houses, among which is the electoral palace. At the distance of a few miles lie the palace and elegant gardens of Herenhausen. The whole population of the electorate of Hanover is computed to amount to about seven hundred and fifty thousand persons; besides which, there are about fifty thousand inhabitants belonging to Bremen and Verden, two districts purchased by the Elector, at an early period of the present century. The towns in these dominions are not without trade and manufactures; but the whole of the Electorate has suffered much by the accession of the house of Hanover to the crown of Great Britain; notwithstanding a respectable civil and military establishment is constantly maintained, out of the revenues of the country. The secularized bishopric of Osnaburgh, now held by the Duke of York, lies seventy-five miles west of Hanover, between the rivers Weser and Ems. The chief city of this territory has been long famous all over Europe, for the manufac-

tures known by the name of Osuaburgh, and likewise for that of the best Westphalia hams. The whole revenue of the bishopric is estimated at thirty thousand pounds per annum.

Breslau, the capital of Silesia, lies on the river Oder, and is a free city, where all sects of Christians and Jews are tolerated, but the magistracy is Lutheran. The manufactures of Silesia have been greatly improved, since the country fell under the dominion of the house of Brandenburg. It has been said to yield his Prussian majesty a revenue of near a million sterling; but this estimate is probably exaggerated, as the house of Austria never drew from it above the half of that sum; and I cannot think that the revenue is doubled since that period.

There are in Germany, you know, two cities of the name of Frankfort: one of them lies on the Oder, and is subject to the king of Prussia; but the other stands on both sides the river Maine, and is an imperial city; I mean by that appellation a sovereign state, possessing a considerable territory around it, and governed by its

own magistrates. In the Stadthouse, or Guildhall of this city, the electors assemble for the choice of an emperor, and here is preserved the written instrument called the Golden Bull, which contains the fundamental laws of the empire. It is a fortified city, of a circular form, without any suburbs. It is adorned with several magnificent buildings, and three principal squares; but, in general, the streets are narrow, and the houses mostly built of timber and plaster, and covered with slate.

Vienna is the capital of the Circle of Austria, and being the residence of the Emperor, is regarded as the capital of Germany. It would be endless to enumerate the many palaces in this magnificent city, two of which are Imperial. Here is also an excellent university, and a number of rich convents. Among those is one for the Scottish nation, built in honor of their countryman, St. Colman, the patron of Austria; and one of the six gates of this city is called the Scots' Gate, in remembrance of some signal exploit performed there by the troops of that nation. The inhabitants of Vienna, including the suburbs,

burbs, which are larger than the city, are computed at about three hundred thousand. In the number of superb structures Vienna is doubtless remarkable; yet after all, I must abate from this general eulogium of its grandeur. The streets, excepting those in the suburbs, are narrow and dirty; the houses and furniture of the citizens are greatly disproportioned to the magnificence of the palaces, squares, and other public buildings; but above all, the excessive imposts laid by the house of Austria upon every commodity in its dominions, must always keep the manufacturing part of their subjects in a state of poverty, as is but too visible in the capital itself. Of late years, however, the condition of the Austrian subjects has been greatly meliorated, and the best effects will soon be found to arise from this prudent change of system.

With respect to antiquities and curiosities, there is not a court in Germany but produces a cabinet of curiosities, artificial and natural, ancient and modern. Every city of any note has likewise in it a valuable public library. The vast Gothic palaces, cathedrals, castles, and above all, town-houses

houses in Germany, are striking objects to every traveller. They exhibit the same appearance of rude magnificence as they did four hundred years ago; and many of them have an effect superior even to that of Greek architecture. Among the artificial curiosities, I must not omit mentioning the celebrated ton at Heidelberg, which contains eight hundred hogheads, and is generally full of the best Rhenish wine; with which they never fail to regale strangers who are not averse to the invitation.

Among the chief natural curiosities in Germany are caves and rocks. Near Blackenburg, in Hartz Forest, there is a cave, of which it is said that none has ever yet found the end, though many, we are told, have advanced into it for twenty miles. But the most remarkable curiosity of that kind is near Hammelin, about fifty miles from Hanover, where, at the mouth of the cave, stands a monument, which commemorates the loss of a hundred and thirty children, who were there swallowed up in 1284. This fact, though strongly attested, has been disputed by some writers.

I cannot

I cannot take my leave of Germany without expressing a fervent wish, that a constitution which has so long resisted the encroachments of foreign powers, and endeavoured to maintain its internal tranquillity, may continue to preserve among its members that mutual union which can alone secure their prosperity and independence. Great Britain and the Protestant part of Germany are linked together by peculiar connexions. We have received from that country an illustrious family, which has sway'd the sceptre with great advantage to the nation. We have interchanged with each other princesses, whose virtues are an ornament to royalty; and I doubt not but the connexion will be yet more strongly cemented, by a matrimonial alliance of more of our amiable princesses with suitable princes of that empire.

LETTER

LETTER 'XVI.

MY present letter shall 'be devoted to the kingdoms adjoining Germany, which are those of Prussia, Bohemia, Hungary, and Poland.

Prussia, considered as a kingdom, is distinct from Germany, which however it resembles in all its natural productions, as well as in the manners of the inhabitants. The Prussian monarch, by means of the advantageous situation of his dominions, and the wise political regulations which have been introduced, derives a vast revenue from this country, which, about a century and a half ago, was the seat of boors and barbarism. It is said that amber alone brings him 'in twenty-six thousand dollars annually. His other revenues arise from his demefnes, his duties of customs and tolls,

tolls, with the subsidies yearly granted by the several states ; all which must amount to a very considerable sum, exclusive of those which arise from the partition of Poland.

Hitherto the kings of Prussia have all paid particular attention to the improvement of their military force. The army, even in time of peace, consists usually of a hundred and eighty thousand of the best disciplined troops in the world ; which is the means by which that kingdom has lately attained to so great consideration on the Continent. But this large military force, though it aggrandizes the importance of the sovereign, is extremely injurious to the interests of the people. Whatever number of sons a peasant may have, they are all liable to be taken into the service, except one, who is left to assist in the management of the farm. The rest wear badges from their childhood, to mark that they are destined to be soldiers, and obliged to enter into the service whenever they are called upon. This has occasioned such a drain from population, and so much diminished the exertions of agriculture, that

Frederick

Frederick II. endeavoured in some degree to save his own peasantry, by drawing as many recruits as he could from other countries. Those foreign recruits remain constantly with the regiments in which they are placed ; but the native Prussians have every year some months of furlough, during which they return to the houses of their fathers or brothers, and work at the business of the farm, or in any other way they please.

The air of Bohemia, which is also distinct from Germany, is not thought so wholesome as that of the latter ; though in general its soil and produce are pretty much the same. This kingdom contains rich mines of silver, quick-silver, copper, iron, lead, sulphur, and saltpetre. Prague, the capital of Bohemia, is one of the most magnificent cities in Europe, as well as very extensive, and famous for its noble bridge over the Muldaw. It is however a place of little or no trade.

*Of the old Bohemian constitution there now remains nothing but the form, the government under the house of Austria being now despotic. Their states are composed,

posed of the clergy, nobility, gentry, and representatives of towns. In general the people have an aversion towards the Austrians ; on which account, of late, the Austrian princes have been cautious of provoking them by ill usage. The revenues of this country are whatever the sovereign is pleased to exact from the states of the kingdom, when they are annually assembled at Prague ; and their amount may be about half a million sterling.

The kingdom of Hungary may be divided into the upper and lower Hungary, to which may be added Temeswaer, which has been considered as distinct from Hungary, because it was formerly governed by an independent king. The air in the southern parts of Hungary is unhealthy, on account of its numerous lakes, stagnated waters, and marshes ; but the northern parts being mountainous and barren, the air is salubrious. No country in the world can boast a richer soil than that plain which extends three hundred miles from Presburg to Belgrade, and yields variety of productions. Corn is there in such plenty, that it sells for one sixth part of its price in England.

land. The Hungarian baths and mineral waters are esteemed the most sovereign of any in Europe ; but their magnificent buildings, raised by the Turks when in possession of the country, are suffered to go to decay. The Hungarian wines, particularly Tokay, are preferable to those of any other country in Europe.

It was late before the Northern barbarians drove the Romans out of Hungary ; and some of the descendants of their legionary forces may still be distinguished in the inland parts, by their speaking of Latin.

In the country of Temeswaer there are many faraons or gypsies, supposed to be the real descendants of the ancient Egyptians, whom they resemble in their features, in their propensity to melancholy, and in many of their manners and customs. I had no opportunity of ascertaining the fact by ocular demonstration, but have been assured, that the lascivious dances of Iris, the worship of onions, many famous Egyptian superstitions, and the Egyptian method of hatching eggs by means of dung, are still in use amongst the female gypsies in Temeswaer,

One of the most remarkable natural curiosities in Hungary, is a cavern in a mountain near Szelitze. The aperture, which fronts the south, is eighteen fathoms high, and eight broad. Its subterranean passages consist entirely of solid rock, stretching farther than has yet been discovered. As far as it is practicable to go, the height is found to be about fifty fathoms, and the breadth twenty-six.

The artificial curiosities of this country consist chiefly of its bridges. The Bridge of Esseck, built over the Danube, and Drave, is, properly speaking, a continuation of bridges, five miles in length, fortified with towers at certain distances. A bridge of boats runs over the Danube, half a mile long, between Buda and Pest; and about twenty Hungarian miles distant from Belgrade, are the remains of a bridge erected by the Romans, judged to be the most magnificent of any in the world.

The Hungarian government preserves the remains of many checks upon the regal power. They have a Diet or Parliament, besides the Gsapan Chafits, resembling our
Justices

Justices of the peace ; and every royal town has its senate.

Both Bohemia and Hungary have undergone great changes in their ancient constitution ; but no kingdom has been more unfortunate, than that which I am now on the point of entering ; I mean Poland.

Blessed by nature with a healthful climate, and a soil remarkable for its fertility ; yet the happiness of the people has been perpetually obstructed by a pernicious constitution of government ; nominally regal, but in fact an aristocracy, and that of a kind the most oppressive. When I speak of the common-wealth of Poland, you will readily conceive that I allude to that form of government which existed before the partition of the country ; for there now remains no traces of its former state, nor indeed of its existence as a distinct nation. The king was then nominally, as I before observed, the head of the republic ; and he was elected by the nobility and clergy, on horseback, in the plains of Warsaw. One dissentient voice, pronouncing *Veto*, was sufficient to invalidate the election. When a minority proved refractory, the majority

city had no other means of enforcing the election, than by cutting their opponents in pieces with their sabres; but if the minority was sufficiently strong, a civil war ensued. Immediately after the election, the king signed the *pacta conventa* of the kingdom, by which he engaged to introduce no foreigners into the army or government. He was henceforth only president of the senate, which was composed of the primate, the archbishop of Limburg, fifteen bishops and a hundred and thirty laymen, consisting of the great officers of state, the Palatines and Castellans, who were the *grandees* of the kingdom.

The Diets of Poland were ordinary and extraordinary. The former met once in two, and sometimes three years: the latter was summoned by the king upon critical emergencies; but here likewise one dissentient voice rendered all their deliberations ineffectual. The king could nominate the great officers of state, but they were accountable only to the senate; and he could not displace them when once appointed.

Such are the outlines of this motley constitution, which changed its form with almost

most every new king, according to the stipulations which he was obliged to sign at his accession. The tribunitial *Veto* was founded upon Gothic principles, repugnant to the dictates of civilized and rational jurisdiction; and what greatly increased its bad effects, it was so far from being exercised from any motive of patriotism, that it always originated in the influence of some of the neighbouring powers, who were interested to foment anarchy and confusion in the councils of Poland. Nor was this a matter of any difficulty; for many of the first nobility did not scruple to receive pensions from foreign courts, whose views and interests, consequently, it became their business to promote. This ancient commonwealth has at length been dismembered by the three great Potentates of Russia, Prussia, and Austria; and it seems at present to be determined that no vestige of its former government shall be allowed to exist. But this translation of the territory and jurisdiction of Poland, however arbitrary and violent, can very little affect the interests of the bulk of the nation; for they have hitherto lived in a state of such subjection and slavery

to their makers, as never was surpassed even during the most barbarous periods of the feudal ages.

The chief rivers of Poland are the Vistula, or Weyſel, the Nieſter, Nieper, or Borifthenes, the Bog, and the Dwina. Some of the vegetable productions of Poland are peculiar to itself, particularly a kind of manna (if it can be called a vegetable), which in May and June the inhabitants sweep into sieves with the dew, and dressing it in various ways, make use of it for food. In Lithuania; which country was annexed to Poland, great quantities of yellow amber are frequently dug up, in pieces as large as a man's fist, supposed to be the production of a resinous pine.

The forests of Warſovia contain great numbers of Uri, or buffaloes, the flesh of which the Poles reduce to a powder, and esteem it an excellent dish. The flesh of the Polish elk is likewise much admired by the natives, and forms a principal part in all their great entertainments. The body of this animal resembles the deer, but exceeds it both in thickness and length: the legs are high, the feet broad and cloven, the
horns

horns large, rough and broad, like those of a wild goat. Naturalists have observed, that upon dissecting an elk, there were found in its head some large flies, with its brains almost eaten away ; and it is a fact well attested, that in the large woods and forests of the north, this animal is attacked, chiefly towards the winter, by a large sort of flies, which, through its ears, attempt to take up their winter quarters in its head. This persecution is thought to affect the elk with the falling-sickness, by which means it is taken ; an event which would otherwise not be easily accomplished.

Among the natural curiosities of Poland, I shall mention an ambiguous species of animal, which has all the form of humanity, but is destitute of its properties. It is beyond a doubt, that such beings have been found in the woods of that country. When taken, they generally, it is said, went on all fours ; but this circumstance I should much question, considering that the formation of the human knee and feet is extremely unsuitable to such motion. It is further said, that some of them have, by proper management, attained to the use of

speech. Of the history of these creatures we can only form a conjecture. It is probable that the frequent incursions of the Tartars, and other barbarous nations into Poland, have forced the women sometimes to leave their children exposed in the woods ; but how those miserable objects could afterwards subsist, we can account for only upon the supposition, that they were nursed by bears, or other wild beasts. I once had occasion to see one of these humiliating spectacles in a village in Germany.

Under the mountains adjoining to Riow, in the deserts of Podolia, are several grottos, where a great number of human bodies are preserved. They are supposed to have lain buried through a long succession of ages ; but are neither so hard, nor so black as the Egyptian mummies. Among them are two princes in their usual habits. It is thought that this preserving quality is owing to the nature of the soil, which is dry and sandy.

The salt mines of Poland consist of wonderful caverns, several hundred yards deep, at the bottom of which are many intricate windings and labyrinths. Out of these are
dug

dug four different kinds of salt ; one extremely hard, like crystal ; another softer, but clearer ; a third white, but brittle ; these are all brackish, but the fourth is somewhat fresher. These four kinds are dug in different mines, near the city of Cracow : on one side of them is a stream of salt water, and on the other, one of fresh.

Few antiquities are to be met with in Poland ; for old Sarmatia was never perfectly known to the Romans themselves : and in artificial curiosities, it is almost equally unproductive.

The capital of Poland, you know, is Cracow, which stands on an extensive plain watered by the Vistula. Including the suburbs, it occupies a vast space of ground, but altogether scarcely contain sixteen thousand inhabitants. It is surrounded with high brick walls, strengthened with round and square towers in the ancient style of fortification.

Warsaw, which disputes with the preceding the honor of being the metropolis, lies on the Vistula, and almost in the centre of Poland. It is, or rather was, the royal residence, and contains many magni-

scent palaces and other buildings, besides churches and convents. It is computed to contain near seventy thousand inhabitants, but of these great numbers are foreigners. The streets are spacious, but ill paved, and the greater part of the houses, particularly in the suburbs, are mean wooden hovels. The city exhibits a strong contrast of wealth and poverty, as indeed does every part of the ancient Polish republic.

Dantzio is the capital of Polish Prussia, and is famous for having been formerly at the head of the Hanseatic associations, commonly called the Hanse-Towns. It is situated on the Vistula, near five miles from the Baltic, and is a large, beautiful, and populous city. The houses are generally five stories high; and many of its streets are planted with chestnut-trees. It has a fine harbour, and enjoys an extensive commerce. This city is a republic, and claims an adjacent territory about forty miles round it, which was formerly under the protection of the King and republic of Poland.

LETTER

L E T T E R. XVII.

FROM surveying, in my last letter, the relics of several kingdoms, which have changed their ancient constitution, I now proceed southward to Switzerland, a mountainous country, but which, on that account, has long been the sacred asylum of liberty on the Continent. It is divided into thirteen cantons, which, though all confederated together, enjoy not the same constitution. Some are aristocratical, others are democratical; and every canton is absolute in its own jurisdiction. The confederacy, considered as a republic, comprehends three divisions. The first are the Swisles, properly so called. The second are the Grisons, or the states confederated with the Swisles, for their common protection. The third are the Prefectures, which
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though subject to the other two, by purchase or otherwise, preserve each its own particular magistrates. Every canton forms within itself a little republic ; but when any controversy arises that may affect the whole confederacy, it is referred to the general diet, which sits at Baden, where each canton having a vote, every question is decided by the majority.

The Cantons being so various in extent, population, and produce, it is difficult to form any precise estimate of their revenues. Those of the Canton of Bern are said to amount annually to three hundred thousand crowns, and of Zurich to a hundred and fifty thousand ; the other Cantons in proportion to their produce and manufactures. Whatever is saved, after defraying the necessary expences of government, is laid up as a common stock ; and it has been said, though I cannot affirm it upon indubitable authority, that the Swisses are possessed of five hundred thousand pounds sterling in the British funds, besides those in other banks.

The internal strength of the Swiss Cantons, independent of the militia, consists of thir-

thirteen thousand four hundred men, levied according to the population and abilities of each. The œconomy and wisdom with which this force is raised, and employed, are truly admirable; as are the arrangements made by the general diet, for maintaining that body of militia, which are supplied from foreign states and princes, so as to benefit the republic, without any prejudice to its population. Every burgher, peasant, and subject, is obliged to exercise himself in the use of arms, appear on stated days for shooting at a mark, furnish himself with proper cloathing and accoutrements, powder and ball; and to be always ready, when called upon, for the defence of his country. The Swiss engage in the service of foreign princes and states, either merely as guards, or as marching regiments: In the latter case, the government permits the enlisting of volunteers, though only for such states as they are in alliance with, or with whom they have entered into a previous agreement on that article. But no subject is to be forced into foreign service, or even to be enlisted, without the concurrence of the magistracy.

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The most considerable city in this country is Bern, which stands on the river Aar. This city and canton is supposed to form almost a third of the Helvetic confederacy, and can, upon occasion, fit out a hundred thousand armed men. In this canton is Lausanne, situated on the north side of the lake of Geneva, and celebrated for its university. Basil is by some accounted the capital of Switzerland. It is situated in a fertile and pleasant country, on the banks of the Rhine, and the confines of Germany. It contains two hundred and twenty streets, and two market-places. The town-house, which stands on the river Birsee, is supported by very large pillars, and its great hall is finely painted by the celebrated Hans Holbein, who was a native of this city. Baden is famous for its antiquity and baths. In the arsenal of Zurich, which is far less considerable than Bern, is shewn the bow of the famous William Tell, who proved the means of delivering Switzerland from the Austrian yoke. In the library of the same city, there is a manuscript of letters, written in elegant Latin and German by
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the unfortunate Lady Jane Grey, to the judicious reformer, Bullinger.

The ruins of Cæsar's Wall, which extended eighteen miles in length, from Mont Jura to the banks of Lake Lemán, are still discernible ; and many monuments of antiquity have been discovered near the Baths of Baden, which were known to the Romans in the time of Tacitus.

In passing over the mountainous parts of this country, a traveller is struck with admiration, to observe rocks that were formerly barren, now planted with vines, or abounding with luxuriant pasture ; and to mark the traces of a plough along the sides of precipices so steep, that a horse could not even mount them without much difficulty. The feet of the mountains, and sometimes also the summits, are covered with vineyards, corn-fields, and pasture-grounds. Other parts are dreary, consisting almost entirely of barren and inaccessible rocks, some of which are continually covered with snow and ice ; and the vallies between them appear like so many smooth frozen lakes. In some parts there is a regular gradation from extreme wildness to high cultivation ;
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in others, the transitions are abrupt and striking. In short, Switzerland abounds with the most picturesque scenes that can be imagined ; and every district in this country presents the traveller with some natural curiosity, in the shape of wild but beautiful prospects.

Geneva, though under the protection of the Helvetic body, is an independent republic. This city is situated upon the afflux of the Rhine from the fine lake of Geneva. It is well built and fortified, and contains twenty-four thousand inhabitants, most of whom are Calvinists. It is celebrated for the learning of the professors of its university, and the good government of its colleges, the purity of its air, and the politeness of its inhabitants. At Ferney, a villa in the neighbourhood of this city, I had first the pleasure of seeing the celebrated Monsieur Voltaire, with whom, upon invitation, I passed almost a whole week. On this occasion I must relate to you the following anecdote.

One day after dinner as we were speaking of the beauties of the lake of Geneva, Voltaire, with that facetious vivacity which distinguished

tinguished him, desired that I would produce four lines of English poetry in praise of that subject. He said he should not confine me to the attitude of Lucilius, *flans pede in uno*, but that I should have only two minutes for performing the task ; and he appointed his amiable and sprightly niece to be arbitress of the transaction. She was to give the signal when the period commenced, as well as to announce its expiration. For this purpose, taking from her side an elegant gold watch, she laid it down upon the table. Her politeness induced her to protract the *entre-tems*, for, I believe, about a minute. She then gave the signal ; when he pleasantly called out to her, *complex a un moment*. Before the two minutes were expired, I produced the two following couplets, of which your candour will judge with the indulgence due to an *extempore*.

Freedom's retreat ! O sacred lake renown'd,
Whom Nature's self with Alpine fame has crown'd,
Geneva, hail ! too great for feeble lays,
Voltaire alone can celebrate thy praise.

He read it with apparent satisfaction,
and taking me by the hand, said, *en ver-
rité*

rité, Monsieur, a merveilles ! Then adding, that it was too good not be translated into French, for the pleasure of the company, he set about writing with a pencil the following version ; in which I need not tell you, he ingeniously suppressed the compliment I had paid him.

“ O Lac sacré, Geneve ! de la liberté la borne,
 “ Que la nature même des plus grands honneurs
 “ orne,
 “ Ce n'est pas a moi a chanter ta louange ;
 “ Il faudroit pour cela la trompette d'un archange.”

The whole, I think, and particularly the last line, is highly characteristic of his manner.

Nothing can be more delightful to a traveller than the summer months in Switzerland ; and the beauties of the country are heightened by the agreeable character of the inhabitants, who are distinguished by a native simplicity of manners, and an open unaffected frankness. Even the common people are far more intelligent than the same rank of men in most other countries ; and, besides an air of general content and satisfaction, they discover in their houses,
their

their persons, and their dress, a cleanliness not to be found in the neighbouring nations, which are under a despotic government. On the whole, I cannot but approve the taste of those who resort to this favoured country for the enjoyment of pure air, delightful scenes, cheapness of living, and the rational pleasures of society. On all these accounts, my friend Mr. Gibbon had a great attachment to Switzerland.

P. S. Before closing this letter, I have the mortification to learn, that the Swiss have submitted to the imperious dictates of the French. Their behaviour on this occasion is far from corresponding to their former valour and magnanimity ; but their union and firmness were previously weakened by the emissaries and principles of that infatuated people ; and now the riches of the country, whatever they are, will become the spoil of the invaders.

LETTER

LETTER XVIII.

INSTEAD of crossing the Alps at present, I shall direct my course towards the Pyrenees, and pass from a land where liberty reigned triumphant, to the gloomy regions of a despotism, equal, if not greater in severity, to any that ever existed. You will anticipate, from my circumlocution, that I mean the kingdom of Spain. With how striking a contrast does this transition present me ! In Switzerland, the inhabitants have surmounted, by industry, every obstruction which soil, situation, and climate, had thrown in their way ; while in Spain, a fatal indolence has rendered ineffectual all the local advantages of the country. The former have rescued from barrenness the very rocks, and the summits of mountains ; the latter abandons
to

to sterility large tracts of plains, which are capable of high cultivation. Such, however, is the natural fertility of Spain, in many places, that it produces, almost spontaneously, the richest and most delicious fruits that are to be found in France and Italy; such as oranges, lemons, prunes, citrons, almonds, raisins, and figs: at the same time that their wines, particularly sack and sherry, are in high request among other nations. Even sugar-canes thrive in this country; and it yields saffron, honey, and silk, in great abundance. No country produces a greater variety of aromatic herbs, which renders the taste of their kids and sheep exquisitely delicious. Some of the mountains of Spain are cloathed with rich trees, fruits, and herbage, to the tops; and Seville oranges noted all over the world. In short, few countries, as I have already intimated, are more indebted to nature than Spain, and less to industry. *

This country however, is much infested with locusts. They have sometimes appeared in the air in such numbers as to darken the sky. Their sense of smelling, it is said, is so delicate, that they can disco-

ver a corn-field, or a garden, at a considerable distance; and which they will ravage almost in an instant. Some travellers are of opinion, that the Spaniards, by timely attention, might destroy the eggs of those pernicious insects, and thereby totally extirpate them.

The chief mountains in Spain are the Pyrenees, which extend two hundred miles in length, from the Bay of Biscay to the Mediterranean. Over these mountains there are only five narrow passages to France; one of which, in particular, namely that which separates Roussillon from Catalonia, has been greatly improved. Here it formerly required the strength of thirty men to support, and nearly as many oxen to drag up a carriage, which four horses now do with ease. The Cantabrian mountains are a kind of continuation of the Pyrenees, and reach to the Atlantic Ocean, south of Cape Finisterre. No Briton is unacquainted with Mount Calpe, now called the Hill of Gibraltar, and in ancient times, one of the pillars of Hercules.

But among the mountains of Spain, Montserrat is one of the most remarkable
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in the world for situation, composition, and shape. It stands in a vast plain, about thirty miles from Barcelona, and nearly in the centre of the principality of Catalonia. It is called by the inhabitants of the district Monte Serrado, which signifies a cut or sawed mountain, and it is so called from its extraordinary and singular form. For it is so broken and subdivided, and so crowned with an infinite number of cones, that viewed at a distance, it has the appearance of being artificial; but upon a nearer approach, of being evidently the production of nature. Each of the conical summits appears then of itself a mountain; and the whole compose an enormous mass, about fourteen miles in circumference, and computed to be in height three thousand three hundred feet. It is a spot so admirably adapted for retirement and contemplation, that it has, for many ages, been inhabited by monks and hermits, whose first vow is never to forsake it. There is erected on the mountain a convent, dedicated to our Lady of Montserrat, to which pilgrims constantly resort from the farthest parts of

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Europe.

Europe. All the poor who come thither are fed gratis for three days, and all the sick received into the hospital. Sometimes, on particular festivals, seven thousand persons arrive in one day ; but people of condition pay a reasonable price for what they eat. On different parts of the mountain are a number of hermitages, all of which have their little chapels, ornaments for saying mass, water-cisterns, and most of them little gardens. The inhabitants of one of these hermitages, which is dedicated to St. Benato, has the privilege of making an annual entertainment on a certain day, to which all the other hermits are invited ; when they receive the sacrament from the hands of the mountain vicar, and after divine service dine together. They meet also at this hermitage, on the days of the saints to whom their several hermitages are dedicated, to say mass, and converse with each other. At all other times they live in a very reclusive manner, perform various penances, and adhere to very rigid rules of abstinence, nor do they ever eat flesh. They are not permitted to keep within their walls either dog, cat, bird, or
any

any living creature, lest their attention should be drawn from heavenly to earthly affections.

I made enquiry with respect to the longevity of those monastic inhabitants of Montserrat ; and I was told that most of them live to a great age. This, doubtless, is owing not only to their habitual temperance, but to the purity of the air, which in this situation cannot but be highly salubrious.

The rivers of Spain are the Duero, the Tayo, or Tagus, the Guadiana, Guadalquivir, the Ebro, and the Tinto. The last of these is so named from giving a tinge to its waters, which are as yellow as a topaz, hardening the sand, and petrifying it in a surprizing manner. If a stone happens to fall in, and rests upon another, they become in a year's time perfectly united. This river withers all the plants on its banks, as well as the roots of trees, which it dyes of the same colour as its waters. No fish live in its stream. It kills worms in cattle when given them to drink ; but in general, no animals will drink out of this river, excepting goats, the flesh of which, nevertheless,

nevertheless, has an excellent flavour. These singular properties continue till other rivulets run into it, and alter its nature.

Spain abounds both in metals and minerals. The Spanish iron, next to that of Damascus, furnishes the best arms in the world, and in former times brought in a vast revenue to the crown. Even to this day, Spanish gun-barrels, and swords of Toledo, are highly valued. In ancient times, Spain was celebrated for gold and silver mines. The latter was in such plenty, that Strabo informs us, that when the Carthaginians took possession of Spain, their domestic and agricultural utensils were of this metal. Those mines have now disappeared; but whether by their being exhausted, or through the indolence of the inhabitants in not working them is uncertain.

The Spanish horses, especially those of Andalusia, are thought to be the handsomest of any in Europe, and at the same time very swift. The country likewise furnishes mules and black cattle; and is famous for the ferocity of its wild bulls. Wolves are the chief beasts of prey that
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pester Spain, which is well stored with all the game and wild fowl usual in other countries. Sheep are in such plenty in Spain, especially in the northern parts, that according to some late information, the number of shepherds amount to forty thousand.

History assures us, that in the time of Julius Cæsar, there were in Spain no less than fifty millions of souls. Before the discovery of America, in 1492, the number was computed at twenty millions. This discovery however drained the kingdom of almost half its inhabitants; to which national loss was added the expulsion of a million of Moors, about the same period, with another million in 1610 and 1612. At present, it is computed, that the number of persons who are of age to receive the sacraments, is about six millions and a half. But in this computation there are included sixty-seven thousand monks, and half that number of nuns, who are a useless burden upon the state. Including children, it is probable, that the whole inhabitants of the kingdom do not amount by several millions, to the number at which they were
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rated in the beginning of the last century; an evident proof of the declining state of this once powerful monarchy.

The Spaniards are remarkable for entertaining ideas of self-importance beyond that of any other nation; but this pride, however ridiculous, is not without its good effects. It inspires them so much with sentiments of honour, that a Spanish nobleman, gentleman, or even trader, is seldom guilty of a mean action. But the common people who live on the coasts, partake of all the bad qualities that are to be found in other nations; of which, indeed, they are, for the most part, a motley assemblage.

After all that has been said of the Spanish ladies, their beauty reigns chiefly in their novels and romances, which are filled with extravagance on this subject. The country doubtless produces some as fine women as any in the world; but beauty by no means forms their general character. In their persons they are commonly tall and slender; but they are said to employ much art in supplying the defects of nature. Their indiscriminate use of paint, not only upon their faces, but their necks, arms, and hands,

hands, undoubtedly injures their complexion, and shrivels the skin. It is, however, generally admitted, that they have a great deal of wit and vivacity. The Spaniards, among their many good qualities, are remarkable for sobriety in eating and drinking. They frequently breakfast, as well as sup, in bed. Their breakfast is usually chocolate, tea or coffee being seldom drank. Both sexes usually sleep after dinner, and take the air in the cool of the evenings. Dancing is so much their favorite entertainment, that it is no uncommon thing to see a grandmother, mother, and daughter, all in the same country dance.

I did not see the Fandango, which is said to resemble a dance at Otaheite, as described by the voyagers; but it prevails only among the lower kind of people.

The usual time for their visits, as in other hot countries, is the evening. At this time the men meet abroad in public places of resort, and the ladies visit each other at their houses, where the floors of the apartments are covered with rich carpets, and cushions of silk or velvet; they yet retain-
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ing the custom of the Moors of sitting on the floor. They never address one another by any distinguishing title, as, your highness, your grace, &c. but the title of *doña* is given to ladies of every rank. Those of distinction, however, pay their visits in great state. They are carried in a chair by four men, of whom the two foremost are uncovered. Two others attend as a guard, and a seventh carries a lantern. A coach drawn by mules immediately follows, containing her women, and another the upper male domestics, several menial servants walking after. The whole procession is very slow, conformable to the gravity of the people. Few coaches, except the king's, are drawn by horses, though hardly any country affords a finer breed for the purpose.

Every town in Spain has a large square for the purpose of exhibiting bull-fights.

As I believe you have never seen any of those spectacles, I present you with an account of one which occurred to my observation in passing through Spain.

On the spot where any of those are exhibited, scaffolds are previously erected for
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the spectators, and the beasts are shut up in stalls, made as dark as possible, to render them the fiercer on the day of battle. Every thing being ready, the bulls remained to be driven across the area from the stables in which they were confined, to a smaller, behind the amphitheatre, where they were to be kept apart from each other. The first stable was almost close to the amphitheatre, and a wall of boards six feet high was put up on each side of the way by which the bulls were to pass. At a quarter past four in the afternoon, ten bulls were let into the area, in order to be put into the stables at the opposite door; a man on foot leading before them a tame ox, which had been bred with the bulls, to decoy them into those receptacles. Three combatants on horse-back placed themselves at some distance, one on each side of, and the other opposite to the door at which the bull was to enter. A trumpet was then sounded, as a signal to let in a bull, and the man who opened the door got behind it immediately.

During a quarter of an hour preceding this period, the bulls had been teased by pricking them in the back. This is done
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by persons placed on the cieling of the stables, which was low, and constructed in such a manner as to afford convenience for the operation. The bulls were distinguished by a small knot of ribband fixed to their shoulders.

The bull made directly at the first horseman, who received it on the point of his spear, held in the middle tight to his side, and passing under his arm-pit. This weapon making a wide gash in the bull's shoulder, occasioned it to draw back, the blood in the mean time rushing out in a torrent. The force with which the bull attacked the man was so great, that the shock had nearly overset both him and his horse.

A fresh bull now entered the amphitheatre, where it stared about, frightened by the clapping and hallooing of the multitude. It then ran successively against the two other combatants on horseback, and from each received a deep wound. A signal was now given with the trumpet for the horsemen to retire; and the men on foot began their attack, who struck barbed darts into every part of the animal's body. The trumpet again sounding, the matador appeared,

peared, carrying in his left hand a cloak extended on a short stick, and in his right a two-edged sword, the blade of which was flat, four inches broad, and a yard long. At the moment when the bull ran furiously at him, he plunged his sword into its neck, behind the horns, by which it instantly fell down dead. If the matador misses his aim, and cannot defend himself with the cloak, he is almost sure to lose his life, as the exasperated animal exerts its remaining strength with almost incredible fury. The dead bull was immediately dragged out of the area by three horses on a full gallop, whose traces were fastened to its horns.

Another bull was then let in, more furious than the former. The horseman missed his aim, and the bull thrust his horns into the horse's belly. The latter becoming ungovernable, the rider was obliged to dismount and abandon it to the bull, which pursued it round the area, till at last the horse fell, and expired. Four other horses were successively killed by this bull, which only received slight wounds, till the last of the horses kicked its jaw to pieces. One of the horsemen broke his spear in the bull's neck,

neck, and the horse and rider fell to the ground, when the latter breaking his leg, was carried off. The footmen then set to work again, and afterwards the matador put an end to his life. The third bull killed two horses by goring them in the belly. On this occasion, ten bulls were massacred, and the spectacle concluded in two hours and a half. The bulls flesh was immediately sold to the populace at ten quartos a pound, which amounts to about three pence.

The Romans were not more delighted with the combats of the gladiators and wild beasts, than the Spaniards are with those entertainments, which are, however, of late years, become far less frequent than formerly.

Another diversion almost peculiar to the people of this nation, is that of serenading their mistresses. It is performed either with vocal or instrumental music, the latter of which is extremely rude. In this amusement, however, there is hardly a young fellow who spends not the best part of the night, though perhaps almost utterly unacquainted
with.

with the lady to whom the compliment is paid.

Spain has not produced learned men in proportion to the excellent capacities of its natives ; but a few of the Spanish writers are distinguished by extraordinary merit. The memorable Cervantes, the author of *Don Quixote*, does immortal honour to the country, by his humorous satire, which had the happy effect of exploding the ridiculous spirit of knight-errantry, that universally prevailed in that nation. This extraordinary man was born at Madrid, in 1549. He enlisted in a station little superior to that of a common soldier, and at last died neglected, after fighting bravely for his country at the battle of Lepanto, in which he lost his left hand. He was in prison for debt, when he composed the first part of his history.

Quevedo is also well known for his *Visions*, and some other productions of the humorous and satirical kind. He was contemporary with Cervantes, and equally excelled in verse and prose. Poetry appears to have been cultivated in Spain at an early period ; I mean, however, posterior to the
time

time of the Romans, though under them there were several Latin poets in Spain. After the Saracens had settled in this kingdom, they introduced into it their own language, religion, and literature; and the oriental style of poetry then very generally prevailed. The Spaniards had before this epoch addicted themselves much to Roman literature; but abandoning that pursuit, their taste ran so much towards oriental productions, that they could write Arabic with remarkable purity, and composed verses in that language with as much fluency and elegance as the Arabians themselves. About this time also the Spanish Jews made a considerable figure in literature; for the purpose of promoting which, they brought over men of learning from Babylon, where they maintained academies at their own expence. The Spanish Jews had also flourishing schools at Seville, Granada, and Toledo; from whence arose the numerous Hebrew proverbs, and modes of speech, that have crept into the Castilian language, and form a conspicuous part of its phraseology.

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The Spanish writers also boast of their Troubadours as far back as the twelfth or thirteenth centuries; the Provençal and Galician dialects being then very prevalent. Many other Spanish poets, since that time, have gained considerable reputation: but the most distinguished dramatic poet of this country was Lopez de Vega, who was contemporary with our Shakespeare. His works discover an imagination astonishingly fertile, but not sufficiently restrained within the bounds of probability. He indeed wrote too much to be correct. His lyric compositions, and fugitive pieces, with his prose essays, form a collection of fifty volumes, besides his dramatic works, which amount to twenty-six volumes more; exclusive of four hundred scriptural dramatic pieces, called in Spain *Autos Sacramentales*. His genius, such as it was, he exerted with indefatigable industry; and this quality appears predominant in several other Spanish writers. Testitus, a theologist of that nation, was the most voluminous that ever wrote; but his works have long been distinguished only by their extraordinary bulk. Herrera, and Solís, in particular,

with a few other writers, have displayed historical abilities : but at present, a taste for literature of any kind, is far from being prevalent in Spain. There are, however, in this country, no less than twenty-four universities, the chief of which is Salamanca, founded by Alphonfus, king of Leon, in the year 1200.

Some Spaniards have likewise distinguished themselves in architecture, sculpture, and painting ; of which arts we meet with many excellent specimens in the cities and palaces, particularly the Escorial.

Spain contains several antiquities, both of Roman and Moorish origin. Near Segovia, a grand aqueduct, erected by Trajan, extends over a deep valley between two hills, and is supported by a double row of a hundred and fifty-two arches. Other Roman aqueducts, theatres, and circi, are to be found at Terrago, and different parts of Spain. Near the city of Salamanca are the remains of a Roman way, paved with large flat stones ; it extended to Merida, and was thence continued to Seville. At Toledo, once the metropolis of Spain, are the remains of an old Roman theatre, which

which is now converted into a cathedral. The roof is supported by three hundred and fifty pillars of fine marble, in ten rows, forming eleven aisles, in which are three hundred and sixty-six altars, and twenty-four gates; every part being richly adorned with the most noble and costly ornaments. At Martorel, a town some miles from Barcelona, there is a very high bridge, built in 1768, out of the ruins of a decayed one, which had been erected by Hannibal, and existed 1985 years. At the north end is a triumphal arch, or gate-way, said to have been raised by that general, in honour of his father Hamilcar. It is still almost entire, well proportioned and simple, without any kind of ornament, except a rim or two of hewn stone. In the neighbourhood of Murviedro, the ancient Saguntum, are some remains of a Roman theatre, an exact semicircle, about eighty two yards in diameter. Some of the galleries are cut out of a solid rock.

Among the Moorish antiquities in Spain, the most distinguished, as well as the most entire, is the royal palace of the Alhambra, at Granada. It was built in 1285, by the

second Moorish king of Granada; and in 1492, was taken by the Spaniards. It is situated on a hill, which is ascended by a road; bordered with hedges of double or imperl'd myrtles, and rows of elms. On this hill, within the walls of the Alhambra the Emperor, Charles V. began a new palace in 1568, which was never finished, though the shell of it remains. It is built of yellow stone. The outside forms a square of a hundred and ninety feet. The inside consists of a grand circular court, with a portico of the Tuscan, and a gallery of the Doric order, each supported by thirty-two columns, made of as many single pieces of marble. The grand entrance is ornamented with columns of Jasper, on the pedestals of which are the representations of battles, in marble basso relievo. The Alhambra itself is a mass of many houses, and towers walled round, and built of large stones of different dimensions. Almost all the apartments have stucco walls and cielings, some carved, some painted, and others gilt, and covered with various sentences in the Arabic language. Within are several baths, the walls, floors, and cielings of which are of white marble.

marble. The gardens abound with orange and lemon trees, pomegranates, and myrtles. At the end of the gardens is another palace called Generaliph, situated on a more elevated station than the Alhambra. From the balconies of this palace is one of the finest prospects I ever beheld, over the whole fertile plain of Granada; bounded by the snowy mountains. The Moors to this day regret the loss of Granada, and still offer up prayers to God for the recovery of the city. Many other noble monuments, erected in the Moorish times, remain in Spain, some of them in tolerable preservation, and others exhibiting superb ruins.

Spain is not remarkable for natural curiosities; but a royal cabinet of natural history was opened at Madrid, for the use of the public, by the King's order in 1775. Every thing in this repository is ranged with neatness and elegance, but the collection of birds and beasts, at present is not large. The cabinet contains many specimens of Mexican and Peruvian vases and utensils, which evince that the arts had made considerable progress in those countries.

In

In blowing up the rock of Gibraltar, many pieces of bones and teeth have been found incorporated with the stone; some of which have been brought to England, and deposited in the British Museum. On the west side of the mountain, is the cave called St. Michael's, eleven hundred and ten feet above the horizon. Many pillars of various sizes, some of them two feet in diameter, have been formed in it by the droppings of water which have petrified in falling. The water perpetually drops from the roof, and forms an infinite number of stalactites, of a whitish colour, composed of several coats or crusts, and which, as well as the pillars, continually increase in bulk.

After surveying so much of Spain in my present letter, I shall suspend the farther account of that kingdom till my next; and in the mean time enjoy the hospitable entertainment afforded to a British traveller on the celebrated spot of Gibraltar.

LETTER

LETTER XIX.

IN my progress through Spain, I stopped several weeks in the capital of the kingdom, Madrid, which by means of the improvements made lately in point of cleanliness, is now become a much more comfortable residence than formerly, when the weather is not too hot. This city is environed, at some distance, with very lofty mountains, the summits of which are frequently covered with snow, as they were during a part of my excursion. It is surrounded by a mud wall, and contains about three hundred thousand inhabitants. The streets are spacious and handsome, and it is now well paved and lighted. The houses are of brick, and laid out more for show than convenience. For one must generally pass through two or three large apartments
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of no use, to come at a small room at the end, where the family sit. The windows, besides having a balcony, are grated with iron bars, particularly the lower range, and sometimes all the rest; so that the houses in general look more like prisons, than the habitations of people at their liberty. Separate families commonly inhabit the same house, as in Paris, and Edinburgh. Foreigners are often much distressed for lodgings at Madrid, as the Spaniards are not fond of receiving strangers into their houses, especially when known to be protestants. Provisions here are cheap, but in the whole city there is neither tavern nor coffee-house, and the only newspaper is the Madrid Gazette, the perusal of which can afford very little entertainment.

The royal palace stands on an eminence, on the west side of the city. It is a spacious and magnificent structure, consisting of three courts, and commands a beautiful prospect. Each of the fronts is four hundred and seventy feet in length, and a hundred high. No palace in Europe is fitted up more superbly. The great audience chamber is a hundred and twenty feet long, and

and hung with crimson velvet richly embroidered with gold. It is ornamented also with twelve looking glasses, each ten feet high, and with twelve tables of the finest Spanish marble. The other royal palaces round the capital are designed for hunting-seats, or houses of retirement for the royal family. The chief of these are Buen Retiro, Casa del Campo, Aranjuez, and St. Ildefonso. The first two are not conspicuous, and Buen Retiro is now stripped of all its best pictures and furniture. The palace of Aranjuez itself is rather an elegant than a magnificent building, but its gardens are extremely delightful. Here is also a park many leagues round, cut across in different parts, by alleys of two, three, and even four miles extent. Each of these alleys is formed by two double rows of elm-trees on each side, which afford a very agreeable shade in the summer months. The alleys are wide enough to admit of four coaches abreast; and between each double row there is a narrow channel, through which runs a stream of water. In the intervening spaces of the park, there are thick groves of smaller trees of various kinds;

kinds; and thousands of deer and wild boars wander there at large, besides numberless hares, rabbits, pheasants, partridges, and several other kinds of birds. The river Tago runs through this place, and divides it into two unequal parts. The palace stands in the centre of this great park, and is partly surrounded by the gardens, which are exceedingly pleasant, and adorned with fountains and statues.

The palace of St. Ildefonso is built of brick, plastered and painted, but no part of the architecture is agreeable. It is two stories high, and the garden front has thirty-one windows, and twelve rooms in a suite. The gardens are on a slope, on the top of which is a great reservoir of water, which supplies the fountains, and is furnished by the torrents which pour down the adjacent hills. In the gardens are twenty-seven fountains. The basins are of white marble, and many of the statues are admirable.

But the best of Spain is the Escorial, one of the largest edifices in the world. It is said to have been built by Philip II. of Spain, in consequence of a vow he made to St.

Laurence,

Laurence, before the battle of St. Quintin, which was fought on the 10th of August, 1557. According to the Spanish accounts, six millions of ducats were expended upon its construction. It consists of several courts and quadrangles, which altogether are disposed in the shape of a gridiron, the instrument of the martyrdom of St. Laurence. The building is an oblong square of six hundred and forty feet by five hundred and eighty. The height up to the roof is all round sixty feet, except on the garden side, where the ground is more taken away. At each angle is a square tower two hundred feet high. The number of windows in the west front is two hundred, in the east three hundred and sixty-six. The orders employed are the Doric and Ionic; but the outward appearance of this vast mass is extremely plain, and far from being gratifying to the view. With its towers, small windows, and steep sloping roof, it certainly exhibits an uncouth style of architecture; notwithstanding which, the domes and the prodigious extent of its fronts, render it a wonderfully grand object.

The

The church, which stands in the centre of this vast convent, is large, awful, and richly, but not affectedly, ornamented. The cupola is bold and light. The high altar is composed of rich marbles, agates, and jaspers, of great rarity, all of them the produce of Spain. Two magnificent *Catapultas* fill up the side arcades of this sanctuary. On one, the emperor Charles V. his wife, daughter, and two sisters, are represented in bronze, larger than life, kneeling; opposite are the effigies of Philip II. and his two wives, of the same materials, and in the same devout attitude.

Underneath is the burial place of the royal family, called the Pantheon. This mausoleum is circular, thirty-six feet diameter, and incrusted with fine marble, in an elegant taste. The bodies of the kings and queens lie in tombs of marble, in niches, one above another. There are twenty-six of these urns, but as yet only thirteen are filled; the last two kings, and all the queens that died without issue, being buried elsewhere. The plan of these sepulchres is grand, and executed with a princely magnificence; but the whole may ap-

appear too light, and two delicately fitted up for the idea we are apt to form of a repository of the dead.

The collection of pictures disposed about various parts of the church, &c. is equal, if not superior, to any gallery in Europe, except that of Dresden. It was formed out of the spoils of Italy, and the wasted cabinet of Charles I. of England; and contains some of the most capital works of the greatest painters that have flourished since the revival of the art. Amongst these is the celebrated *Madonna del Pesca* of Raphael, one of the most valuable pictures in the world. The personages that compose the subject are, the Virgin Mary seated, with her son in her arms. On her right the angel Raphael introduces Tobit, who kneeling presents the fish, which gives name to the whole. On the other side stands St. Jerome, in the habit of a cardinal, kneeling near a lion.

Seville, the Julia of the Romans, is next to Madrid, the largest city in Spain, but is greatly decayed both in riches and population. The walls appear to be of Moorish construction. The suburb of Triana is remarkable

markable for its gloomy Gothic castle, where, in 1481, the inquisition was first established in Spain. The cathedral of this city is a fine Gothic building, with a curious steeple or tower, reckoned the greatest curiosity in Spain; having at the top a moveable figure of a woman, called La Giralda, which turns round with the wind, and is referred to in Don Quixote. The prospect of the country round this city, beheld from the steeple just now mentioned, is extremely delightful.

Salamanca is a large, ancient, and populous city, built on three hills and two vallies. There are in it ten gates, and it contains twenty-five churches. The river Tormes runs by this city, and has a bridge over it of twenty-five arches, built by the Romans, and yet entire.

Barcelona, formerly Barcino, is said to have been founded by Hamilcar Barca. It is situated on the Mediterranean, facing Minorca, and is one of the handsomest cities in Spain, as well as one of the most populous. A singular custom prevails here on the first of November, the eve of All Souls. They run about from house to house

house to eat chestnuts, believing, that with every chestnut they swallow, with proper faith and unction, they shall deliver a soul out of purgatory.

The interior cities of Spain, and those on the Mediterranean, are in general pleasant, but I cannot say so much for Cadiz, the great emporium of Spanish commerce. It stands on an island, separated from the continent of Andalusia, by a very narrow arm of the sea, over which is a fortified bridge that joins it to the main land. The entrance into the bay is guarded by two forts. The houses are lofty, with flat roofs, and most of them have a turret for a view of the sea ; but the streets are narrow, ill paved, and nasty, and during night extremely infested with rats.

When speaking of Cadiz, I must inform you, that all along the coast of Spain, there are watch-towers from mile to mile, with lights and guards during night ; so that from Cadiz to Barcelona, and from Bilbao to Ferrol, the whole kingdom may be soon alarmed in case of an invasion.

The annual revenue of Spain is estimated at from five to eight millions sterling. The king

king has likewise a fifth of all the silver mines that are worked in South America ; but it is said that very little of this property ever comes into his coffers. The taxes are of various kinds, and in the payment of these the clergy and the military orders are exempted.

In all the courts of Europe, a solemnity of behaviour is usual in the royal presence, and is affected even by the sovereigns themselves ; but at Madrid I found it different from any thing I had formerly seen. The Spanish court, in this respect, partakes of the general character of the nation. Politeness is almost entirely lost in a stiffness of demeanour ; and in that of the royal family, there is an air of supercilious state, by no means favourable to real dignity. But amidst all this assumed superiority, it is remarkable that this court is distinguished by the toleration of one privilege, respecting which the sovereigns in other countries have been peculiarly reserved. The Spanish nobility, who are unmixed with the Moorish blood, are denominated Hidalgo, and are divided into princes, dukes, marquesses, and other inferior titles. Such as
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are created *grandees*, may stand covered before the king, and are treated with princely distinctions. Besides these, certain other dignitaries, both in church and state, are allowed the enjoyment of the same invidious privilege.

With all the external pomp of royalty, the Spanish monarch must appear at this moment in a very degrading situation. Connected with the royal family of France by the closest ties of consanguinity, he entered into a solemn treaty with great Britain and other powers, to take up arms against the faction which had overturned the government in that country. He had not long persevered in this train, when changing his measures, he not only renounced his engagement, but even entered into a confederacy with those regicides, against his former ally. Tergiversation is a baseness, not unfrequent with sovereign powers; but that of his Most Catholic Majesty is, like his apostolical title, in the superlative degree. He acts in concert with the French republicans, against all the united motives of honor, inclination, and interest. His treasury, as destitute of riches, as

his councils of wisdom and magnanimity, he prosecutes a war immediately pernicious to the commerce of his kingdom, and ultimately, even if successful, fatal to the existence of his crown. The eventual establishment of the present French government would operate as an incentive to revolution in all the provinces of Spain; and the degraded state of that monarchy would not a little facilitate the change.

LETTER

LETTER XX.

QUITTING a kingdom, declined from its grandeur through ruinous impolicy, I step next into one which has long, if not always, been inconsiderable from its natural weakness; namely, that of Portugal, the ancient Luntania of the Romans. The last object we viewed in Spain, was the monarch tottering upon his throne; and here we are presented with a similar prospect of the vicissitudes of human grandeur, though from a cause superior to the sagacity or prevention of mortals. But enough of this melancholy subject.

The air of Portugal, especially about Lisbon, is soft and genial, but the soil, in general, is not equally favorable to the production of corn with that of Spain. The fruits, however, are the same as in the lat-

ter, though not so highly flavoured. The face of this country is mountainous, or rather rocky, for the mountains are generally barren. The chief rivers are those of Spain, all of which running westward, fall into the Atlantic Ocean. Among these the Tagus, or Tayo, was anciently celebrated for its golden sand.

Lisbon, the capital of Portugal, is beautifully situated on the north banks of the Tagus, in the form of a crescent. Though a great part of it was ruined by an earthquake in 1755, it still contains many magnificent palaces, churches, and public buildings; and is deservedly accounted the greatest port in Europe, next to London and Amsterdam.

Like Rome, it is built on seven hills. The streets are narrow and steep, very badly paved with sharp stones; nor are they lighted at night. The houses are generally two stories high, sometimes three, without any other chimney than that of the kitchen. The number of houses at the time of the earthquake above-mentioned, was computed at thirty thousand. The houses of the citizens are ill contrived buildings, with
lattice

lattice windows; but those of the nobility are grand structures, built of hewn stone. Few have courts before them, but they are generally furnished with yards and gardens, and occupy a great extent of ground. The town being destitute of common sewers, all nastiness is thrown into the streets in the night-time, as was the case till lately at Madrid, of which city it has however an advantage, by the streets lying upon a descent, and being therefore more easily cleaned. It is surrounded by an old wall and towers, and has a castle on a hill, which commands the place, but could make no great defence in case of a siege. Besides the cathedral, there are here forty parish churches with as many monasteries of both sexes, which make a tolerable appearance.

Among the buildings the royal palace is the most remarkable. As the plan has never been completed, the structure is not very regular; but lying upon the river, it commands a fine prospect of the country on the opposite side, as well as of the port and the ocean.

The most magnificent church is that of the Dominicans, in which are three chapels, almost entirely covered with gold from the pavement to the roof. In one of those the holy sacrament is continually exposed. This chapel is illuminated with wax tapers, and a vast number of lamps; and over the portal are inscribed the names of those who have been burnt by the inquisition. The magnificence of the convent is suitable to that of the church; and near it is the palace of the Inquisition, to which the Portuguese give the name of Santa Casa, or the Holy House. In the front there is a fine fountain, adorned with marble statues, throwing out water on every side.

In the church dedicated to the Mother of God, every Holy Thursday they shew the handkerchief said to be used by our Saviour at his crucifixion; a relic not unfrequent in many other popish churches.

Another church here is much admired, founded by the queen of John V. the sides of which are lined with ebony, and the roof supported by pillars of the same.

The palace of Alcantara stands a mile west of Lisbon. It is a magnificent structure,

ture, but chiefly admired for its beautiful gardens, which abound in grottos, fountains, and cascades, and are planted with orange and citron trees, and the choicest flowers of the climate. In the adjoining valley is the celebrated aqueduct which joins two hills. The number of arches in this part is thirty-five, fourteen of which are large, and the others smaller. The largest is three hundred and thirty feet in height and forty-nine in width. Towards the city there are ten arches of inferior dimensions, and many lels near the source of the water which supplies the aqueduct. The water thus conveyed is emptied in a great reservoir at one of the extremities of Lisbon. This aqueduct is built of a kind of white marble. The pillars which support the arches are square, the largest measuring thirty-three feet at each side of the base.

The palace of Bellem is a mean wooden edifice, but the church and cloisters are noble buildings. The former of these is lined from top to bottom with jasper and the finest marbles; and here are the tombs of several of the kings of Portugal, admirably executed.

Near

Near the mouth of the Tagus, is a promontory, or cape, anciently named *Promontorium Lunæ*, and which the British mariners distinguish by the name of the Rock of Lisbon. This is a branch of a high mountain, formerly called the Mountain of the Moon, and at present Mount Cintra; on the top of which is a fine monastery, dedicated to our Lady of the Rock, and a church, whither people resort in great numbers, to perform their devotion for nine days. Both the church and cloyster, with an inn that stands near them for the accommodation of the devotees, are hewn out of the solid rock. This lofty situation commands one of the most beautiful prospects in the world. At the foot of the mountain, on the promontory, are the ruins of an ancient temple, dedicated to the Sun and Moon, on one of the pillars of which, a part of a Latin inscription is still visible.

About twenty-two miles to the southward of Lisbon, at the bottom of a fine bay, stands Setubal, commonly called St. Ube's. It is a modern town, built out of the ruins of the ancient Cetobriga, which
stood

from a little to the westward, and had in it a temple dedicated to Jupiter Ammon, of which there are yet some remains. Here is a great manufacture of white salt, which is exported to the north countries of Europe, and to America. The capital of the province of Alentajo is Ehora, situated about sixty miles south-east of Lisbon, on a hill encompassed with mountains. It is three miles in circumference, surrounded by an antique wall and towers. This city is said to have been built by the Phœnicians, who gave it the name of Ehora, in allusion to the fruitfulness of the soil. Julius Cæsar changed its name to Liberalitas Julia, as appears from an ancient inscription. This was a considerable town in the time of the Gothic kings. It remained under the dominion of the Moors till the year 1166, when king Alphonso retook it, with the other towns of the province. The vallies in this part of the country are exceeding fruitful, and there are mines of silver in the mountains.

Estremos stands near twenty miles north-east of Ehora, on a hill, and is divided into the Higher and Lower town, the former serving

serving as a castle to the latter. The houses of the people of condition are built of white marble, and make an elegant appearance. Here is a manufacture of fine red earthenware, and without the town is a fountain, endowed with the quality of petrifying almost whatever is thrown into it.

On a hill, about twenty-four miles to the eastward of Estremos, lies Elvas, near the frontiers of the Spanish Estremadura. It is well-built, is defended by a castle, and strongly fortified. Here is a cistern so large, that it could hold water enough to supply the whole town for six months. This place is of great antiquity, and was formerly called Helvis, from a people of Gaul who built it. It is at present esteemed one of the strongest fortresses in the kingdom, and the neighbouring country affords some of the best wines in Portugal.

In the northern part of Portugal, the principal town is Braga. This is a very ancient city, and was known to the Romans by the name of Bracara Augusta. When the Suevi came from Germany, and made a conquest of Galicia and Portugal, this was the seat of their government, and continued

tinued to be the capital of a kingdom under their successors the Goths. The houses are generally old stone buildings, without much elegance. Even the cathedral and archbishop's palace are more admired for their antiquity and magnitude, than the beauty of their architecture. This prelate is both spiritual and temporal lord of the place; on which account he has a sword as well as a cross carried before him. He disputes the primacy with the archbishop of Toledo in Spain.

Cimbra stands on an eminence on the north-side of the river Mondego. The bridge of this place is a fine stone fabric, consisting of two rows of arches, one above another, and forms a covered way, through which people pass, without being exposed to the weather. The aqueduct which brings water to the town is also much admired. The cathedral, and other churches and monasteries, are handsome buildings, but the private houses not elegant. The city is distinguished by one of the tribunals of Inquisition, and the most celebrated university in Portugal; in the latter of which there are fifty professors.

There

There is in this country a great number of other towns, besides those above mentioned; and amongst them I must not omit Oporto, which contains about thirty thousand inhabitants, and is reckoned the second city in the kingdom. The chief article of commerce here is wine, of which our own country is allowed the distinction of consuming by far the greater part. Half the shops in this place are those of wine-coopers. In the principal street the merchants assemble daily to transact business; and they are protected from the sun by awnings hung across from the houses on each side. Here are several English families, who are chiefly concerned in the wine-trade.

Since the discovery of the rich mines in Brazil, and the suppression of the Jesuits and other religious institutions, the revenues of the crown are computed to be worth near four millions; notwithstanding which the forces of the kingdom are very inconsiderable. The military establishment, tho' now improving, consisted for many years only, of a raw and undisciplined militia; and with respect to naval force, the

Portu-

Portuguese are the least formidable of all the maritime powers. Their security against the encroachments of Spain, seems to depend chiefly on the matrimonial connexions of the two crowns; and on the commercial alliance which it is always the interest of Portugal to maintain with the British nation.

About the middle of the sixteenth century, and for some time after, the Portuguese were more eminent for the knowledge of astronomy, geography, and navigation, than all other nations put together. But learning of every kind is now at an extreme low ebb in Portugal; owing not to any defect of genius, but to the want of proper education. There are, however, amongst them a few universities, viz. that of Coimbra, before-mentioned, founded in 1291; Evora, about the middle of the sixteenth century; and a college at Lisbon, where the young nobility are educated.

The *Lusiad* of Camoëns may be said to be the only work of genius ever produced by a native of this country. In general, the fine arts are uncultivated; and with respect to that of painting, in particular, there

there is not, I believe, in the whole kingdom, a single picture from any of the Italian schools.

Antiquities in this country are not numerous; but the Roman bridge and aqueduct are almost entire, and deservedly admired. The walls of Santareen are likewise said to be of Roman erection. Some castles in the Moorish taste still exist in different parts. The church and monastery near Lisbon, where the kings of Portugal are buried, are extremely magnificent; and several monasteries, in other places are dug out of the hard rock. The chapel of St. Roch is allowed to be one of the finest and richest in the world. The paintings are executed in Mosaic, and so curiously wrought with stones of different colours, as to exhibit an appearance equally delightful and astonishing.

In general, the Portuguese are neither so tall nor so well made, as the Spaniards, but they mostly imitate the habits and customs of that people. The ladies I think dress even more magnificently than those of Spain; and they are taught to exact from their servants an homage, which in other countries

countries is only paid to royal personages. In compensation, however, for this submission, they never discharge any person who has been in the service of their ancestors ; on which account, in some families, the number of domestics is very great. In the houses of the nobility, the furniture is rich and superb to excess ; but the poorer sort have scarcely any furniture at all ; and in imitation of the Moors, they sit always cross-legged on the ground. As the Spaniards have relaxed in national industry since the discovery of America, so have the Portuguese degenerated in all their virtues, from the time that the house of Braganza ascended the throne : for they retain no trace of that spirit of enterprise which so much distinguished their forefathers in the fifteenth century. It is supposed that their degeneracy is owing to the weakness of their monarchy, which renders them inactive, from an apprehension of giving offence to their more powerful neighbours. This fatal inactivity proves the source of several vices ; among which the Portuguese are particularly charged with treachery, ingratitude ; and an intemperate passion

sion for revenge. By the lower people thieving is very commonly practised ; and all ranks are accused of being unfair in their dealings, especially with strangers.

Besides ordinary servants, the quality retain many dwarfs, and they have also a train of slaves, both Turks and Moors, each of whom is valued at four or five hundred crowns. The masters formerly had the power of life and death over this class of their dependants, but the government now restrains them from the exercise of capital jurisdiction, though they continue to inflict corporal punishment with great severity. Those slaves, however, are incomparably the best servants in Portugal ; for the other servants having the common pride of the nation, often prove refractory, and are apt to be extremely impertinent. Even beggars ask alms with a tone that favours more of requisition than intreaty ; alledging, that they are descended from primitive christians, or the ancient Gothic nobility.

The ladies here often ride on *burros*, or jack-asses, with a pack saddle. A servant attends with a sharp stick, which he uses instead of a whip ; and for retarding the
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the beast when it goes too quick, the expedient is to pull it by the tail. Coaches are not so frequent among the Portuguese as in Spain, but in place of them the litter or mule is commonly used on a journey; and in many parts, the most common way of travelling is by water.

In Portugal, nobility is not hereditary. The chief order of knighthood is called the *Order of Christ*, and was instituted in 1283. Though worn by the king himself, it is often prostituted to the meanest candidates for royal favour, and is become so common, as almost to preclude the distinction which it was meant to confer.

LETTER XXI.

THE Boundaries of Italy have been fixed by nature, but no other country has fluctuated more with respect to its internal divisions. Extraordinary changes have taken place within the last two years; and even at the moment I am writing to you they are still proceeding. In what a state of subjection is, at present, the king of Sardinia, hitherto denominated the Janus of Italy, as being its constant guardian against the encroachments of the French! Where is now the republic of Genoa, formerly distinguished for its opulence and power? And where the superior republic of Venice, one of the most celebrated since the extinction of the Roman? But greater still, in point of fame, Where the Ecclesiastical State, the seat of papal hierarchy, and formerly

formerly the capital of the world? Even thither, we find, the revolutionary principles and violence of the French have penetrated. They have driven from his throne, without the smallest resistance, a power, whose predecessors, some centuries ago, gave law to the nations of Christendom, and shook established kingdoms to their foundations with the thunder of the Vatican. Whether these great events be really the accomplishment of scriptural predictions, as is the opinion of some, I am not such a casuist as to take upon me to determine; but they doubtless afford useful lessons both to kings and their people. To the former they inculcate moderation in the exercise of power and authority; and to the latter they proclaim the expediency of the same virtue, in all attempts to the resistance of either. A mob may, in the rage of violence, overturn an established constitution; but the chance is a thousand to one, that they never will be able to erect any adequate substitute in its room; and when the paroxysm of revolutionary phrenzy has ceased, they will experience such a relaxation in the political system, as no-

thing will preserve from the most fatal effects, but a recurrence to arbitrary power. The country may, in the mean time, be deluged with blood, and exposed to all the horrors of anarchy ; while in the end, public freedom is found to have been sacrificed to a nominal change in the government.

In taking a view of Italy I shall begin in the most northern part with the Duchy of Savoy. This country belongs to its own Duke, who, since the commencement of the present century, is better known by the title of King of Sardinia, an island in the Mediterranean. From its situation close to the Alps, it is mountainous and barren, but contains some pleasant fruitful vallies, producing corn, wine, and fruits, and affording pasture to numerous herds of cattle.

In this country are the celebrated Glaciers, which are five in number. They extend almost to the plain of the vale of Chamouny, and are separated by wild forests, corn-fields, and rich meadows ; so that immense tracts of ice are blended with the highest cultivation, and perpetually succeed to each other, in the most singular
and

and striking vicissitude. The Glacier of Furca extends at least three miles in length, and near a mile in breadth ; stretching from the feet of huge shagged rocks of great height, and reaching almost to their summits. This glacier is the principal source from whence the Rhone takes its rise. That river here foams with amazing rapidity, and falls in a continual cataract at the foot of prodigious mountains. In these mountains likewise are the sources of the Aer, which rolls down in an impetuous torrent from the neighbouring glaciers. It is astonishing what a chaos of mountains are here heaped upon one another ! In the vicinity of this scene is also the source of the Reichen, which rolls in numerous cataracts down the steep sides of Mount Sheidec, until it forms a junction with the Aer. The celebrated fall of the Stoubback rolls down perpendicularly from a height of nine hundred and thirty feet. One contemplates with astonishment the great central chain of the Alps ; rocks towering above rocks, and mountains rising above mountains, not more distinguished for their stupendous heights, than for the

immense variety and rudeness of their forms. Mount Blanc is particularly distinguished, by having its summits and sides, to a considerable depth, covered with snow, almost without the intervention of the least rock to break the glare of the white appearance, from whence its name is derived.

Turin, the capital of Savoy, stands at the confluence of the Po and Doria, and I may say with justice, is one of the finest cities in Europe. The streets and squares are spacious, the buildings lofty and magnificent, and the royal palace in particular, a beautiful structure. The ordinary income of the king, besides his own demesnes, have been estimated at half a million sterling; but his revenues are now greatly reduced by the dilapidations of the French. The fate of this venerable prince, (I mean the father of the present king), has a distant resemblance to that of Priam. He did not live, indeed, to see the extinction of almost all his offspring, but he had the pain to behold a miserable reduction of his family, and an almost total annihilation of his crown. His ancestor, Victor Amadeus, was the
last

last prince who gave the world an instance of magnanimity, by retiring from the exercise of sovereign power, while his dominions were in a state of prosperity, and his own health and constitution unimpaired.

While I was passing the Alps, my imagination recalled to view the celebrated persons of ancient times, who had crossed these mountains at the head of numerous armies. You will know that I mean Hannibal and Julius Cæsar. In comparing these commanders with each other, I remarked a great diversity in several particulars respecting them, with which I beg leave to present you.

The principal motive which Hannibal had for leading his army across the Alps, was a hereditary hatred to the Romans, which, when nine years old, at the desire of his father, he solemnly swore at the altar never to abandon. But the motive of Cæsar, in his passage of these mountains, was ambition. They were both great commanders; but Hannibal was a barbarian, Cæsar an accomplished scholar, and an elegant writer.

The

The Carthaginian forfeited all his success by not improving his victory ; the Roman obtained his final and decisive victory by improving a defeat. Hannibal fled from the field of Zama, a wretched exile, into Asia ; Cæsar on the plain of Pharsalia, rose master of the world. The former expired by a voluntary death, after all his military efforts had terminated in disappointment ; the latter by the hands of assassins, when, to use his own remark, he had lived sufficiently long to nature and to glory.

I am strongly of opinion, from the general contrariety of their fortunes, that had Cæsar flourished during the second Punic war, Hannibal would never have remained any considerable time within the limits of Italy. I shall not say, that in fighting with such an antagonist, Cæsar would have used the laconic terms which he did on mentioning his defeat of Pharnaces, *veni, vidi, vici* ; but I think, at the same time, it never could have been said of him, *cumfando restituit rem*. His natural ardor of mind, his thirst of glory, his well-founded confidence in himself, and the attachment of his veteran legions ; all these causes

causes would have urged him soon to an engagement. Between two generals of such abilities, and two armies actuated with such inveterate and mutual animosity, the contest must have been fierce and obstinate ; but it is probable that the military skill, and good fortune of Cæsar would have procured him the victory. Hannibal would have been forced to retreat from Italy with precipitation ; or perhaps his destiny might have reserved him for a more ignoble alternative, to follow, in ignominious chains, the triumphal procession of his conqueror ; while amidst the general chorus of *Io Triumphe!* the temples of the gods would have resounded with praises, for the just retribution of Punic faith.

But this would have only been a prelude to a yet more signal catastrophe. Cæsar, by his eloquence, would have induced the senate to retaliate the invasion of their country. A transport of patriotism would have burst from the Roman capital, in acclamations of vengeance on their inveterate rival ; and the applauding people have joined with the Patrician order, in nominating to the important command, the conqueror
of

of Hannibal. With an army flushed with victory, he would have immediately crossed the Mediterranean, as he formerly had done the British Channel; and gathering fresh laurels on the plains of Carthage, Cæsar, and not Scipio, would have been the Africanus of Rome.—But I have inadvertently led you into Africa sooner than I intended, and shall therefore break off.

LETTER

LETTER XXII.

I HAVE already hinted at the fluctuations of government in Italy, both in ancient and modern times. In the former period, those changes arose chiefly from arbitrary usurpations of power: but in the latter, to this cause has been joined the intrigues of the church. It is a mortifying consideration, that the ascendancy acquired by the Roman pontiffs over the nations of Christendom, was almost constantly employed, either in temporizing, for its own advantage, or fomenting jealousies and divisions destructive to other powers. Arrogating to themselves an authority for dispensing with the eternal laws of God, as suited their own passions or interests, they tyrannized over the consciences of men; and under the specious mask of the ministers
of

of peace, were in fact the dæmons of discord.

The next Italian district in our progress southward, is the Milanese, which lately belonged to the House of Austria, but has, in the plenitude of French usurpation, been converted into a republic, and sufficiently fleeced of its riches. This province, when under its own dukes, gave law to all Italy; but what may be its future importance in the scale of power, or how long it may retain its new form of government, I shall not express any conjecture. The beauty and fertility of the country, however, is almost incredible. Its former revenue was estimated at three hundred thousand pounds. The capital, Milan, contains about thirty thousand inhabitants, and is furnished with a magnificent cathedral in the Gothic taste. To this duchy was incorporated that of Mantua; and in their united state, they took the name of Austrian Lombardy. I cannot mention Mantua without recalling to mind, by an association of ideas, the adjoining village of Cremona, (now Andes) which had the honour of giving birth to the immortal Virgil. Is it not surprizing,
that

that no monument to his memory has ever been erected at this place? But indeed, he has himself raised one, of greater duration than brass or marble; and he was ambitious of doing so:

*Tentanda via est, quæ me quoque possim
Tollere humo victorque virum volitare per ora.*

GEORG. lib. iii.

Let me add, that in Mantua the poet Tasso was born.

Continuing our route still towards the south, we arrive at Genoa, the present state of which I anticipated in my last letter. The city is superb, and contains some very magnificent palaces, with considerably more than a hundred thousand inhabitants; but with all its external grandeur, its maritime power had almost totally declined; and, the chief safety of the republic, consisted in the jealousy of other European powers, who were each apprehensive lest it should become an acquisition to any other than themselves. The principal manufactures of this place are velvets, damasks, gold and silver tissues, and paper.

The

The government was aristocratical, being vested in the nobility, and the chief magistrate had the title of Doge, or Duke. He was chosen every two years; and none could be promoted to this dignity till he was fifty years of age. The common people of Genoa are extremely wretched, and the soil of its territory very barren; but near the sea, some parts are tolerably well cultivated. The republic, however, possessed a revenue barely sufficient to preserve the appearance of a sovereign state.

In my tour through Italy, I had the good fortune to meet, at this place, with an amiable English Lady, whom I had formerly seen at London, where she married Mr. Cilefia, a native of Genoa, who had been some years in England in a public capacity. She was the eldest daughter of Mr. Mallet, who ranks high in the list of British poets; and she inherited, from her father, a great taste for poetry: to which she joined an uncommon proficiency in music. I found myself so much at home in this family, for Mr. Cilefia likewise was a most agreeable and accomplished person, that I came again by Genoa, on my return
from

from the south, and made a stay of some weeks.

Happening to tell Mrs. Cilefia of what had occurred at Ferney, the humour seized her likewise of giving me an exercise in poetry ; and she requested that next morning I should produce an address to a lady of the highest distinction. To avoid all appearance of personal considerations in her choice, she fixed upon Semiramis, Queen of Babylon. In compliance with her desire, I accordingly wrote the following verses, which I send you for your amusement.

O Thou ! whose lustre gilds Assyria's throne,
Whose royal cares applauding millions own,
Accept the tribute which thy fame inspires,
Thy fame productive of the poet's fires ;
Who scorns alike to taint his gen'rous lays,
With venal pomp, or prostituted praise.

How shall the muse in ardent verse display,
The matchless splendor of th' auspicious day,
When first thou, deckt in all thy radiant charms,
With rapture blest'd th' exulting monarch's arms ;
When festive triumph reign'd without alloy,
And Babylon's towers proclaim'd the public joy ?

How

How shall her strains, expanding with her view,
Attempt the glorious subject to pursue ;
When cities captur'd, and when king's o'erthrown,
Thou stretch'd thy conquests o'er a world unknown
Then India's plains beheld thy martial toils,
Whilst vanquish'd nations trembled for their spoils.
Then lofty Bagistan, untrod before,
Thy pow'r acknowledg'd, and thy trophies bore.
The gods astonish'd saw thy structures rise,
And hail'd a second Venus to the skies.

Long as Euphrates shall his waters roll,
Long as shall stand the Babylonian Mole,
Long as thy empire's glory, ne'er surpasst,
Or thine own more than human works shall last ;
From envy, rage, and time itself secure,
Thy fame, immortal prince ! shall endure.

LETTER

L E T T E R XXIII.

THE republic of Venice is now no more, and I therefore can speak of it only as it formerly existed ; but in respect of its topographical situation, I still may use the present tense. It is seated on seventy-two islands, near the end of the Adriatic Sea, and is separated from the Continent by a marshy lake of five Italian miles in breadth, its chief defence against any attack from that quarter. Venice, when I was there, preserved the vestiges of its ancient magnificence, but in every other respect, was degenerated. The constitution of this republic was originally democratical, and the magistrates were chosen by a general assembly of the people ; till, after various changes, a body of nobility was formed, which becoming hereditary, took into their

own hands the whole of the government, both legislative and executive, and a complete aristocracy was established. The nobility were divided into six classes, amounting altogether to two thousand five hundred; each of whom, at the age of twenty-five years, was entitled to be a member of the grand council. These elected a Doge, or chief magistrate, who was invested with great state, and with the emblems of supreme authority; but so limited was his power, that he was not permitted to stir from the city without obtaining leave of the grand council.

The Venetian nobility, like the senators of ancient Rome, were habited in a manner different from the other classes of the people, but not in the fashion of the Patricians. They all wore black gowns, large wigs, and caps which they held in their hands. I was once present at the annual ceremony of the Doge's marrying the Adriatic Sea, by dropping a ring into it from his state gondola, or barge. He was accompanied at this solemnity by the whole body of the nobility, in their different barges; and tho'

it was the most superb exhibition in Venice,
I

I did not think it comparable in pomp even to a Lord Mayor's shew. But in the grandeur of the city, particularly the public buildings, Venice was almost without a rival. There are near five-hundred bridges over the several canals in Venice, and the greater part of them of stone. The chief manufactures of this place were scarlet cloth, gold and silver stuffs, and above all, fine looking glasses.

The Venetians are a lively ingenious people, and in general sober, though extravagantly fond of public amusements. I counted eight or nine theatres, including the opera-houses. It was usual for great numbers of strangers to visit this city during the time of the carnival, and to those the natives were always extremely obliging. The custom of going about in masks at Venice was prevalent; but I could not find that there was so much ground for the imputation of licentiousness as has been generally said.

Some centuries ago, the Venetians were the most formidable maritime power in Europe. Towards the end of the twelfth century, they conquered Constantinople,

then the seat of the eastern empire, and held it for some time, together with great part of the Continent of Europe and Asia. For many years they monopolized the trade of India ; but the discovery of a passage to that country by the Cape of Good Hope, gave the first blow to their greatness, which was afterwards farther reduced by confederacies formed against them among the other powers of Europe.

Padua is situated twenty-two miles west of Venice, on a fine plain, watered by the rivers Brintac and Bachiglione, and is about seven miles in circumference ; but the ground within the walls is not half built at present. It was formerly, however, one of the most flourishing cities in Italy. In the time of the Romans, the inhabitants amounted to a hundred thousand ; but at present they do not exceed thirty-thousand : and the University, which was so famous two or three hundred years ago, is now reduced to one college. Here is still a manufacture of woollen cloth ; and the adjacent country abounds with oil and wine, and the most delicious fruits : but the people live in great poverty, from the tyranny of
of

of the Venetian republic. They shew at this place an image of the Blessed Virgin, which, according to their legendary creed, flew thither from Constantinople, when that city was taken by the Turks. Padua was the birth place of the celebrated Roman historian, Titus Livius; and we are told by Virgil, that it was originally built by Antenor.

*Antenor potuit, mediis elapsus Achivis,
Illyricos penetrare sinus, atque insima tutus
Regna Liburnorum & fontem superare Timavi :
Unde per ora novem vasto cum murmure montis
It mare proruptum & pelago premit arva sonanti.
Hic tamen ille urbem Patavi sedesque locavit
Teucrorum, & genti nomen dedit, armaque fixit
Troia.*

There is not at present a more flourishing state in Italy, than the duchy and city of Parma, with the duchies of Placentia and Guestellà. Both in Parma and Placentia the soil is fertile, and produces the richest fruits and pasturages. The former contains considerable manufactures of silk. It is the seat of a bishopric, and an University; and some of its magnificent churches are painted

by the celebrated Correggio. The city of Parma is computed to contain fifty thousand inhabitants. History has transmitted, without disguise, that the first Duke of Parma was natural son to Pope Paul III. It would seem as if the custom had not then been introduced of denominating a person so nearly related to the holy father, the Pope's *nephew*.

The Duchy of Modena, formerly Mutina, is governed by its own Duke, the head of the house of Este, from whom the family of Brunswick is descended. The Duke of York, brother to King Charles II. married the Princess Mary, sister to the Duke of Modena, 1673; and to this match were ascribed the misfortunes which he incurred after ascending the throne.

Lucca is situated in a small delightful plain, on the Tuscan Sea, and is the capital of a small republic; the territory of which is so well improved, that though the population does not exceed a hundred and twenty thousand, their annual revenue is computed at eighty thousand pounds sterling. So much are the inhabitants of this republic devoted to liberty, that they bear its name
upon

upon their arms; and its image is not only impressed in their coin, but also on the city gates, and all their public buildings.

The Duchy of Tuscany is an extensive territory in this quarter, being a hundred and fifty miles long, and about a hundred broad. The capital, Florence, called, on account of its beauty, Florence the Fair, is one of the most elegant cities in Italy, and supposed to contain about seventy thousand inhabitants. The valuable collection of Greek and Roman antiquities in the Grand Duke's palace, surpasses description, and is the admiration of all travellers. In a room called the Tribunal, stands the celebrated Venus of Medicis, universally regarded as a master-piece of statuary, and as the standard of taste in female beauty and proportion. A part of one of its arms has been broken off, but is supplied with stucco, painted. So exquisite is the workmanship of this statue, that softness and animation seem to be united in the marble. She stands in the attitude described by Ovid :

*Ipsa Venus pubes, quoties velamina ponit,
Protegitar leva semireducta manu.*

The

The inscription on the base assigns the production of it to Cleomenes, an Athenian, the son of Apollodorus. It is of white marble, and surrounded with other admirable specimens of Greek sculpture, some of which are said to be the work of Praxiteles. Indeed every quarter of this beautiful city exhibits wonders in the arts of statuary, painting, and architecture.

Florence stands between mountains covered with olive trees, vineyards, and delightful villas, and is divided by the Arno. Statues and fountains are seen in almost every street. The private buildings are lofty, the squares spacious; and the churches, the number of which is prodigious, are little inferior to those of Rome. Here is an Archbishop's see, and a University, as well as several academies. The Florentines boast of the improvements they have made in the Italian tongue, by means of the *Accademia Della Crusca*, which is doubtless a useful institution, and has served to refine the language of the country.

In general, the people of condition in Florence affect great state; yet the nobility and gentry scruple not to drive a retail trade
in

in wines, which they sell from their cellar windows ; and it is not uncommon to see a broken flask hang out as a sign of the traffic. But wine is not the only commodity in which they deal ; they can likewise supply purchasers with fruits, and are even haberdashers in gold and silver stuffs.

The other principal towns of Tuscany are, Pisa, famous for its hanging towers ; Leghorn, and Sienna. Pisa lies on the river Arno, and is now greatly decayed. Sienna is much in the same situation, but stands on an eminence, in a pleasant fruitful country, and is elegantly built. Leghorn is a handsome city, well fortified, and has a commodious and secure harbour. It is a free port, and the number of inhabitants is computed at forty-thousand.

The Etrurians, the ancient inhabitants of this country, derived their origin from the remotest antiquity ; but it is generally allowed, that they were a colony from Lydia.

*Lydia quondam
Gens bello præclara Jugis insedit Etruschi.*

VIRGIL.

It

It is certain that they flourished in Italy before the Trojan war. Many ancient historians bear testimony to the fame of this people. Diodorus Siculus calls them *Φιλαρτοι*, *lovers of the arts*; and we are told by Heraclides Ponticus, that Homer made a visit to their country, in consequence of the reputation in which they were held. They were no less renowned for arms than for arts; and it was not till almost five hundred years after the building of Rome, that the whole power of the Romans could overthrow them. They were much addicted to superstition and divination, though their religious records are now lost. But the loss of those writings deserves little to be regretted, in comparison of the more valuable monuments of their political constitution, and the famous book on the Tuscan laws, written by Aristotle. We need no farther evidence of both their civil and military virtues, than that it was by adopting the Tuscan customs, and by the continual exercise of arms in the wars which they maintained against the Romans, that the latter became qualified to attain the summit of grandeur, to which they

they at last arrived. As the people of Etruria contested for antiquity with those of Egypt, their learning has also shared the same fate with the hieroglyphics of that nation ; for the language and the characters of the Etrurians are now no more understood.

The republic of St Marino may be esteemed a political curiosity. The whole of its territories consist of a high craggy mountain, with a few eminences at the bottom. The inhabitants boast of having preserved their liberties, as a republic, for 1300 years, and it is probable that their poverty may continue to exempt them from any change by French devastation.

LETTER

LETTER XXIV.

THE ecclesiastical state is situated about the middle of Italy, and exhibits, in the strongest light, the pernicious effects of popish tyranny and superstition. Those spots which under the masters of the world were adorned with elegant villas, are now converted into pestilential marshes; and the Campagna di Roma, that formerly contained a million of inhabitants, could not at present, of itself, afford subsistence to five hundred. Some late popes have endeavoured to improve their territories, but with little success. The discouragement of industry and agriculture seem to be interwoven with the principles of papal administration, which, by a pernicious policy, is vested in proud and lazy ecclesiastics, whose only object is to fleece the people, and retain them
both

both in slavery and ignorance. Amidst public poverty, however, the splendor and furniture of churches in the papal dominions, are beyond description, and partly accounts for the wretched condition of the subjects ; though this remark admits of exceptions even in the suburbs of Rome.

The revenues of the apostolic see have been variously estimated, but, according to the most plausible calculation, in late times, it has amounted to eight hundred thousand pounds, including both the territorial income and ecclesiastical emoluments. It must, however, have been greatly reduced by the suppression of the order of Jesuits, and still more by the emancipation of France from papal jurisdiction and authority.

Modern Rome stands upon the Tyber, about fifteen miles from the Tuscan sea, and contains within its circuit a vast number of gardens and vineyards. Being built upon the ruins of the former city, it is seated about fourteen or fifteen feet higher than ancient Rome ; so that it is difficult to distinguish the seven hills on which it was erected. On this account, the Tarpeian rock, anciently a terrible precipice, from
the

the top of which malefactors were thrown, is not now twenty feet high. Its chief fortress is the Castle of St. Angelo, which could not, however, make any long defence, were it regularly besieged. The number of inhabitants is calculated at about a hundred and fifty thousand.

This celebrated city contains three hundred churches, filled with all that is rare in architecture, painting, and sculpture. That of St. Peter is the most astonishing, bold, and regular fabric, that ever perhaps existed in the world; and so perfect in respect not only of design, but of execution, that the most expert architects behold it with admiration. It is incrusted both within and without with marble.

The pope's palace, named the Vatican, is extremely magnificent, situated on an eminence, one of the seven hills on which the ancient city was built. It is said to contain five hundred and sixty rooms. The parts I most admired were the grand staircase, and the pope's apartment; but chiefly the Vatican library, the richest in the world, both in printed books and manuscripts.

Among

Among the antiquities of the most striking magnificence, are the remains of a remarkable amphitheatre, which was begun by Vespasian, and finished by Domitian. In the building of it twelve thousand Jewish captives were employed by the former of these emperors. In its entire state, it is said to have been capable of containing eighty seven thousand spectators seated, and twenty thousand standing. The architecture of this amphitheatre is remarkably light, and its dimensions so justly proportioned, that it appears to the eye much less than it really is. But it has been stripped of all its magnificent pillars and ornaments by different ravagers : the Goths, and other barbarians, began its destruction, and those who ought to have been the guardians of ancient relics, popes and cardinals, have contributed to efface it. The triumphal arches of Vespasian, Septimius Severus, and Constantine the Great, are still standing though decayed. The ruins of baths, palaces, and temples, correspond to the highest ideas we can form of the Roman grandeur. The Pantheon, now converted into a modern church, and which, from its circular figure,

is commonly called the *rotundo*, it more entire than any other Roman temple at present existing. There still remain several of the niches, which anciently contained statues of the heathen deities. The outside of the edifice is of Tivoli free-stone, and within it is encrusted with marble. The roof of this celebrated structure is a round dome, without pillars, the diameter of which is a hundred and forty-four feet; and though lighted only by an aperture in the centre of the dome, a spectator finds no inconvenience from the want of windows. The pavement consists of large square stones and porphyry, sloping round towards the centre, where the rain water falling down through the aperture abovementioned, is conveyed away by a proper drain, covered with a stone full of holes. The colonnade in the front, which consists of sixteen columns of granite, three feet high, exclusive of the pedestals and capitals, each cut out of a single block, and which are of the Corinthian order, can hardly be viewed without astonishment. The entrance of the building is adorned with columns forty-eight feet high, and the architrave is formed

ed

ed of a single piece of granite. On the left hand, on entering the portico, is a large antique vase, of Numidian marble ; and in the area in the front, is a fountain, with an antique basin of porphyry.

The prison, which was built by Tullus Hostilius, and afterwards enlarged by Ancus Martius, yet remains, under the name of *Il Carcere Mamertino*. The most ancient part of it is a dungeon, to which the descent is by a few steps. The walls are exceedingly solid, and are made to slope inwards pyramidically, while the roof is left nearly flat, in order to counterbalance the lateral pressure. In this prison they shew the mark of St. Peter's head against the wall, and the miraculous fountain which sprung up for the baptism of the prisoners. This is also the place of which Juvenal speaks in his third Satire, and Sallust in his Conspiracy of Catiline.

The pillars of Trajan and Antonine still stand conspicuous in their place ; the former a hundred and seventy-five feet high, and the latter covered with emblematical sculpture. The sight of those lofty columns fills the mind with agreeable emo-

T

tions ;

tions ; but my attention was yet more attracted on the rostrated column erected by Duillius, in commemoration of the first naval victory which the Romans gained over the Carthaginians ; the statue of the wolf giving suck to Romulus and Remus, with visible marks of the stroke of lightning, mentioned by Cicero ; the original brass plates containing the laws of the twelve tables ; and a thousand other identical antiquities, some of them fortunately transmitted entire to the present times.

About eight or ten miles south-east from Rome, are shewn the ruins of a palace, said to have been formerly the residence of Mæcenas ; and a few miles further, at Tivoli, the villa of his favourite Horace.

The Appian, Flaminian, and Æmilian roads ; the first, two hundred miles, the second, a hundred and thirty, and the third, fifty miles in length, are in many places still entire : and magnificent ruins of villas, and other structures, are frequent all over Italy.

Of all the towns in the ecclesiastical state, the most flourishing is Bologna, which is a hundred and ninety-five miles north-west
from

from Rome, and is perhaps indebted for its prosperity to the distance of the situation. I must own, that this inference is not very conformable to common observation in respect to delegated governments; but that of the popes in most circumstances is different from every other that I know. The succession of the Roman pontiffs being not hereditary, but elective, it is more the study of each incumbent to enrich and aggrandize his own family by oppressing the people, than to transmit, to an unknown successor, the patrimony of the church in a prosperous condition. His delegates, therefore, in Rome, and the adjacent parts, being immediately under his inspection, are more strict and severe, in their exactions from the papal subjects, than those who are more remote from the capital. The government of Bologna is always entrusted to a cardinal, who is changed every three years. But if he is more indulgent to the people than other governors, it is probable that his benignity is not unrewarded by a voluntary *successor* to himself.

The grandeur of Ferrara, Ravenna, Rimini, Urbino, Ancona, and many other cities, illustrious in former times, is now to be noted only in their ruins and ancient history; while Loretto, an obscure spot, and unknown in the times of antiquity, has, through the superstitious influence of the Romish clergy, become the admiration and idol of the Catholic world. They industriously propagated a belief, that the house in which the Virgin Mary is said to have dwelt at Nazareth, was carried thither through the air by angels; boldly affirming likewise, that on the arrival of the sacred mansion, all the trees in the neighbourhood bowed with the profoundest respect. Mecca is not more the resort of Mahometan pilgrims, than Loretto has been of the Catholic. Two hundred thousand have been known to arrive in a year. The valuable treasure of every kind amassed in this place, is inconceivable; but the prodigious deposit has at last served only to allure the rapacity of the French, who, by this and other depredations, have been enabled to maintain a war, not only against the

liberties,

liberties of the people who made those vast donations at the shrine of Loretto, but even against the existence, both temporal and ecclesiastical, of that papal power, which fomented the popular delusion, and superstitious prodigality.

L E T T E R, XXV.

W H E R E V E R I now direct my course, I may be said to tread on classic ground ; amidst the vestiges of ancient towns, and ancient objects celebrated by the Latin poets. From Rome I proceed to the kingdom of Naples, the largest dominion in Italy, being two hundred and seventy-five miles long and about a hundred broad. The air here is hot, and the soil fertile in all the usual produce of Italy. Serpents are frequent in this climate, but the bite of them is seldom attended with any fatal effects. It was a general opinion among the ancients, that those creatures were affected by fascination. We meet with so many different kinds of this art in ancient authors, that it would be tedious to repeat them ; but the kind most celebrated

celebrated is that called enchantment, or fascination by singing. The poets afford innumerable instances of this kind of magic.

*Viperæ generi, et graviter stridentibus hydri,
Spargere qui somnos cantibus, manibus, solebat.*

VIRG.

*Ad quorum cantus, serpens oblita veneni,
Ad quorum cantus miles Jacuere cerasæ.*

SIL. ITALIC.

The power of this enchantment was believed so irresistible, that serpents were made to burst, and even their heads to fly off by it.

Frigidus in pratis cantando rumpitur anguis. VIRG.

The profession of magic was in ancient times very profitable; and there could be no better method to obtain a reputation in this art, than by pretending to a supernatural influence over serpents. Two circumstances, which very much favoured this imposture, were, that they supposed the serpents whose poison was most virulent, to be some-

sometimes above the power of enchantment. And if they showed no sign of being affected by singing, it was concluded that they had shut their ears. The power of producing any surprising effect from a natural cause, discovered perhaps by accident, and kept secret from the people, was sufficient, with the addition of a few mysterious words or ceremonies, to pass for preternatural endowments. It would however be too bold to deny, that serpents can in some degree be charmed by music; such a sensibility being often observed in other animals. And Mr. Shaw tells us of several *vorals*, a species of lizard, which he had seen dance to music. It is therefore not improbable, that many of these animals have been industriously tamed by those who pretended to the art of enchantment, in order to delude the people. And I am of opinion, that the famous serpent which went from the temple of Esculapius, in a ship to Rome, to cure the city of a plague, had been for some time a pupil of the priests of that deity. Nor shall I ever believe that the serpents, which the Barchinians twisted round their limbs, and

and throw upon each other's breasts, for the admiration of the multitude, were any other than the most harmless of the kind; tho' Horace, in his Odes to Bacchus, would insinuate to the contrary.

I have been led into this short digression by two causes: one is, the country through which I am passing, is that of the Marfi, who were famous for their power over serpents; and the other, that one of horses was bitten by a serpent, which happened to cross the road in our journey.

Naples, the capital of this kingdom, stands on an eminence, rising gradually from the sea, which forms here a fine bay, thirty miles in diameter. This city is astonishingly superb, and adorned with all the profusion of art and riches. The houses are in general five or six stories in height, and flat at the top, on which are placed numbers of flower vases, or fruit-trees in boxes of earth, producing a very pleasing effect. Some of the streets are remarkably handsome, particularly those which lie open to the bay. In this city you will find the rich-

est and most commodious convents in Europe; and the most fertile and beautiful hills in the neighbourhood are covered with them. Upon the bay at this place stood one of Cicero's villas; and some ruins yet to be seen are said to be the vestiges of it.

The dignified clergy and nobility of this kingdom are very numerous. In the catalogue of the former, we meet with no less than twenty-five archbishops, and a hundred and twenty-five bishops; and in that of the latter, about three hundred princes, dukes, marquisses, and earls. A great part of this class is composed of Genoese, and other foreigners, who have purchased titles in the kingdom. It is computed that one-third of the dominions of Naples belongs to the clergy, and the remainder to the crown, the nobility and gentry respectively. Every lord or gentleman who is proprietor of an estate, is sovereign of the people who live upon it, and may be said to have the absolute disposal of all their effects. While they plough his lands, and plant his vineyards and olive-yards, they are hardly allowed provisions sufficient for enabling them to undergo the toil; and the more to encrease their

their dependence, they are amenable to the courts of their respective lords, in every case that is not capital. The consequence of this great oppression is, that though the country abounds in silks, the manufacture is very inconsiderable. They send most of it abroad unwrought, and that in such a manner as is highly disadvantageous to the traffic of the nation. For having few ships of their own, as well as being destitute of the spirit of commerce, the proprietors of the lands sell the produce of their estates to foreigners, who usually export them in vessels belonging to their own country.

The king's ordinary revenues are computed at a million a year, arising from a composition with the nobility and gentry for certain sums, in lieu of their personal services, from a duty on houses, and an almost general excise. The crown also claims a power of laying additional taxes on the landed interest, according to the necessities of the state. The clergy are subject to no imposts, but grant a free gift, which however is for the most part, proportionable to the taxes on the laity.

About

About fix miles east of Naples, stands Mount Vesuvius, in awful grandeur. Its declivity towards the sea is every where planted with vines and fruit-trees, and it is equally fertile towards the bottom; but within a mile and a half of the top, it is covered with black cinders and stones. Vesuvius has been a volcano beyond the reach of history or tradition. Long before the first recorded epoch of its irruption, it was described by authors as bearing the marks of fire on its summit. A most animated description of its ravages in 79, is left us by the younger Pliny. From that time it now and then burst out, and alarmed the neighbouring country; but seemed by degrees to lose its vigor, till in the lower ages it scarcely gave sufficient alarm to merit a place in the chronicles of the times. In 1631, it broke out again with accumulated fury, and spread such devastation around, as almost equalled the first-mentioned. Since that time, it has had its periods of turbulence and repose; and of late years it has so increased its violence, as to emit smoke continually, and every year,

at least, a torrent of lava. It is probable, however, that with all its terrors, Vesuvius, open and active, is less hostile to Naples, than it would be, if its eruptions were to cease, and its fury confined to its bowels.

It is computed that about two thirds of the property of this kingdom is in the hands of the ecclesiastics; a strong temptation to his Neapolitan Majesty to reduce these emoluments. The nobility here are very numerous, but generally very poor. They are nevertheless extremely fond of shew and splendor, which they endeavour to display in the richness of their dress, the brilliancy of their equipages, and the number of their attendants.

Between Naples and Mount Vesuvius stood the ancient city of Herculaneum, which was overwhelmed by a torrent of lava from that mountain, in the first year of the emperor Titus Vespasian.

The precise situation of this subterraneous city was not known till the year 1713, when it was accidentally discovered by some labourers. Little progress was made in the excavations

excavations till Charles, infant of Spain, ascended the Neapolitan throne. By his unwearied efforts and liberality, a very considerable part of Herculaneum has been explored, and such treasures of antiquity drawn out, as form perhaps the most curious museums in the world. It being so arduous a task to attempt the removing of the covering, the king contented himself with cutting galleries to the principal buildings, and causing the extent of one or two of them to be cleared. Of these the most considerable is the theatre. On a balustrade, which divided the orchestra from the stage, was found a row of statues, and on each side of the pulpitum, the equestrian figure of a person of the Nonia family.

Since the king of Spain left Naples, the digging has been continued, but with less spirit and expenditure than before. Indeed the number of curiosities already collected is so great, that a relaxation of zeal and activity becomes excusable.

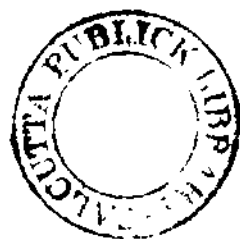
This museum contains not only statues, busts, altars, inscriptions, and other ornamental appendages of opulence and luxury, but also an entire assortment of the domestic,
tic,

tic, musical, and chirurgical instruments, used by the ancients; tripods of elegant form and exquisite workmanship, lamps in endless variety, vases and basons of great dimensions, chandeliers of the most beautiful shapes, pateras, and other appurtenances of sacrifice, mirrors of polished metal, coloured glass so hard, clear, and well stained, as to appear emeralds, sapphires, and other precious stones; a kitchen completely fitted up with copper pans, lined with silver, kettles, cisterns for heating water, and every necessary for culinary purposes; corn, bread, fish, oil, wine, and flour; a lady's toilet, completely furnished with combs, thimbles, rings, paint, &c. The busts fill several rooms, but very few of the originals whom they were meant to delineate, are known. The floors are paved with ancient Mosaic.

A more valuable acquisition than bronzes and pictures was thought to be made, when a large parcel of manuscripts was found among the ruins. Hopes were entertained that many latent works of the classics were on the point of being restored to light; but the difficulty of unrolling the burnt parchment,

ment, of pasting the fragments on a flat surface, and of decyphering the obscure letters, have proved such obstacles, that very little progress has yet been made in the work. A priest invented the method of proceeding; but it would require the joint labours of many learned men to carry on so nice and tedious an operation with any success.

LETTER



LETTER XXVI,

A Few miles from Herculaneum is situated Pompeii, which likewise unfortunately perished by the same catastrophe with the preceding. The entrance of Pompeii is near the quadrangular barracks of the Roman cohorts that composed the garrison. A portico runs round the court, supported by pillars of stone covered with stucco, and painted. The troops seem to have been accommodated with every convenience, and even luxury ; for they had both a theatre and an amphitheatre belonging to their quarters.

The excavations have not been pursued with regularity, but carried on in different situations, just as hope or caprice actuated the minds of the engineers. The centre of the city is yet hidden under the vineyards, while the principal exertions are made near

the walls and gates. One opening displays some houses, part of a street ; and a temple of Isis. The outward appearance of the temple is the most simple that can be imagined. The *penetrals* of the temple is a small pavilion raised upon steps, under which is a vault that may have served for the purposes of oracular imposition.

A cavity of considerable extent has laid open part of a principal street, one of the city gates, a length of wall, some tombs, and a road without the gates. The town walls are built with large squares of lava in irregular courses, and the streets are paved with the same materials irregularly laid ; the feet of horses and the wheels of carriages have worn deep marks in the lava.

The people of this town had paid no attention to uniformity in building their houses ; for some project, while others retire behind the line. The shops have stone seats before them, and over the doors, emblems, in relieve, of the trade of the inhabitants.

The houses are small and built round courts, from which all the apartments received

ceived their light. The walls of the rooms are stuccoed, and painted in a most beautiful taste. The apartments are small and square, and many had no light but through the door. In the kitchens and apartments of the servants, a green serpent is painted upon the wall, before which a lamp was kept burning. The same divinity was worshipped near the road, without the walls.

Pœstum, or Posidonia, another ancient city in the neighbourhood, was discovered in the same manner, above thirty years ago, and has likewise afforded much gratification to curiosity. One experiences a melancholy kind of pleasure in beholding scenes which had lain concealed from mortal sight during almost seventeen hundred years, especially when they are memorials of an extraordinary convulsion in nature; but nothing gratified my curiosity so much, as the celebrated objects which are closely interwoven with mythology. On the sea coast adjoining to Naples, I looked with eagerness for the grotto of the Sybil, amidst the rocks where it is described to have formerly existed, but I looked in vain. The cave with a hundred openings is not now to be found; and

there remain no more traces of her sacred habitation, than of her famous predictions. Like Æneas, however, I went directly from the spot to the lake Avernus, now Averne, which I found in a condition far more agreeable than it was in the time of the Trojan hero.

This celebrated lake is circular, and almost entirely hemmed in by an amphitheatre of hills on every side ; characteristic marks of a volcanic crater. The landscape, though confined, is extremely pleasant. The dark blue surface of the unruffled waters, said to be three hundred and sixty fathoms deep, strongly reflect the tapering groves that cover its sloping enclosures. Shoals of wild fowl swim about, and king's-fishers shoot along under the banks. A large octagon temple, in ruins, advances majestically to the brink. Its marble ornaments have been long since removed, but its form and size still render it a noble object. It was probably dedicated to the infernal gods, to whose worship those solemn scenes were formerly consecrated. Black aged groves stretch their boughs over the watery abyss, which they darkened
with

with their foliage impenetrable to the rays of light ; while mephitic vapors ascending from the hot bowels of the earth, being denied free passage to the upper atmosphere, floated along the surface in poisonous mists. These circumstances produced horrors fit for such gloomy deities, and superstition early seized this spot to celebrate her dismal orgies. Here she invoked the manes of departed heroes, and here she offered sacrifices to the gods of hell, and attempted to dive into the secrets of futurity. Poets enlarged upon the popular theme, and painted its awful scenery with the strongest colours of the art.

But a sudden glare of light was at last let in upon Avernus : The axe of Agrippa brought its forest to the ground, and gave room for all its malignant effluvia to escape. The horrors of the place were immediately dispelled, and with them the sanctity of the lake. The virulence of the exhalations from Avernus, is described by ancient authors as *very extraordinary* : *modern writers* who know the place in a cleared state only, charge those accounts with exaggeration ; but it is probable that they were founded in fact :

fact : for even now the air is not of the purest kind, as appears from the complexion of the vine dressers, who have succeeded the Sybils and the Cimmerians in the possession of the temple.

At present, the Avernus abounds with tench, as the Lucrine does with eels. The change of fortune in these lakes is singular: In the splendid days of imperial Rome, the Lucrine was the chosen spot for the brilliant parties of pleasure of a voluptuous court. They are described by Seneca as the highest refinement of extravagance and luxury. A slimy bed of rushes now covers the scattered pools of this once beautiful sheet of water, while the dusky Avernus is clear and unmolested, offering a most alluring scene for similar amusements.

The Lucrine Lake, so famous amongst the Romans for its fine oysters, and other fish, lay near the shore, but almost the whole bed of it is now occupied by a mountain, which rose instantaneously in the night between the nineteenth and twentieth of September, 1538, during an earthquake, which caused a terrible devastation in the neighbourhood. The subterraneous fire
ejected

ejected by a wide chasm such a quantity of stones, ashes, sulphur and sand, as formed the present mountain; the perpendicular height of which is not less than four hundred rods, and the circumference three Italian miles.

Between the lake Agnano and Puzzoli, the ancient Puteoli, lies the village of Solfatara, so called from the vast quantities of sulphur continually forced out of the cliffs by subterranean fires. Near it is the Grotto del Cani, remarkable for its poisonous steams, and is so denominated, from its fatal effects on dogs which happen to enter it, if they remain there any considerable time.

The last object in the neighbourhood of Naples which I shall mention, is the Grotto of Paufilippo. It pierces through the promontory of its own name, in a direct, but ascending line from east to west. It is cut in the tufo stone, is arched, and receives light from the two mouths, and some diagonal apertures in the roof. It is eighty-nine feet high in the most elevated part, not rising in the lowest above twenty-four; in length exactly two thousand four hundred and

and fourteen feet ; in breadth twenty-two. The scantiness of light here is at all times distressing; for that which is admitted thro' the openings abovementioned, and the feeble glimmerings of a lamp burning before a picture in the middle, are no security against the dangers of being run over, and crushed to pieces against the wall, or at least hurt by the faggots which asses are continually bringing from the woods. Besides this inconvenience, the dust is intolerable in summer, and the nuisance is increased every time that the King of Naples passes through, as the road is then strewed with a fresh covering of sand. It is surprising how passengers venture to travel along this subterraneous road at all hours, singly, or in company, without any guard, to prevent assaults, or sufficient light to detect a lurking assassin. It reflects honor upon the national character of the Neapolitans, that people have such security in a country so ill provided with officers of police.

Different opinions are entertained with respect to the first openers of this grotto. This kind of rocky substance is perforated with so much ease, and the practice of forming

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ing subterraneous galleries seems to have prevailed at so very early a period of society, that some authors have ascribed the work to the giants or the Cimmerians, who were wont to make caves their place of residence, as well as the repository of their plunder. Others affirm it to have been executed by Cocceius, an architect of the Augustan age; but this seems to be founded upon the misconception of a passage in Strabo. From Seneca's expressions complaining of its inconvenience, it appears to have been at that time only open for foot passengers. Alphontus I. widened it for carriages, and since his reign, it has been considerably heightened and levelled.

Above the eastern entrance, on the very brink of a precipice, a ruinous vaulted building, accompanied with a bay tree, is shewn as the tomb of Virgil; but there is no other authority than that of tradition, that his ashes were deposited in this sepulchre.

Speaking of the neighbourhood of Naples in general, I think it the paradise of Italy. It has no other alloy than the apprehension of danger from Mount Vesuvius;
and

and Hannibal exposed his army to more certain destruction, when he suffered the Carthaginian ardor of discipline to be relaxed in the voluptuous climate of Capua. But the atmosphere of Naples appears not to have the same effect on the natives of the country and foreigners. In different ages, this province of Italy has given birth to men of great celebrity both in arts and arms. Cicero and C. Marius were born within the boundaries of the present kingdom of Naples.

To give an account of the illustrious writers which Italy produced in ancient times, would lead me into an extent of detail far beyond the intended limits of my epistolary correspondence. I should have to trace the history of Latin literature, from the time of Ennius, to its extinction on the downfall of the Roman empire. I shall therefore content myself with barely mentioning the most distinguished authors who have arisen in this country.

In prose, the writings of Cicero, Julius Cæsar, Sallust, Livy, and Tacitus, display superior excellence in different styles of composition; while Virgil, Horace, Ovid,
and

and Lucretius, have disputed with the Greeks the palm of poetic celebrity. Since the revival of letters in Italy, Galileo, Torricelli, and others, have cultivated mathematics and natural philosophy with success. Strada, Father Paul, Guicciardini, Benvoglio, and Davila, who wrote both in Latin and Italian, revived among the moderns the spirit and genius of ancient literature. But among the Italian poets, Dante, Ariosto, and Tasso, are the most distinguished; and Metastasio has acquired great fame by writing dramatic pieces set to music. Sanazarius, Fracastorius, Bembo, Vida, and other natives of Italy, have written Latin poetry with an elegance, correctness, and spirit, which rival the compositions of antiquity. With regard to Italian painters, sculptors, architects, and musicians, they have carried their respective arts to the highest degree of perfection.

LETTER

L E T T E R XXVII.

QUITTING the continent of Italy, I go for the island of Capri, anciently called *Capreae*, situated about eighteen miles south of Naples, at the entrance of the Gulf. It extends four miles in length from east to west, and about one in breadth. Steep cliffs and masses of rock give it a wildness of appearance, which on advancing nearer, is gradually softened by patches of verdure, and clusters of white houses. On a ridge between two rugged eminences, which form the extremities of the island, and near their shaggy summits, to a tremendous height, are seen the cupolas and buildings of the episcopal city; a considerable place, apparently, when viewed at a distance, but afterwards dwindles to a village. From hence there runs an ancient
causeway,

causeway, to the eastern summit of Capri, where stupendous cliffs overhang the channel, which separates the island from Cape Campanella, anciently Promontorium Athenæum, or Minervæ. The view from this place is so extensive, grand, and beautiful, that it is impossible to behold it without emotions of surprise and rapture. At one glance, it displays a range of coast exceeding a hundred miles in length: Naples, with all its hills and swarming suburbs, backed by the towering Appennine; Vesuvius pouring forth the volumes of smoke; at its feet innumerable villages and verdant plains, contrasted with purple lavas; immediately below, Minerva's promontory advancing towards Capri, and dividing the Neapolitan bay from the semicircular basin of Salerno, at the bottom of which are seen the white ruins of Pæstum. In this part of the island stood the summer palace of Tiberius Cæsar, where he passed almost ten years, hidden from the world, and wallowing in the most brutal debaucheries. Proceeding northward through vineyards and orchards, we come to the palace of La Marina, where the same emperor had a
winter

winter residence. Columns, and other fragments of architecture, scattered in the sands, remain as memorials of its splendor. The conduit that supplied the place with water still exists.

The odium attached to the memory of Tiberius proved fatal to his favourite abode; for scarcely was his death proclaimed at Rome, when the senate issued orders for the demolition of every fabric he had raised on the island, which was thence forward destined to answer the purposes of a state prison. In this island, across every break in the woods, or chasm in the hills, rows of nets are placed, to intercept stock-doves and quails, in their annual flights; and the quantity taken of each sort, especially of the latter, is almost incredible.

The islands of the Syrens, supposed to be those now called Galli, on the coast of Calabria, and which Ulysses passed with so much caution and hazard, are five in number, and have experienced great revolutions from the effects of subterranean fire. The tradition of Syrens residing hereabouts is very ancient, and universally admitted, but what they really were, divested of their
fabulous

fabulous and poetical disguise, is not easy to discover. It has been conjectured, that on those promontories some female sovereign once dwelt, in times of which no records are existing. The post she chose for her residence was no doubt strongly fortified, and well situated for her piratical subjects to dart out upon, and intercept all vessels that navigated these seas in ages when it was not the practice to sail at any considerable distance from land. Thus they may have rendered themselves formidable to mankind by violence and martial exploits ; but it is more natural, and more consonant to the idea generally entertained of them, to vest the power of the Syrens in the arts and corruptions of peace. These islands bear all the marks of having been formed by subterranean fires.

Scylla and Charybdis, so much celebrated by the ancient poets, are now divested of all the terrors which rendered them dreadful to navigators. Scylla is situated near the Cape of Pelorus. Modern voyagers may glide close under those dreadful rocks without any apprehension of danger : for the water scarce undulates, and

no surf is seen to break at the foot of the cliff, nor bellowing heard among its dark caverns. When a tempest rages, however, the dashing and roaring of the billows, as they are driven into these broken cavities, is truly horrible, and capable of striking terror into the most intrepid mariner, if his vessel drives near. A large castle covers the summit of this famous rock ; and from it a row of houses extends on both sides in a slope to the beach, which is semicircular, planted with trees, and sheltered by very high cliffs.

What is now shewn as the Charybdis of the ancients, is a kind of whirlpool in the harbour of Messina, where voyagers observe nothing more than a rippling, occasioned by the meeting of the tide and torrents. The bottom of the straits is shallow, and full of rocks ; consequently numberless points and cavities must occur to obstruct and perplex the regular course of the current, and cause whirlpools that are dangerous in stormy weather ; or even in dead calms, when vessels may be embayed, and drawn among the shallows, from which they want wind to extricate themselves. It is highly probable

ble that the sea has worn itself a passage through the Faro much more easy and expanded than it was when Homer composed his *Odyssey*, which was perhaps not many centuries after the waves had burst through the connecting *Isthmus* between Sicily and the coast of Reggio. Then Scylla might indeed be a tremendous rock; and the hollows under the sea, where the waters yet foaming, and agitated by the resistance they had met with at Scylla, were hurried and whirled about, must have been an irresistible vortex, from which no ship could escape. The alternate action of swallowing up and vomiting the wreck, was similar to that of a pool at the foot of any lofty cascade.

I have already come upon the coast of Sicily, anciently called *Trinacria*, from its triangular shape. It is the largest of the Italian islands, being about a hundred and eighty miles long, and a hundred and twelve broad. It lies in a warm, but pleasant and healthful climate, constantly refreshed by cool breezes from the ocean and mountains. It is separated from *Calabrian Italy* only by the Strait of Messina,

which is not seven miles over in the narrowest part. This island, once the granary of the world for corn, still continues to supply Naples and other parts with that commodity; but its cultivation is now greatly diminished, and consequently its fertility. Palermo, the capital of Sicily, is computed to contain a hundred and twenty thousand inhabitants. The two principal streets, and which cross each other, are very fine. It carries on a considerable trade, as also did Messina, which, before the earthquake in 1783, was a large and well-built city, containing many churches and convents, generally elegant structures. Religious foundations are extremely numerous in Italy. Some parts of the island are remarkable for the beauty of its female inhabitants; and there are a great number of remains of antiquity in ruins.

The contrivance of Dionysius, the tyrant of Syracuse, for listening to the conversation of those persons whom he had thrown into prison from motives of jealousy, is celebrated by ancient historians. This famous excavation, which is eighteen feet wide, and fifty-eight high, runs into a huge rock
in

in the form of a capital S: the sides are chiseled very smooth, and the roof covered, gradually ~~n~~arrowing to almost as sharp a point as a Gothic arch. Along this point runs a groove, or channel, which served, as is supposed, to collect the sound from the speakers below, and convey them to a pipe in a small cell above, where they were heard with the greatest distinctness. But the place having been too much opened and altered, has now lost its virtue in the interior part; though the echo at the mouth of the grotto is so very loud, that the tearing of a piece of paper made as great a noise as a smart blow of a cudgel on a board would have done. That it was, however, constructed intentionally for a listening place, it is impossible, after an attentive survey of the whole, to entertain any doubt; and rings are cut out of the angles of the walls, to which, we may suppose, the more obnoxious criminals were fastened.

The greatest natural curiosity in this island is Mount *Ætna*, which has been a volcano beyond the records of history: *Monf. Buffon* is even of opinion, that it was so from the creation of the world. Its

figure is circular, and, when viewed at a distance, appears conical. The top of it, however, is a vast ridge, almost level, having a round eminence at each extremity, and about the middle a forked hill rising higher than the rest, and furrounding the crater, from which the smoke ascends. This part alone is of a dark colour, one sheet of snow covering all the remainder. At the foot of this stupendous ridge lie gloomy vallies of prodigious depth, separated from each other by many mountains; below which, most beautiful woods form a mighty girdle round the frozen region.

On a rising ground, in the descent, about a mile from the crater, are to be seen the remains of a foundation of an ancient building. It is of brick, and seems to have been ornamented with white marble, many fragments of which are scattered about. It is called the Philosopher's Tower, and is said to have been inhabited by Empedocles. As the ancients used to sacrifice to the celestial gods on the top of *Ætna*, it may be the ruins of a temple which served for that purpose.

Near

Near the entrance of the woody region of *Ætna*, chefnut and oak trees are intermixed, but afterwards oak alone is to be feen. Some of thefe are of a prodigious fize. One of them meafures twenty eight feet in circumference. But what exceeds all other productions of the foreft, hitherto defcribed, is the celebrated chefnut-tree, called from its amazing fize *Cafagno di cento cavalli*, as fupposing it capable of fheltering a hundred horfe under the canopy of its boughs. It ftands fingle, on a gentle rifing. This wonderful production of the vegetable kingdom confifts of a trunk, now fplit to the furface of the earth, but united into one body at a very fmall depth below. Of this trunk five divifions are formed, each of which fends forth enormous branches; and the circumference of it, at one inch above the ground, is a hundred and ninety-fix Englifh feet. *Ætna* has never been meafured with geometrical accuracy; but fome compute the height of it to be twelve thoufand feet.

L E T T E R XXVIII.

THE island of Sardinia, which gives a royal title to the Duke of Savoy, lies about fifty leagues west of Leghorn. It is about a hundred and sixty miles long, and eighty broad. The soil is fruitful in corn, and wine, but the air is bad, on account of marshes; and this island was therefore a place of exile for the Romans. At Cagliari, which is the capital, there is an university, and an archbishopric; and there also the viceroy resides. But it is hardly an object of any great attention in a political view; for it is thought that his Sardinian majesty's revenues from this island, do not exceed five thousand pounds sterling. It was formerly annexed to the crown of Spain, but at the peace of Utrecht, was ceded to the emperor, and in 1719 to the house of Savoy.

The

The island of Corsica lies between Sardinia and Genoa, to which republic it was in subjection at the middle of the present century; but the oppression exercised by the Genoese excited the inhabitants to revolt. The island was then ceded to the French, who endeavoured to continue the same tyrannical form of government which had been introduced by its former masters. At length, in an assembly of the people, held in 1794, it was resolved, that a tender of the crown of Corsica should be made to the king of Great Britain. This was accordingly done, and the offer accepted by his majesty, when, as you know, a viceroy was sent out to take upon him the government of the island; and a military and naval force appointed for its protection. I always was of opinion that we should not retain it long; for the Corsicans are an ignorant and refractory people, neither capable of discerning their own interests, nor of sacrificing their natural turbulence to any fixed constitution of government. This disposition was probably fomented by the intrigues of the French, which, for once, proved favorable to the interests of Great Britain;

Britain ; as it accelerated an event which must have taken place at a future period, and saved us an annual expence, which the value of the whole island, except so far as it afforded a station for our ships, was not sufficient to compensate. The island is mountainous and woody, containing likewise many marshes. It however produces corn, wine, figs, almonds, olives, and other fruits, besides some cattle and horses. The inhabitants are said to amount to a hundred and twenty thousand.

Malta is reckoned among the Italian islands, and I was fond of seeing it on account of the singularity of its constitution. It is situated twenty leagues south of Cape Passaro in Sicily, and is of an oval figure, about twenty miles long, and twelve broad. The air is clear, but excessively hot, occasioned partly by the dryness of the soil ; the island being composed of a white rock, covered with a thin surface of earth. It is however extremely productive of excellent fruits, and other vegetables.

Malta, the capital, consists of three towns, separated by channels, which form so many peninsulas of solid rock, rising a
great

great height above the sea, and have within them secure harbours, capable of receiving large fleets. No art has been wanting to improve by fortifications the natural strength of the place. The streets are spacious, and built of white stone hewn out of the rock.

Malta has been successively subject to the Phœnicians, the Carthaginians, and Romans; and was given by the emperor Charles V. to the knights of St. John of Jerusalem, after they had lost the island of Rhodes, which they had bravely defended two hundred years against all the force of the Turks. They now assumed the title of Knights of Malta, and were attacked in their new settlement by Solymán, the Turkish emperor, in 1566, but he was forced to abandon the island, after losing thirty thousand men in the attempt.

The knights of Malta originally consisted of eight different nations, but now only of seven, the English having withdrawn themselves at the reformation. They have considerable possessions in the Roman Catholic countries on the Continent, and are under the government of a grand-master, who is elected for life. The lord-prior of the
order

order was formerly accounted the prime-baron in England. The knights are in number about a thousand: five hundred are to reside on the island, and the remainder in their seminaries in other countries; but are bound to make a personal appearance when called upon. They are sworn to defend the church, to obey their superiors, and to live on the revenues of their order only. They are likewise under vows of celibacy and chastity; but it is observed that they keep the former much better than the latter. They wear the badge of the order, which is a golden cross of eight points, enamelled white, pendant to a black watered ribband. On the 18th of September there is an annual procession at Malta, in commemoration of the Turks having precipitately raised the siege on that day, in 1563. It is a day of great festivity among the knights, who not being debarred by any vow from sacrificing to Bacchus, are the more liberal in their libations, from a hatred of the principles as well as the persons of the Turks, against whom they have been considered as the great bulwark of the catholic nations on that side.

I had

I had the honor of receiving an invitation to their entertainment ; and having got a hint that a poetical compliment from a British traveller would be acceptable to the knights, I wrote the following lines on the occasion.

Hail ! Malta's valiant sons, a glorious band !
Fam'd for great deeds o'er earth's remotest land ;
While papal states their annual tribute pay,
Albion presents you with a votive lay :
Herself a pow'r whom gen'rous passions rouse,
She loves your valor, though she hates your vows ;
Hates a restraint that violates nature's laws,
And dreads the prospect of a perjur'd cause.
Long may your isle through prosp'rous years endure,
In virtue great, from Turkish rage secure ;
Long may the Christian faith your zeal inspire,
And ancient glory fan the sacred fire.

There happened to be in the company a few who were acquainted with the English language ; and to the others, the sentiments contained in the verses were hastily explained in French. You cannot conceive how much the knights were pleased with the compliment I had paid them. The grand-master instantly

filled a bumper of wine ; a signal for the company at the different tables to follow his example. He then gave a toast, which to the disgrace of British patriotism, would be excluded from the public feasts of some societies in London that I could name : It was, “ Prosperity to Great Britain, and “ may her glorious constitution live for “ ever ! ” The enthusiasm with which it was universally drunk, really warmed my heart to the Knights of Malta.

I never visited the northern islands in the Mediterranean, though I once had a favorable opportunity. Indeed they contain nothing which can much excite the curiosity of a voyager. The most considerable of them are Majorca and Minorca, the *Baleares* of the Romans. The former is about sixty miles in length, and forty-five in breadth ; the latter about thirty miles in length, and generally ten in breadth. They are not unfruitful, and some of their productions are esteemed excellent in their kind. The principal defect in Minorca is in respect of water, of which, except what is saved from rain in cisterns, there is little either palatable or healthy. A disease extremely

tremely frequent in this island is the tertian fever, or ague, which an intelligent surgeon, who resided some time at Port Mahon, imputes to the influence of two causes. One is the general practice of watering the gardens too much; which, joined with their being closely planted with succulent vegetables, occasions a copious exhalation of putrid vapours. Another cause is, with great probability, supposed to be the soft nature of a species of stone much used in building, which being easily penetrated by water, renders the houses very unhealthy.

LETTER

LETTER XXIX.

FROM Italy, where I had occasion to see a great transformation of governments, some reduced almost to a state of insignificance, some totally subverted, and others apprehensive of a similar fate, I now take my passage over the Adriatic into Greece, a country once more celebrated for the genius of its inhabitants than Italy itself. But how prodigious a change ! This however is no recent event. The glory of the Grecian states expired with their freedom, which long since sunk under the incumbent weight of the Eastern empire; and the people have been farther debased by the barbarism of their subsequent masters, the Turks. Amidst the disasters of fortune, nature has lavished on this country a variety of peculiar blessings. The soil, though unimproved,
is

is in many parts luxuriant beyond description; the air is salubrious, and friendly to the imagination, unless when it is corrupted from the neighbouring countries, or thro' the indolence and uncleanness of the Turkish manner of living. The seasons are here regular and pleasant, and have been celebrated from the remotest antiquity.

The very mountains of this country, without deriving any fame from volcanos, are the most celebrated of any in the world, and at the same time, often the most fruitful. Mount Athos stands on a peninsula running into the Egean sea; and the mounts Pindus and Olympus, celebrated in Grecian fables, separate Thessaly from Epirus. Parnassus in Achaia, so famous for being consecrated to the muses, is universally known. Mount Hæmus is likewise often mentioned by the poets; but most of the other mountains have changed their names; and even those above-mentioned have modern names imposed upon them by the Turks.

Besides the mountains above-mentioned, of which the ancients esteemed Olympus the highest in the world, are those of Pelion
and

and Ossa, mentioned likewise so often by the poets, and not much inferior in height. Between the two last-mentioned mountains lay the celebrated plains of Tempe, represented by the ancients as equal in local beauty to the Elysian Fields, and noted for producing fine grapes, with other fruits of a delicious flavour. According to the account delivered by Strabo and Ælian, this beautiful vale extended five miles in length, and in breadth near an acre and a half. On the right and left it was bounded by gentle convexities; the Peneus glided along the middle; and the surrounding groves were harmoniously vocal with the music of the finest birds. Livy, however, mentioning this celebrated place, informs us, that the Romans, in marching through it, were struck with a degree of horror rather than delight: for besides that the defile was difficult to pass, there were steep rocks on each hand, down which the prospect was apt to cause a dizziness; and the awfulness of the scene was heightened by the noise and depth of the interfluent Peneus.

When we consider the various seas which surround this country, namely the Euxine,

or

or Black Sea; the Palus Mæotis, or Sea of Afoph; the Sea of Marmora, which separates Europe from Asia; the Archipelago, the Ionian Sea, and the Levant, we must acknowledge that no other country was so well situated for universal dominion as Turkey in Europe, particularly that part of it where the city of Constantinople stands. The Straits of the Hellespont and Bosphorus are joined to the sea of Marmora, and are remarkable in modern as well as ancient history.

The rivers most conspicuous in this country are the Danube, the Save, the Niefter, the Nieper, and the Don; but many others have been celebrated by poets and historians, which have now also changed their names. As to lakes in this country, they are not numerous, nor entitled to any great applause. The Lago di Scutari lies in Albania, and communicates with the Lago di Plave, and the Lago di Holti. The Stymphalus, so famous for its harpies and ravenous birds, lies in the Morea; and Peneus, from its qualities, is thought to be the lake from which the Styx issues, conceived by the ancient Greeks to be the pas-

sage into hell. This was in Greece what Avernus was reputed in Italy.

Vegetable productions are excellent all over European Turkey, especially when assisted by the smallest degree of industry ; and it produces in great abundance and perfection oranges, lemons, citrons, pomegranates, grapes of an excellent and uncommon sweetness, figs, almonds, olives, and cotton ; exclusive of many drugs, not common in other parts of Europe.

Almost every spot of ground, every river, and every fountain in Greece, presents the traveller with the ruins of a celebrated antiquity. On the Isthmus of Corinth, the ruins of Neptune's temple, and the theatre where the Isthmean games were celebrated, are still visible. Athens, now Setines, which contains at present above ten thousand inhabitants, abounds with the most magnificent and celebrated antiquities in the world. Of a few of the most remarkable of these I shall give you a short account.

Among the antiquities of this once superb city, are the remains of the temple of Minerva, built of white marble, and encompassed with forty-six fluted columns of
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the Doric order, forty-two feet high, and seven feet and a half in circumference. The architrave is adorned with basso-relievos, admirably executed, representing the wars of the Athenians. The Acropolis is now a fortress, with a thick irregular wall, standing on the brink of precipices, and enclosing a large area twice as long as broad. Some portions of the ancient wall may yet be discovered on the outside, and in many places it is patched with pieces of columns, and with marbles taken from the ruins; and the remains of some of the edifices extant in the Acropolis, cannot be beheld without admiration. It is, in particular, not easy to conceive a more striking object than the Parthenon, though now a mere ruin. Several figures in alto-relievo are still almost entire on the side next Hy-mettus. Their subject is the battle of the Centaurs and Lapithæ. On the freeze of the cell, was carved, in basso-relievo, the solemnity of a sacrifice to Minerva; and of this a hundred and seventy feet are standing, the greater part in good preservation, containing a procession on horseback. On two stones which have fallen, are oxen led

as victims. On another, fourteen feet long, are the virgins called *Canephoroi*, who assisted at the rites, bearing on their heads the sacred canisters, and in their hands each a taper ; with other figures, one a venerable person with a beard, reading in a large volume, which is partly supported by a boy.

The ruin of the *Eritheum* is of white marble, the architectural ornaments of exquisite workmanship, and uncommonly curious. The columns of the front of the temple of Neptune are standing, with the architrave, and also the screen and portico of *Minerva Polias*, with a portion of the cell, retaining traces of the partition wall. The order is Ionic.

The *Pandroseum* is a small, but very particular building, of which no satisfactory idea can be communicated by description. The entablature is supported by women called *Caryatides*.

The hill which is towards Mount *Hymettus*, is indented with the site of the theatre of *Bacchus*, where formerly stood the most ancient temple of that deity, and which was adorned with images of the tragic

gic and comic poets. Some stone-work remains at the two extremities, but the area is ploughed and produces grain.

The temple of Theseus is of the Doric order, and in the style of its architrave greatly resembles the Parthenon.

The ruin of the temple of Jupiter Olympias consists of prodigious columns, tall and beautiful, of the Corinthian order, fluted; some single, some supporting their architraves, with a few massive marbles beneath. The columns are about six feet in diameter, and near sixty in height. The number without the cell was a hundred and sixteen or twenty; seventeen of which were standing in 1676.

On the south-west of Athens, is a beautiful structure, commonly called the Lantern of Demosthenes. It is a small round edifice of white marble, the roof of which is supported by six fluted columns of the Corinthian order, nine feet and a half high. In the space between the columns are panels of marble; the whole is covered with a cupola, carved with the resemblance of scales; and on the frieze are beautifully represented in relievo the labours of Hercules.

Here are also to be seen the temple of the Winds ; the remains of the theatre of Bacchus ; the temple of Augustus ; and the magnificent aqueduct of the emperor Adrian.

In the construction of these various edifices, the Grecian architects were fortunate in having materials of a quality proportioned to their own transcendant genius ; for the marble in Greece is esteemed one of the finest in the world.

A variety of emotions agitated my mind while I surveyed the antiquities of this memorable city, the birth-place of philosophy, and of almost all polite learning. My imagination attached a kind of sanctity to the ground which had been trodden by Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, and Aristides. Had Athens retained her liberty and civilization to the present time, even the ruins of their houses might still have attracted the veneration of posterity ; and been preserved with as much solicitude as was, by the Romans, the thatch-roofed palace of Romulus. On the banks of the celebrated Illyssus, a very small stream, there remains not a vestige of the Lyceum, so famous in the annals
of

of philosophy. The only memorial that I could discover, relative to literature, was a plain tomb-stone, apparently of great antiquity and said to be that of the tragic poet Æschylus. It is probable that the singular manner of his death has contributed to identify this monument. You know that he was killed by the fall of a tortoise, which an eagle dashed against his bald head, mistaking it for a stone.

The Turks here are in general more polite, social, and affable, than is common to their nation, and partake in some degree of the Greek character. The citizens of Athens are yet distinguished by a native quickness of apprehension. but which, not being duly cultivated, instead of producing genius, degenerates into cunning. They are reputed a most crafty, subtle, and acute race; and it has been jocosely affirmed, that no Jew can live among them, because he would be continually outwitted.

Provisions of every kind are here good and cheap ; the frequent and severe fasts having an influence on the markets. Hares, Game, and fowl, may be purchased for little more than the value of the powder and shot.

shot. Oranges, lemons, and citrons, grow in the gardens: the grapes and melons are excellent, as are also the figs, which were celebrated of old. The wines are wholesome, but the pitch infused to preserve them, communicates a taste which proves at first disagreeable to strangers. When the olives blacken, vast flights of pigeons, thrushes, and other birds repair to the groves for food. Wild turkies are here not uncommon, and partridges very frequent. In winter, woodcocks likewise abound; descending, after snow has fallen on the mountains, into the plain, and as suddenly retiring. In the time of frost, they enter the gardens of the town in great distress, rather than cross the sea, and are sometimes taken with the hand. Snipes, teal, wild-geon, ducks, and the like, are also found in great plenty.

The large horned owl, the favourite bird of Minerva, and which the ancient Athenians placed as her companion in her temple in the Acropolis, is here also to be seen. This species of bird is as ravenous as an eagle, and if pressed by hunger, will attack lambs and hares.

Many

Many of the ancient wells yet remain all over Attica. Some are seen in the vineyards and gardens nearly in their pristine state. They consist of a circular rim of marble, about a yard high, standing on a square pavement; adorned not inelegantly with wreathed flutings on the outside; or plain, with mouldings at the top and bottom.

The olive-groves are now, as anciently, a principal source of the riches of Athens; and the honey of Attica continues to maintain its repute, particularly that of Hy-mettus. The wild beasts which find shelter in the mountains greatly annoy the shepherds, who constantly guard their folds with large fierce dogs. Anciently the person who killed a wolf, was entitled by a law of Solon to a reward, if a female, to one drachma, or seven pence halfpenny; if a male, to five drachmas. Afterwards a talent, or one hundred and eighty pounds sterling, was paid for a young wolf, and double that sum for one full grown. The peasant now produces the skin in the bazar or market, and is recompensed by voluntary contribution.

In the east part of Attica, on the lofty Promontory of Sunium, stood the temple of Minerva Sunias, visible from afar on the sea. This structure was of white marble, and had the same proportions with the Parthenon before-mentioned, but greatly inferior in magnitude. The order is the Doric, and it appears to have been a fabric of exquisite beauty. It had six columns in front. Nine columns were standing on the south-west side in the year 1676, and five on the opposite, with two antæ or pilasters at the south end, and part of the Pronaos. The number is now twelve, besides two in front, and one of the antæ.

Ten miles south-east of Athens lies the field of Marathon, famous for the victory there obtained by the Athenians over the Persians, under the command of Miltiades. This celebrated plain is long and narrow, and the soil reputed exceedingly fertile. The barley which it produces was anciently named Achillean, perhaps from its tallness; and at present it yields corn of the most luxuriant growth. The principal barrow, probably that of the gallant Athenians, mentioned by Pausanias, still towers above the level

level of the plain. It is of light fine earth, and has a bush or two growing on it. At a small distance northward, is a square base-ment of white marble, perhaps part of the trophy erected by the Athenians ; but we now look in vain for the pillars on which the names were recorded.

About fifteen miles north-west of Athens, on the west bank of the Cephissus, near the sea-coast, lie the ruins of Eleusis, a city that contended with Athens for empire, until it was taken by Theseus. Here stood the magnificent temple of Ceres, where the Eleusinian mysteries were performed. Some marbles uncommonly massive, and some pieces of the columns remain on the spot. The breadth of the cell is about a hundred and fifty feet ; the length, including the pronaos and portico, two hundred and sixteen feet ; and the diameter of the columns, which are fluted, six inches from the bottom of the shafts, is six feet and a half. The Temple had ten columns in the front, which was to the east. The peribolus, or enclosure, which surrounded it on the north-east and on the south-side, measures three hundred and eighty-seven feet
in

in length, from north to south, and three hundred and twenty-eight feet in breadth from east to west. Between the wall of the enclosure and temple, and the wall of the citadel, was a passage forty-two feet six inches wide, which led to the summit of a high rock at the north-west angle of the enclosure, on which are visible the traces of a temple *in antis*, in length seventy-four feet six inches from north to south, and in breadth fifty-four feet. It was perhaps the temple sacred to Triptolemus. This spot commands a very extensive view of the plain and bay.

At a small distance from the north end of the enclosure is a heap of marble, consisting of fragments of the Doric and Ionic orders; the remains probably of the temples of Diana Propylæa, and of Neptune. Near it is the bust of a colossal statue of Ceres. She carries on her head a basket, carved on the outside with handfuls of wheat-ears, roses, and bundles of poppies. A basis, supposed to belong to the statue, lies at a little distance from it, on the sides of which is represented the procession of Ceres, in basso-relievo. The procession,
you

you know, was made by the Athenians in commemoration of this goddess rambling about the world in search of her daughter Proserpine, stolen by Pluto, after she had lighted her torches at Mount Etna; the whole company having torches in their hands. A well, yet in the village, may be that which was called Callichorus, where the women of Elufis were accustomed to dance in honour of Ceres.

Delphi, the modern Castri, stands on the south-side of Mount Parnassus, about half way to the top. This celebrated place was much resorted to by the ancients, on account of the temple of Apollo, and the dark cave whence the Pythian priestesses used to deliver her oracles sitting upon a tripos. The mountain Parnassus appears with two tops, from one of which, called Kyampeia, the Delphians threw the famous *Æsop*. Between the two summits rises a spring, supposed to be the fountain of Castalia. The descent is by some marble steps, and the water, from its agreeable coolness, is highly refreshing to a traveller.

In the neighbourhood of Parnassus is Mount Helicon, likewise consecrated to Apollo.

Apollo. They are both rocky hills, and are covered with snow during a great part of the year.

The most noted river in this province is the Achelous, called by Homer the prince of rivers. It rises in Mount Pindus, and running southward, discharges itself into the bay of Corinth.

Corinth stands in an elevated situation, with an easy descent towards the Gulf of Lepanto, the ancient Naupactus. Except in the bazar or market-place, the houses are interspersed with cypresses, corn-fields, and gardens of lemon and orange trees. The chief remains of antiquity are at the south west corner of the town, where we meet with eleven columns supporting their architraves, of the Doric order, fluted, and wanting in height near half the common proportion to the diameter. Within them is one taller, though not entire, which probably contributed to sustain the roof. They are not marble, but stone. This ruin is believed to be of very remote antiquity, and a portion of a fabric erected not only before the Greek city was destroyed, but before the Doric order had attained to maturity.

turity. Perhaps it is the Siryphéum mentioned by Strabo.

Corinth was the most illustrious of all the Greek cities, and grew to great power and riches by the commodiousness of its situation. But imprudently insulting the Roman ambassadors, it was involved in a war with that nation, under the conduct of Mummius, who took and burnt the city to the ground. In this conflagration different metals running together produced a third, which was held in great esteem, and called *as Corinthium*. The city was afterwards restored by Cæsar to its ancient splendor, and made a Roman colony. The present inhabitants are generally Christians, and it is the see of a Greek archbishop. The air of Corinth is reputed to be bad in summer, and in autumn exceedingly unhealthy; but the adjacent country abounds with corn, wine, and oil.

The narrowest part of the Isthmus of Corinth is about six miles over, and here, on a mount called Oneius, were celebrated the Isthmian games every five years, in honour of Neptune. The stadium, however, is not visible; but some fragments remain
of

of the ancient buildings. A few vestiges may be traced of the wall built by the Lacedæmonians across the Isthmus from sea to sea, to secure the Peloponesian peninsula from the incursions of the Athenians. Attempts to unite the two gulphs by cutting across the Isthmus, were successively made, without effect, by Demetrius, Julius Cæsar, Caligula, and Nero, and afterwards by Herodes Atticus, a private person.

Of the celebrated Olympia, now called Longinico, hardly any vestige now remains; but it will ever be held in veneration for its precious æra by the chronologer and historian. Here the games were celebrated the beginning of every fifth year; a period of four years complete being called an Olympiad.

I have already mentioned Mount Athos, now commonly called Monto Santo, as lying in a peninsula which extends into the Egean Sea. It is indeed a chain of mountains, reaching the whole length of the peninsula, seven Turkish miles in length, and three in breadth; but what is properly called Athos is only a single mountain. This is so lofty, that on the top, as
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the ancients relate, the sun rising was beheld four hours sooner than by the inhabitants of the coast ; and at the solstice, its shadow reached into the agora or market-place of Myryna, a town in L  mnos, which island was distant eighty-seven miles eastward. There are twenty-two convents on Mount Athos, besides a vast number of cells and grottos, with the habitations of no less than six thousand monks and hermits ; though the proper hermits, who live in grottos, are not above twenty. The other monks are anchorites, or such as live in cells. Those Greek monks, who call themselves inhabitants of the Holy Mountain, are by no means slothful people ; for besides their daily religious avocations, they cultivate the olive and vineyards, and are likewise tradesmen, as carpenters, masons, taylors, &c. It is observed that these men lead a very austere life. They seldom eat animal food, and their fasts are many and severe. This course of temperance, with the healthfulness of the air, render longevity so common in this part, that many of them live above a hundred years. The same observation was made by the an-

cients: for Elian informs us, that the mountain in general, and particularly the summit, was accounted very healthy, and conducive to long life; whence the inhabitants were called *Macrobiæ*, or long-lived. We are further informed by Philostratus, in the Life of Apollonius, that numbers of philosophers used to retire to this mountain, for the better contemplation of the heavens and of nature; and it is probable that from those examples the monks were induced to build their cells.

Speaking of Mount Athos, I am reminded to make some mention of the animals most common in Greece; and have learned from my present excursion, that in order to know the antiquities of a country, we ought to have a competent acquaintance with its natural history. I have always been surprised that the ancient Greek sculptors represented the God Pan as having the head of a goat, which, among us, you know, is an animal of no great consideration. But the case is otherwise in Greece. There I found that goats are the most valuable part of the animal creation to the inhabitants, for the nutrition
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they afford both of milk and flesh. I know not any kind of meat more delicious than a Grecian kid. It was probably, therefore, out of compliment to that deity, that they distinguished him with such a cornuted head, though to us the representation appears whimsical and ludicrous. I imagine that some similar reason induced the Egyptians to represent their god Anubis with the head of a dog.

The black cattle in Greece are of a large kind; and Thessalian horses are excellent both in point of beauty and service. Large eagles abound in many parts of Turkey, and their feathers are held in great esteem for arrows by the Turkish archers. Partridges are very plentiful, as well as all other kinds of fowls and quadrupeds.

LETTER XXX.

ON approaching Constantinople, the capital of Turkey in Europe, I was struck with the grandeur of its situation, and the magnificent prospect it enjoys. It stands on the European side of the Bosphorus, and was built upon the ruins of the ancient Byzantium, by the Roman emperor Constantine the Great, as a more inviting situation than Rome for the seat of empire. It became afterwards the capital of the Greek empire; and having escaped the destructive rage of the barbarous nations, it was the greatest, as well as the most beautiful city in Europe, and the only one, during the Gothic ages, in which there remained any vestige of civilization and elegance. While it remained in the possession of the Greek emperors, it was the only mart in Europe for
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the commodities of the East Indies ; and it derived great advantages from its being the rendezvous of the Crusaders. Being then in the meridian of its glory, the European writers, in those ages, speak of it with astonishment ; and they express the same opinion of its comparative grandeur, as Tityrus did of Rome.

*Verum hæc tantum alias inter caput extulit urbes
Quantum lenta solent inter viburna cupressi.*

Constantinople is certainly at this day one of the finest cities in the world in respect of its situation and port. It is built in a triangular form, with the seraglio standing on a part of one of the angles ; whence there is a prospect of the delightful coast of Asia Minor, superior to any thing I have ever seen. By the seraglio I do not mean the apartments allotted to the Grand Seignior's wives and concubines, but the whole enclosure of the Ottoman palace, which is of great extent. The wall which surrounds the Seraglio is thirty feet high, and is built with battlements and towers, in the ancient style of fortifications. There are in it nine gates, but only two of them

magnificent; and from one of these the Ottoman court takes the name of the *Porte*, or the *Sublime Porte*, in all public transactions and records.

The most regular part of the city is the *Befostin*, enclosed with walls and gates, where the merchants have their shops arranged in beautiful order. In another part of the city, is the Hippodrome, an oblong square of four hundred paces by a hundred and fifty, where they exercise on horseback. On the opposite side of the *Porte* are four towns, viz. *Pera*, *Galata*, *Pacha*, and *Tophana*, which are all considered as a part of the suburbs. *Pera* is the residence of the foreign ambassadors, and all the Franks or strangers; for none of these are permitted to live in the city. But no stranger can regret this restraint, as *Pera* is so much better aired than the city, where the streets are generally narrow. *Galata* is also mostly inhabited by Franks or Jews.

In the markets for live cattle, slaves of all ages and both sexes are publicly sold, who are generally Christians of the Greek church. Amongst the most beautiful girls thus exposed, the Turks frequently recruit
their

their harems, employing old women to examine, whether those they are inclined to purchase retain their virginity.

Constantinople abounds with antiquities; among which is the tomb of Constantine the Great, still entire. The mosque of St. Sophia, once a Christian church, is thought in some respects to exceed in grandeur of architecture St. Peter's at Rome.

By the most moderate computation, Constantinople is supposed to contain about six hundred thousand inhabitants, of whom nearly three fourths are said to be Greeks and Armenians, and the rest are Jews and Turks. This city is much exposed to fires, which often cause great devastation. One great cause of this calamity is the narrowness of the streets, with the structure likewise of the houses, which are generally built of wood. But it is suspected that these fires are sometimes wilfully occasioned by the Janizaries, who embrace the opportunity of committing depredations on the unfortunate sufferers.

Opposite to the Seraglio, on the Asian side, and about a mile and a half distant across the water, is Scutari, where the
Grand

Grand Seignior has a pleasure - house, adorned with a royal mosque.

The second city of the Turkish empire in Europe, is situated in a fine plain on the river Mariza, about a hundred and fifty miles north-west of Constantinople. The ancient name of this city was Orestes ; but being destroyed by an earthquake, it was rebuilt by the emperor Adrian, from whom it has since been denominated. It is about eight miles in circumference, and contains several grand mosques. The pleasantness of the place occasions it to be often visited by the grand Seignior, who has here a Seraglio equal in beauty, though not in extent, to that of Constantinople. This city was taken by the Turks in 1362, and became the seat of their empire, before they made a conquest of Constantinople.

In their buildings the modern Greeks observe the same disposition as the ancients. The men and women have separate apartments, called Audronitis, and Gynæconitis ; of which the latter, for the security of their wives, is always in the interior part of the building. There are no chimnies in the Greek houses. A brasier is placed in
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the middle of the room, that those who are not sufficiently warmed at a distance, may more conveniently draw near it ; and this utensil, as in ancient times, is placed upon a tripod.

To defend the face from the heat and smoke of the brasier, it is covered with a tendour, or square table ; over which is a carpet, with a cloth of silk, more or less magnificent. Round this apparatus, sofas or cushions are placed, for the accommodation of the company. The tendour is used chiefly by the ladies, while engaged at their embroidery, an employment which occupies the greater part of every day during the winter ; the remainder being spent in receiving the visits of their friends.

The Greek ladies, conformably to the custom of the ancients, present their hand to be kissed by their daughters, their slaves, and other persons who are their inferiors. The manner in which the girls salute those of their own sex and rank, is kissing the eyes, while they mutually take hold of each other's ears. This custom, as we find from Theocritus, is likewise very ancient.

The Greeks have an enthusiastic passion for black eyes; and the women still continue the custom of painting the eye-brows, and the hairs of the eye-lids, of a black colour, which they perform by means of a preparation of antimony and gall-nut.

At the marriages of the modern Greeks an epithalamium is still performed, and the celebrated torch of Hymen continues to blaze in the procession to the nuptial bed, near which it is afterwards placed, where it burns till the whole is consumed. If by any accident it should be extinguished, the most ominous prefaces would be drawn; on which account it is watched with as much care as the sacred fire formerly by the Vestals. Various other ceremonies attending the marriages of the ancient Greeks are likewise still practised. One custom, however, is peculiar to the moderns, which is, that by their religion they are enjoined continence the first night of marriage. This injunction was formerly established in some other countries of Europe, and was introduced at the fourth council of Carthage, in the year 398. As the priests had the power
of

of dispensation, the custom was probably the source of great emolument to that order.

Being now upon the point of leaving the continent of Turkey in Europe, I shall present you with a few stanzas, written in my passage through that celebrated country, which I could not quit without offering some sacrifice, however inconsiderable, to the muses. From the scene where this small piece of poetry was composed, I shall give it the name of a Grecian Ode.

First Orpheus rose, a mighty bard,
Whose genius got the high reward,
To sound the vocal shell :
With which, 'tis wond'rous to declare,
He trees and stones made dance in air,
And charm'd the powers of hell !

But this strange tale, however fam'd,
Means only that he mankind tam'd,
By reason, not by rhymes ;
'Twas sure a work not for a drone,
O! would to heav'n the art were known,
In these distracted times.

Next rose a bard in fame supreme,
Still gods and heroes were his theme,
On harp divinely strung:

Of

Of battles fierce, adventures rare,
And incidents without compare,
In strains sublime he sung.

To him, by fate, the boon was giv'n,
To mix with all the gods in heav'n,
When round the nectar flow'd;
And thence, with more than mortal pow'r,
When wrapt in the extatic hour,
His ardent fancy glow'd.

From sweet Ionia then there came
A sage, whom verse can hardly name,
But to the muses known:
O'er sea and land, he hid to gain,
On the Olympic crowded plain,
Historical renown.

Simple and pleasing was his style,
Nor rude, nor polish'd with the file
That owns the critic's laws:
Wide o'er the world his eyes he cast,
And various deeds through ages past,
From vague tradition draws.

Now Eloquence, whom all the Nine,
With ev'ry mental pow'r combine,
To form to high renown;
Rais'd her fam'd voice amidst the crowd,
Applauding Athens eccho'd loud,
And gave the laurel crown.

Again

Again the heav'nly Nine inspire ;
Apollo tunes the golden lyre,
To gain eternal praise :
Then Sappho soft, Alcæus strong,
And Pindar rapid, pour'd along
Their rich immortal lays.

Anacreon too, a jovial wight,
Harmonious verses would endite,
When Bacchus' raptures fir'd ;
Of love and wine he constant sung,
On wine and love the changes rung,
And by the grape inspir'd.

'Twas then the muse first trod the stage
With comic pow'r, and tragic rage,
That knew alike no bound :
To charm the heart with keen delight,
Or tears of transport to excite,
By sympathetic wound.

One, wisdom gaily to impart,
Pourtray'd with dext'rous strokes of art,
The follies of mankind :
The other, deep in passion skill'd,
With terror rous'd, with pity thrill'd,
And humaniz'd the mind.

While Genius thus display'd her pow'rs,
In all that charms the ling'ring hours,
With pleasures high refin'd ;

Bright

Bright reason, with celestial ray,
Quick darted in effulgent day,
On the benighted mind.

Then rose th' illustrious moral Sage
Whose name's rever'd through ev'ry age,
To whom the charge was giv'n,
By force of truth and converse gay,
To teach mankind the arduous way
To virtue and to heav'n.

Then, too, the splendid arts arose,
The marble breathes, the canvass glows,
With mimic life inspir'd :
Uphaves the column'd pile sublime,
Destin'd to triumph over time,
By all the world admir'd.

Such were the arts, and heav'nly strains,
Which spread o'er Greece's hills and plains,
In those transcendant days,
When all Castalia's sluices flow'd,
And all the fire of fancy glow'd,
With ardor for the bays.

With trees and men, in Homer's page,
Leaves still to leaves, and age to age,
Succeed in endless store :
'Tis nature's impulse o'er this ball ;
But oh ! when arts and empires fall,
They fall to rise no more.

LETTER

L E T T E R XXXI.

A Tour through the islands belonging to Turkey in Europe, is one of the most pleasant excursions which a classical traveller can make ; and as you are conversant with ancient history, of which they form a distinguished part, my present letter shall be devoted to a brief account of their present state.

Negropont, the ancient Eubœa, lies on the eastern coast of Achaïa, or Livadia, and is ninety miles long, by twenty-five in breadth. Here the Turkish gallees generally lie.

The most remarkable circumstance respecting this island is the tides of the Eurippus, which have baffled the investigation of all natural enquirers, from Aristotle to the present time. Those tides are regular from
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the last three days of the old moon to the eighth of the new. The ninth they become irregular, and continue so to the thirteenth inclusively. The fourteenth they again become regular, and observe stated periods till the one and twentieth exclusively, when they return to a variable course, in which they continue until the twenty-seventh day. When they are irregular, they flow twelve, thirteen, or fourteen times, and ebb as often in twenty-four or twenty-five hours; at which times the the water is about half an hour rising, and three quarters of an hour falling. But when the tides are regular, they observe the same rule as the tides in the ocean. In the Euripus, however, the tide never rises above a foot, or little more. The island itself is very fertile, producing corn, wine, fruit, and cattle in great abundance, so that all kinds of provisions are extremely cheap.

Lemnos, or Italimene, lies in the northern part of the Egean sea, or Archipelago, and is almost a square of twenty-five miles each side. It likewise produces corn and wine, but its principal riches arise from

from its mineral earth, called *Terra Lemnia*, or *Sigillata*, much used in medicine. It receives the latter appellation from being sealed up by the Turks, who draw from it a considerable revenue.

Tonedos is situated opposite to Old Troy, and is mentioned by Virgil as the place to which the Greeks retired, and left the Trojans in a fatal security. If we give credit to his authority, it was formerly an opulent place.

*Est in conspectu Tenedos, notissima samis
Insula, dives opum, Priami dum regna manebant :
Nunc tantum sinus, & statio mala fide carinis.*

Sciro, formerly Skyros, is situated about twenty miles north-east of Negropont, and is eighty miles in circumference. The soil near the coast is very fertile, but further up, the country is rocky and barren, yielding only pasturage for goats. The number of inhabitants is computed at one hundred thousand, four-fifths of whom are Greeks, and the rest Jews, Turks. and Catholics. Their wealth consists in milk, butter, wine, and silk, of which they make annually to

the amount of a hundred thousand crowns.

The mastich in this island being reckoned the best in the world, is entirely appropriated to the use of the Grand Seignior's Seraglio, where the ladies chew it, in order to whiten their teeth, and render their breath more sweet.

Partridges are here in great numbers; so tame, that they feed all day in the fields like poultry, and at night return to the farmer's house on the call of a whistle.

This island was the country of king Lycomedes, where Achilles, in the habit of a girl, was educated, and lay concealed, to prevent his going to the siege of Troy. It was also famous for the exile of Theseus, king of Athens. Pallas, who was protectress of this island, had a temple on the sea-coast, of which some columns yet remaining are supposed to have been a part.

Lesbos, or Mytelene is about sixty miles long, and twenty-five broad, and contains upwards of a hundred villages; one of which, Erisso, is supposed to be the Erissus of the ancients. I surveyed this beautiful island with particular pleasure. It is fa-

mous

mous for the number of philosophers and poets which it has produced. Among the most celebrated of the natives, were Pittacus, one of the wise men ; Sappho, the poetress ; and Arion, who is said to have charmed the dolphin with his music. Epicurus and Aristotle read lectures here. It produces corn, figs, oil, and wine ; the last of which was much admired by Aristotle, Horace, and Strabo.

Engina, or Engia, is situated in the Gulph of Engia, to which it gives name, between Achaia and the Morea. It is a fruitful country, about thirty miles in circumference, and abounds with partridges to that degree, that the people are summoned annually to destroy their eggs, for the preservation of their corn.

On the summit of the mountain Panhel- lenius are the remains of a magnificent temple, dedicated to Jupiter, and visited from all parts of Greece. It was of the Doric order. Twenty-one of the exterior columns are yet standing, with two in the front of the Pronaos, and of the Proticum, and likewise five of those which formed the ranges within the cell. The situation of

this ruin on a lonely mountain, at a distance from the sea, has preserved it from total demolition amidst all the changes and accidents of numerous centuries ; and it has a claim to be considered as the most ancient monument of the heroic ages.

This island was the kingdom of *Æacus*, and the inhabitants were called *myrmidones*, or a nation of ants, from their great application to agriculture. It formerly vied with Athens for naval power, and at the sea-fight of *Salamis* disputed the palm of victory with that republic. This rivalry induced the Athenians to an act, that was reproachful to the humanity of a people so much civilized. They passed a decree to cut off the thumbs of all such of the *Æginetæ* as were fit for sea-service.

Porus, another island in the Gulph of *Engia*, is eighteen miles in circumference, and remarkable only for the banishment of *Demosthenes*, who here poisoned himself, to avoid falling into the hands of *Antipater*.

Coluri, the ancient *Salamis*, is situated in the same bay, seven miles south of Athens, and separated from the Continent by a strait about a mile in breadth. This
little

little island, not above ten miles long, and five or six broad, was the kingdom of Ajax, the son of Telamou, so famous in the history of the Trojan war. It was also the country of Solon, the celebrated law-giver of Athens.

Scio, or Chios, lies eighty miles west of Smyrna, and is about a hundred miles in circumference. This island, though rocky and mountainous, produces oil and excellent wine, but no corn, and is supposed to contain upwards of a hundred thousand inhabitants; of whom only about ten thousand are Turks, the rest being Greek, who have here a great number of churches. The women in this, and almost all the other Greek islands, have in all ages been celebrated for their beauty; and their persons have been the most perfect models of symmetry to painters and statuaries. Those are still the most striking ornaments of Chios. They commonly sit at their doors and windows, twisting cotton or silk, or employed in spinning and needlework; and they are not backward in accosting strangers with familiarity. They bade us welcome as we passed. On Sundays and Holidays

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days the streets are filled with them in groups. They wear short petticoats, reaching only to their knees, with white silk or cotton hose. Their head-dress, which is peculiar to the island, is a kind of turban, made of linen, extremely thin and white. Their slippers are chiefly yellow, with a knot of red fringe at the heel. Some wear them fastened with a thong. Their garments of silk are of various colours; and their whole appearance was so fantastic and lively, as to afford us much entertainment.

The Turks inhabit a separate quarter, and their women are concealed. Among the poets said to be born in this island, the inhabitants reckon Homer, and shew a little square house, which they call Homer's school.

Samos lies opposite to Ephesus, on the coast of Asia Minor, about seven miles from the Continent. It is thirty miles long, and fifteen broad. Besides wine, which is in high request, it produces oil, pomegranates, and silk. It was the native country of Juno, Samia the Sybil, and Pythagoras. The ruins of Juno's temple, and of the ancient

cient city of Samos, are the finest remains of antiquity in the Levant.

South-west of Samos lies Patmos, one of the smallest of the islands in the Archipelago, and extremely barren. It has, however, a commodious harbour. To this place St. John the Evangelist was banished; and the monks who are upon the island shew a cave where he is supposed to have written the Apocalypse.

The Cyclades islands lie in a cluster round Delos, the chief of them, which is situated about midway between the Continents of Europe and Asia. Delos is not more than six miles in circumference, but is one of the most celebrated of the Grecian islands, as being the native spot of Apollo and Diana. Notwithstanding its ancient glory, however, it is now almost destitute of inhabitants; and we meet with no vestige of the temples of either of those deities.

Paros is one of the Cyclades. Like most of the Greek islands, it contains magnificent ruins of antiquity; but is chiefly celebrated for the beauty and whiteness of its marble, as well as for being the birth-place of the famous statuaries, Phidias and Praxiteles,

iteles. From this island were brought the Arundelian marbles, or Patian Chronicle, which I mentioned in my letter on England.

Cerigo, or Cytherea, lies near the Morea, on the east, and is between forty and fifty miles in circumference, but rocky and mountainous. It is chiefly remarkable for being the favorite residence of Venus, and the native country of Helen, who gave rise to the war of Troy.

Santorin, formerly called Calista, and afterwards Thera, is one of the most southerly islands in the Archipelago. Though seemingly covered with pumice stones, yet by the industry of the inhabitants, who are about ten thousand, it produces barley and wine, with some wheat. Near this island another of the same name, rose from the bottom of the sea, in 1707. At the time of its ascent there was an earthquake, attended with the most dreadful lightning and thunder, and ebullitions of the sea for several days. When it arose, it was a mere volcano, but the burning soon ceased. It is elevated about two hundred feet above the sea, and at the time of its emerging, was
about

about five miles in circumference, but it has since increased. Several other islands in the Archipelago appear to have had the like origin ; but the sea in their neighbourhood is so deep as not to be fathomed.

The famous island of Rhodes lies about seven leagues south-west of the coast of Asia Minor, being about sixty miles long, and twenty-five broad. This island is healthful and pleasant, and abounds with wine and fruit, but the inhabitants import their corn from the neighbouring countries. The chief town, which bears the same name, stands on the side of a hill fronting the sea, and is three miles in circumference, interspersed with gardens, minurets, churches, and towers. The harbour is the Grand Seignior's principal arsenal for shipping, and the place is esteemed among the strongest fortresses belonging to the Turks. At the mouth of the harbour of Rhodes, which was fifty fathoms wide, anciently stood the Colossus of brass, which was deservedly accounted one of the wonders of the world. One foot being placed on each side of the harbour, ships passed between its legs ; and it held

in one hand a light-house for the direction of mariners. The face of the Colussus represented the sun, to whom this image was dedicated; and its height was about a hundred and thirty-five feet. The Knights of St. John of Jerusalem, after losing Palestine, took this island from the Turks in 1308; but losing it in 1522, after a brave resistance, they retired to Malta.

Candia, the ancient Crete, lies almost equally distant from Europe, Asia, and Africa. It is about two hundred miles long, and sixty broad. This island was anciently renowned for its hundred cities, for its being the birth-place of Jupiter, and the seat of legislature to all Greece; but the jurisdiction of Minos and Rhadamanthus has long since ceased. About the middle of the island stands the famous Mount Ida, which is no better than a barren rock; and nothing but the luxuriant imagination of Homer ever covered it with flowers. Lethe, the river of oblivion, is a torpid stream. Some of the vallies, however, produce wine, fruits, and corn, all of them excellent in their kinds.

Cyprus lies in the Levant, about seven leagues from the coast of Syria and Palestine. It is a hundred and fifty miles long, and seventy broad. Here is one of those mountains called Olympus, but no springs or rivers except what the rains produce; and there was such a deficiency of this resource, during thirty years, in the reign of Constantine the Great, that the inhabitants were obliged to abandon the island for some time. Its natural produce, however, is so rich, that many European nations have consuls and factors residing upon it. It affords great plenty of grapes, which yield excellent wine. Cotton also, of a very fine quality, is here cultivated, besides oil, silk, and turpentine. The capital is Nicosia, which lies in the middle of the island, and is the see of a Greek archbishop. Its ancient capital was Famagusta, which has a good harbour. This island was formerly famous for the worship of Venus, the Cyprian goddess; and its female inhabitants seem not to have degenerated from their ancestors as devotees to Venus. Paphos, that ancient seat of pleasure and corruption, is one of the divisions of the island; and in it are
some

some ruins, supposed to be those of the temple of Venus. During the time of the Crusades, Cyprus was a rich and flourishing kingdom, inhabited by Christians, but the oppression of the Turks has impoverished it to such a degree, that the revenue they draw from it, I was well assured, does not amount to fifteen hundred pounds sterling.

Of the islands in the Ionian sea, the most considerable are Zante and Corfu. The former has a considerable trade, especially in currants, grapes, and wine; the latter is the residence of the Governor General over all the islands, which are in general fruitful and lately belonged to the Venetians. Among the islands of smaller note is Isola del Compare, which would not deserve to be mentioned, had it not been the ancient Ithaca, the birth-place and kingdom of Ulysses.

LETTER

I. E T T E R XXXII.

AFTER travelling over the various kingdoms and states of Europe, I now arrive in a different quarter of the world, upon the continent of Asia; which exceeds both Europe and Africa in the extent of its territories. Whatever partiality we may entertain for Europe, as the most civilized part of the globe, it is certain that Asia excels both the other quarters abovementioned, in many particulars; these are, the serenity of its air, the fertility of its soil, the deliciousness of its fruits, the fragrancy and balsamic qualities of its plants, spices, and gums, the salubrity of its drugs, the quantity, variety, beauty, and value of its gems, the richness, of its metals, and the fineness of its silks and cottons

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It was in Asia that the all-wise Creator planted the garden of Eden, in which he formed the parents of the human race. Asia became again the nursery of the world after the deluge, when the descendants of Noah dispersed their various colonies into all the other parts of the globe. It was in Asia that God placed his once favourite people, the Hebrews, whom he enlightened by revelations delivered by the prophets, and to whom he gave the oracles of truth. It was here that the great merciful work of our redemption was accomplished by his divine Son; and it was thence that the light of his glorious gospel was carried with amazing rapidity into all the known nations by his disciples and followers. Here the first Christian churches were founded, and the Christian faith miraculously propagated and cherished, even with the blood of innumerable martyrs. It was in Asia that the first edifices were reared, and the first empires founded, while the other parts of the world were inhabited only by wild animals.

On all these accounts, this quarter claims a superiority; though it must be owned that a great change has happened in that
part

part of it called Turkey, which has lost much of its ancient splendor, and from the most populous and best cultivated spot in Asia, is become a wild and uncultivated desert. The other parts of Asia continue much in their former condition, the soil being as remarkable for its fertility, as most of the inhabitants for their indolence, effeminacy, and luxury. This effeminacy appears to be chiefly owing to the warmth of the climate, though in some measure heightened by custom and education; and the several degrees of it are more or less evident, as the nations happen to be seated nearer to, or farther from the north. We find that the Tartars, who live nearly in the same latitudes with us, are as brave, hardy, and vigorous, as any European nation. What is wanting in the strength of personal constitution among the Chinese, Moguls, Indians, and all the inhabitants of the most southern regions, is in a great measure compensated by the vivacity of their minds, and ingenuity in various kinds of workmanship, which our most skilful mechanics have in vain endeavoured to imitate.

This

This vast extent of territory was successively governed in past times, by the Assyrians, the Medes, the Persians, and the Greeks ; but the immense regions of India and China were little known to Alexander or the conquerors of the ancient world. Upon the decline of those empires, great part of Asia submitted to the Roman arms ; and afterwards, in the middle ages, the successors of Mahomet, or, as they are usually called Saracens, founded in Asia, in Africa, and Europe, a more extensive empire than that of Cyrus, Alexander, or even the Roman when in the height of its power and splendor. The Saracen greatness ended at the death of Tamerlane ; when the Turks, victorious on every side, took possession of the middle regions of Asia, which they still enjoy.

Besides the countries possessed by the Turks and Russians, Asia contains at present three large empires, the Chinese, the Mogul, and the Persian, upon which the less extensive kingdoms and sovereignties of Asia generally depend.

The prevailing government in this quarter of the world is absolute monarchy.

If

If any of them can be said to enjoy some share of liberty, it is the wandering tribes, such as the Tartars and Arabs.

Turkey, Arabia, Persia, part of Tartary, and part of India, profess Mahometanism. In the other parts of Tartary, India, China, Japan, and the Asiatic islands, they are generally heathens and idolaters. Jews are to be found every where in Asia.

Natolia, or Asia Minor, comprehending various provinces celebrated in Greek and Roman history, is one of the most desirable countries in the world, for the purity of its air, the natural fertility of the soil, and the beautiful prospects it affords; but with all these advantages, it is now, through the Turkish indolence and tyranny, either forsaken, or become a theatre of ruins. The sites of the ancient cities are still discernible. Towards the northern extremity stood the celebrated city of Troy, immortalized in the poems of Homer and Virgil.

The ruins of the ancient Ilium were sought for in vain in the time of Julius Cæsar.

tota teguntur.

Pergama dymetis : etiam periere ruina. LUCAN.

Of the Troja Nova, which is supposed to have been built by Alexander the Great,

or at least much enlarged by him and Lyſimachus, there are ſtill ſome noble remains; but the ingenious Mr. Wood ſtrongly contends, that this place muſt be at a conſiderable diſtance from the famous Ilium. This opinion he founds upon an examination of the preſent ſtate of the Troad, compared with the topographical ſcenes, and ſome of the incidents in the Iliad. The preſent Troy, he obſerves, ſtands upon the ſea; but this is not the Troy of Homer; for that was higher up, and looked towards the Hellespont, not towards the Ægean. He is certain that the Scamander is conſiderably changed from what it was in the days of Homer. The hot ſpring, according to the poet, was one of the ſources of this river: but it is now much lower than the preſent ſource, and has no communication with the Scamander. The fountains whence the river took its riſe were, according to Homer, cloſe by the walls of the city; but the ground about the fountain, it is obſerved by Mr. Wood, is too ſteep and rugged for the ſituation of a city. Such a ſituation, he remarks, cannot be made to accord with the purſuit of Hector, nor with
many

many other incidents in the poem. The distance also of the present source from the Hellespont is too great to admit of the actions of the day. For these reasons Mr. Wood fixes the situation of the city lower down than the springs of the Scamander; and he likewise ventures to cut off some miles from our ancient map of the Trojan plain, upon a presumption, supported by the natural history of the country, that a great part of the plain, which extends to the Hellespont, has been produced since the time of Homer.

It is not to be questioned, that in the course of near three thousand years, the Troad, as well as other parts on the Ionian coast, has undergone great alterations; but it would perhaps be precipitate to determine those alterations, from the dissimilarity between the present state of this territory, and the representation of it in Homer. Nothing is more probable, than that much of the scenery in the Iliad existed only in the poet's imagination; and that this was the case, there seems additional reason to conclude, from the admired episode at the beginning of the twelfth book, intended to ob-

viate the question, why no ruins remained of the Grecian wall? This passage being so pertinent to the subject in controversy, deserves to be quoted.

“ This stood, while Hector and Achilles rag’d,
While sacred Troy the warring hosts engag’d :
But when her sons were slain, her city burn’d,
And what surviv’d of Greece to Greece return’d :
Then Neptune and Apollo shook the shore,
And Ida’s summits pour’d their wat’ry store ;
Rheius and Rhodius then unite their rills,
Careus roaring down the stony hills,
Æsepus, Granicus, with mingled force,
And Xanthus, foaming from its fruitful source ;
And gulphy Simois, rolling to the main
Helmets and shields, and god-like heroes slain :
These turn’d by Phœbus from their wonted ways,
Delug’d the rampires nine continual days :
The weight of water saps the yielding wall,
And to the sea the floating bulwarks fall.
Incessant cataracts the thund’rer pours,
And half the skies descend in sluicy show’rs ;
The god of ocean marching stern before,
With his huge trident wounds the trembling shore ;
Vast stones and piles from their foundation heaves,
Andwhelms the smoaky ruin in the waves.
Now smooth’d by sand, and levell’d by the flood,
No fragment tells where once the ruin stood.

But

But whatever increase or change the plain may have received since the siege of Troy, the adjacent mountains could not easily be affected by the cause of any such alteration. We therefore find that Mount Gargarus, Cotylus, and Lectum, have only changed their names, and continue to make the same conspicuous figure, which distinguished them in the Iliad. The description given by Homer of Mount Ida likewise corresponds with its present state ; for its numerous summits are still covered with pine-trees, and it abounds with fountains.

Monf. Chevalier, a Frenchman, published a few years ago an interesting account of the Troad, in which he contends that the present situation of the Plain of Troy corresponds exactly with the description of it in the Iliad. It is still diversified by a few barrows ; and into the largest of these, which he conjectured to be that of Achilles, Monf. Chevalier informs us that he made an opening. He affirms that he found in this repository the identical urn mentioned by Homer, which Achilles received of his mother Thetis, and destined to contain his own ashes, with those of his

friend Patroclus. But I wish, that for the satisfaction of the public, Mr. Chevalier, in order to corroborate his own testimony, had procured the attendance of some respectable gentlemen from Constantinople, to be witnesses of the discovery. He doubtless might have formed a party for that purpose among the foreign ambassadors at the Porte, who would have made so short an excursion with pleasure, to gratify antiquarian curiosity.

According to Mr. Wood's computation, the ancient kingdom of Priam includes in its circumference about five hundred English miles. Of this above two hundred are a maritime tract, washed by the Propontis, Hellespont, and Ægean Seas. Few spots of equal extent enjoy more natural advantages. The climate is temperate and healthful; the hills are covered with woods, and the plains, which are fertile, well watered. The country produces oil; and in ancient times some parts of it were famous for wine. There are mineral waters and hot baths, which the natives use for several disorders; and the mountains contain mines,
which

which probably might be wrought to advantage.

In this quarter of Asia Minor, lies Lydia, or Meonia, the kingdom of the celebrated Cræsus. The capital city, Sardis, was situated on the river Pactolus, about seventy miles east of Smyrna. It was once the finest city in Asia-Minor, and one of the seven churches mentioned in Scripture ; but being demolished by an earthquake, is now in ruins. The site of it, which at present is named Sart, is green and flowery. Coming from the east, we have the ground-plot of the theatre on our left hand, with a small brook running before it. This structure was in a brow, which unites with the hill of the Acropolis. Some pieces of the vault, which supported seats, and completed the semicircle, remain. Going on we pass by remnants of massy buildings ; marble pieces sustaining heavy fragments of arches of brick ; and more indistinct ruins. These are in the plain before the hill of the Acropolis. On the right-hand near the road, is a portion of a large edifice. The walls are standing of two large, lofty, and very long rooms, with a space between them, as of a passage.

passage. This is conjectured to have been part of the house of Cræsus. The walls in this ruin have double arches beneath, and consist chiefly of brick, with some layers of stone. The bricks are extremely fine and good, of various sizes, some flat and broad, and were united with a cement so tenacious, that it is said to be unsusceptible of decay.

Not far from the west end is the celebrated river Pactolus, which rises in Mount Tmolus, and once flowed through the middle of the Agora, or market-place of Sardis, in its way to the Hermus, bringing down from the mountain bits of gold. The treasures of Cræsus and his ancestors were collected chiefly from the river, but in time the source failed. The Pactolus, after snow or rain, rushes down in a torrent; but at other times the stream is shallow. The bed is sandy, in colour inclining to a reddish yellow.

In ascending the Acropolis, we are suddenly struck with a view of the ruin of a temple, in a retired situation, beyond the Pactolus. Five columns are standing, one without the capital, and another with the capital awry. It is conjectured that this was the

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the temple dedicated to the local goddess Cybele, or Cybele, and which was damaged in the conflagration of Sardis by the Milesians. It was of the Ionic order, and had eight columns in front. The shafts are fluted, and the capitals designed and carved with exquisite taste and skill. It is impossible to behold, without deep regret, this imperfect remnant of so beautiful and glorious an edifice.

Before Sardis, on the opposite side of the plain, are many barrows on an eminence. Near the lake Gygoëa, five miles from Sardis, was the burying-place of the Lydian kings; and here the barrows are of various sizes. Four or five are distinguished by their superior magnitude. All of them are covered with green turf, and retain their conical form. One of these barrows is inferior only to the work of the Egyptians and Babylonians. It was the monument of Halyartes, the father of Cræsus.

Not far from thence is Mount Sipylus, to a phenomenon extant in which, the fable of the transformation of Niobe, the daughter of Tantalus, is indebted for its origin. This phenomenon is found to be the effect
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of a certain portion of light and shade on a part of Sipylus, perceivable at a particular point of view.

Other towns in this province are the ancient Philadelphia, Thyatira, and Laodicea, each of them one of the seven churches mentioned by the apostle St. John. The latter was considerable for trade in the time of Cicero, but is now in ruins. The first ruin which presents itself is of an amphitheatre, in a hollow, the form oblong, and the area about a thousand feet in extent, with many seats remaining. At the west end is a wide vaulted passage, designed for the horses and chariots, about a hundred and forty feet long. The entrance from without is choaked up, except a small aperture, at which a glimmering light enters; and the soil has risen above the impost of the interior arch.

On the north side of the amphitheatre, towards the east end, is the ruin of a large edifice. It consists of many piers and arches of stone, with pedestals and marble fragments. This fabric was perhaps the repository of the laws, and included the senate-house, and public offices.

From

From this ruin may be seen the Odéum, which fronted the south : the seats remain on the side of the hill. The proscenium lies in a confused heap : the whole was of marble. Sculpture had been lavished on it, and the style favoured less of Grecian taste than Roman magnificence.

On the bank of the Mæander we discover the ruin of an ancient bridge, consisting of half the central arch, with one smaller arch entire ; and we may observe some stones and vestiges of a building, which is supposed to have been a temple of Menes, called Carour ; a deity that was worshiped in a peculiar manner. The temple was between Caroura and Laodicea, and had once been a great seminary of physicians.

The river Mæander, which makes so many windings in this country, was anciently noted for the production of new land, occasioned by its passing through the ploughed grounds of Phrygia and Caria ; whence collecting much slime, it added to the coast at its mouth. The Mæander was indictable for removing the soil, when its margin tumbled in ; and the person who recovered

recovered damages was paid from the produce of the ferries. Those downfalls of the banks were very frequent, and are supposed to be the cause of the windings so remarkable in the channel of this river. From the alterations already effected at the mouth of the Mæander, there is reason to believe, that in a series of years the shore will protrude far into the sea, and perhaps unite the islands which at present lie at a distance.

To the southward of this district stood Miletus, a city of great antiquity, said to have been built by Miletus, the companion of Bacchus. This once flourishing emporium is now a very mean place, but still called Palat or Palatia, *the Palaces*. The chief relic of its former magnificence is a ruined theatre, which is visible afar off, and was a most capacious edifice, measuring in length four hundred and fifty-seven feet. The external face of this vast fabric is marble. The proscenium or front has been removed. The seats ranged, as usual, on the slope of a hill, and a few of them remain. The vaults which supported the extremities, with the arches or avenues in
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the two wings, are constructed with great solidity.

The vestiges of the ancient city are pieces of wall, broken arches, and a few scattered pedestals, with inscriptions, a square marble urn, and several fountains. This was the country of Thales, one of the seven wise men; of Anaximander, his scholar and successor, the inventor of sun-dials; of Anaximenes, the philosopher; Timotheus, the celebrated musician, and other eminent persons. Among the numerous trophies of this ancient city, it was famous for its wool.

quamvis Milefia magno

Vellera mutantur, Tyrios incocta rubores.

Myndus is a port town on a bay of the sea, in a part of the division called Doris. This is the city which Diogenes the cynic observing to be very small, and the gates disproportionally large, called to the inhabitants to shut their gates, to prevent the escape of the town.

Priene was situated on the side of mount Mycale, near which the Ionians celebrated the Panionia, or yearly assemblies in honor of Heliconian Neptune. It was also the country of Bias, one of the seven wise men ;

men ; who, when the place was taken by the enemy, and the citizens were flying with their most valuable effects, being asked why he did not do as they did ? replied, he always carried his best effects with him, meaning his philosophy and wisdom. Being a man of the strictest equity, *Justitia Pri-enensis* became proverbial.

This city was famous for the temple of Minerva Polias, the remains of which yet evince its former elegance and grandeur. When entire it overlooked the city, which was seated on the side of the mountain, flat beneath flat, in gradation, to the edge of the plain. The areas are levelled, and the communication preserved by steps cut in the slopes. Below the temple are broken columns, and pieces of marble, the remains of edifices of the Ionic and Doric orders. Further down is the ground-plot of the Stadium, by the city wall. The area was narrow, and the seats ranged only on the side facing the plain. The whole circuit of the wall of the city is standing, besides several portions within it of admirable solidity and beauty.

At

At Ure, about twenty-two miles from Miletus, is the celebrated temple of Apollo Didyméus. It is approached by a gentle ascent, and seen afar off, the land towards the sea lying flat and level. The columns, yet entire, are so exquisitely fine, and the marble mass so vast and noble, that it is impossible perhaps to conceive greater beauty and majesty of ruin.

Halicarnassus, once a flourishing city, is now nothing more than a heap of ruins. No vestige remains of the tomb erected by Artemisia for her husband Mausoleus, though formerly esteemed one of the seven wonders. Of this city was Herodotus, called by Cicero *The Father of History*; and likewise Dionysius, not only a good historian but a critic.

Ionia and Eolis form in conjunction a long tract of land, extending from south to north, upon the coast of the Archipelago. In this territory was situated Ephesus, the most illustrious city of Ionia, and called by Pliny the bright ornament of Asia. Here stood the celebrated temple of Diana, which Erastrius burnt to perpetuate his memory, the same night that Alexander

was

was born. Many grand ruins are yet to be seen of the Stadiúm Theatre, Odéum, and other buildings; and some of them supposed to be the remains of Diana's temple, there having been a second erected to the honour of that goddess, not inferior to the former. The Ephesians are now a few Greek peasants, living in extreme wretchedness and insensibility; the representatives of an illustrious people, and inhabiting the wreck of their greatness; some the substructions of the glorious edifices which they raised; some beneath the vaults of the Stadium, once the crowded scene of their diversions; and some, by the abrupt precipice, in the sepulchres which received their ashes. Of this place was Heraclitus the weeping philosopher, Hipponax the poet, and Parrhasius the celebrated painter.

On the banks of the Cayster, near Ephesus, are thick groves of tall reeds, some of which are more than twenty feet high. This extraordinary luxuriance is perhaps the reason why the river-god is represented on the Ephesian medals with this aquatic, as one of his attributes.

Myûs was originally seated on a bay of the sea, but the bay being changed into a lake, became fresh; and the town was so much infested with gnats, which swarmed from the water, that the inhabitants retired to Miletus. The site of Myûs is as romantic as its fortune was extraordinary; and there are here many remnants of antiquity to attract the attention. The city-wall, which was constructed with square towers, like that of Ephesus, is still standing, except on the side towards the water. We behold the theatre hewn in a branch of Mount Titanus, with some massy remnants of the wall of the Proscenium; but the marble seats are removed. The principal ruin is the small temple of Bacchus. It is seated on an abrupt rock, with the front only, which is towards the east, accessible. The roof is destroyed. The cell is well built of smooth stone covered with a brown crust. The marbles which lie scattered about, the broken columns, and mutilated statues, all witness a remote antiquity.

Without the city are the cemeteries of its early inhabitants; graves cut in the rock,

suitcd to the human stature at all ages ; with innumerable flat stones, which served as lids. The city of Myûs was allotted to Themistocles, by Artaxerxes, to furnish his table with fish, in which the lake greatly abounds.

At the head of the lake are vestiges of an ancient building, supposed to have been Thymbria. By it was a charonium or sacred cave ; one of those which the ancients imagined to communicate with the infernal regions.

At Zellé, the ancient Claros, some ruins are to be seen, supposed to be of the temple of Apollo, who had an oracle at this place ; but there exists no memorial of the sacred grove of ash-trees. In the neighbourhood of Claros stood Colophon, one of the cities which laid claim to the birth of Homer.

Teos, now called Bodrun, is at present almost entirely desolate. The walls appear to have been about five miles in circuit ; without which are vaults of sepulchres stripped of their marble. Here are the remains of a temple of Bacchus, one of the most celebrated structures in Ionia ; and a theatre is conspicuous in the side of the hill.

This

This was the country of Anacreon the poet, Hecatæus the historian, and Protogoras the philosopher. The books of the latter, as containing atheistical doctrines, were burnt by order of the Athenians ; and his father Menander was so opulent as to entertain Xerxes and his numerous attendants on his march against Greece.

Erythræ has long been deserted, and even stripped of its ruins, except some vaults of sepulchres, and other fragments.

The walls of Erythræ were erected on two semicircular rocky brows, and had square towers at regular distances. In the middle was a shallow purling stream, clear as chrystal, which now turns a solitary mill in its way to the sea. This rivulet was anciently named Alcos, and was remarkable for producing hair on the bodies of those who drank of it. Near the mouth is a piece of ordinary Mosaic pavement. By a conical hill on the north, are vestiges of an ample theatre in the mountain side. Of the celebrated temple of Hercules no traces now remain.

Lampsaqus is situated on the southern shore of the Propontis, and retains its an-

cient name. It was assigned by Artaxerxes to Themistocles, for furnishing his table with wine, in which the country abounded. Alexander having threatened this city with ruin, for the favor it had shewn to the Persians, it was saved by the address of Anaximenes the historian, who was sent by his fellow citizens to deprecate the king's displeasure. The latter being informed of the design, solemnly declared he would do the very reverse of Anaximenes's request; who therefore, on his arrival, begged the king utterly to destroy Lampſacus; which he could not do on account of his oath.

Smyrna, now called Ismir, is a considerable city, and has the largest and most commodious harbour in the Levant. The city is about four miles in circumference, and contains several thousand inhabitants, among whom there is a number of Greeks, Jews, and Armenians. The neighbourhood of Smyrna is exceedingly pleasant, on account of the gardens and vineyards, olives and orange-groves, with which it is surrounded; and through these runs the river Melus, on the bank of which, according to the tradition of the place, the poet

poet Homer was born. Many valuable antiquities are still to be seen in the environs of Smyrna ; but the plague, with which it is so often visited, beginning to make its appearance, I was induced to quit Smyrna sooner than I intended.

At this time I had occasion to observe the fatal prejudice of the Turks with respect to predestination. I took the liberty, by means of an interpreter, to suggest to them the propriety of having recourse to medical assistance, against the ravages of that terrible disease ; but a shrug of the shoulder, or a shake of the head, was all that my remonstrance could produce. They are firmly persuaded that a precise time is fixed for the death of every person ; and that it is in vain to endeavour to protract this period by any medicinal application.

L E T T E R XXXIII.

PROCEEDING southward from Aña Minor, I came to Syria, and Palestine, or Judea, now prodigiously altered from its former state. The Turks are particularly fond of representing this country in the most dreadful colours, and have even propagated a thousand falsehoods concerning it. But it is admitted by all impartial men who have visited the country, that were the Holy Land as well cultivated as in former times, it would be more fertile than the very best parts of Syria and Phœnicia. Its present barrenness does not proceed from the natural unfruitfulness of the soil, but from the want of inhabitants, the indolence which prevails among the few who possess it, and the perpetual discords and depredations of the petty princes who share amongst them
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this fine country. It is a well-attested fact, that in this country the husbandman when sowing, is often accompanied by an armed friend, to prevent his being robbed of the seed; and after all, it is uncertain whether he shall ever reap the harvest. Under such extreme discouragement, it cannot appear surprising that it should be neglected.

There are still in this country many cities, but greatly decayed from their ancient grandeur, and have little or no trade. Scandaroon stands upon the site of Old Alexandretta, but is now almost depopulated. In its neighbourhood are superb remains of antiquity. Aleppo preserves a respectable rank among the cities of Asiatic Turkey. It continues to be the capital of Syria, and is superior in its buildings and conveniences to most of the Turkish cities. Its houses, as usual in the East, consist of a large court, with a dead wall to the street, an arcade or piazza running round it, paved with marble, and in the middle an elegant fountain of the same. Aleppo and its suburbs are seven miles in circumference, standing on eight small hills, on the highest of which is erected the citadel or castle, but

but of no great strength. Having many gardens within the wall, it is furnished with most of the conveniences of life, excepting good water, and even that is supplied by an aqueduct, four miles in extent, and said to have been erected by the empress Helena. The city contains some magnificent mosques and bagnios. The English, French, and Dutch have consuls here. The first of them is treated with particular distinction; and at his house I had the pleasure of residing during my short stay at Aleppo.

The city of Jerusalem has been so often razed to the ground, and rebuilt anew, that no scene of Our Saviour's life and sufferings can now be ascertained; yet the Greek and Arminian priests in that quarter, who subsist by the credulity of strangers, pretend to guide travellers to every spot mentioned in the Old and New Testament. The church of the Holy Sepulchre, as it is called, said to be built by Helena, mother to Constantine the Great, is still standing, and of tolerable good architecture; but its different divisions, and the dispositions made round it, are chiefly calculated to support the

the forgeries of its keepers. Other churches built by the same pious lady are scattered over Palestine ; but the altered state of the country has left no traces of the kingdom of David and Solomon, under whom it was undoubtedly rich and flourishing.

The ancient cities of Damascus, Tyre, and Sidon, still retain part of their former trade. Damascus is now called Sham, and the approach to it by the river is inexpressibly beautiful. It is about two miles square, and encompassed with gardens highly cultivated. It still is famous for its steel-work, such as sword-blades, knives, &c. and contains a fine mosque, which was formerly a Christian church. The natives maintain this place to be the seat of Paradise, and have a tradition that Adam was formed of the dust of the neighbouring fields. Sidon, now Said, which likewise was within the ancient Phœnicia, has still some trade, and a tolerable harbour. Tyre, now called Jur, about twenty miles distant from Sidon, which was famous anciently for its purple dye, is now inhabited by scarcely any but a few miserable fishermen, who live in the ruins of its ancient grandeur.

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I was extremely desirous of seeing Balbec, the ruins of which are so much celebrated. It stands on a rising plain, between Tripoli in Syria and Damascus, at the foot of Mount Lebanon; and is the ancient Heliopolis of Syria. Here are still to be seen the venerable remains of magnificent edifices. The portico of the temple of Heliopolis is remarkably superb, though disfigured by two Turkish towers. Of the pillars, which were fifty-four in number, the greater part are broken. The whole length of the building is two hundred and nine feet, and about a hundred and four in breadth. It is surrounded by a beautiful colonnade, the pillars of which are of the Corinthian order, seven feet in diameter, and in height almost forty-four. They stand at the distance of nine feet from each other, and the same from the wall. The decorations of these pillars, together with the architrave and cornices, are extremely magnificent. The length of the inside of the temple is a hundred and twenty feet, and the breadth about half that measure. All around it are two rows of pilasters, one above another, and between them are niches,

niches, probably for the reception of idols. At some distance from the temple, is a row of large Corinthian pillars, of a greater height than those in the temple ; and there are several other places where such pillars had stood, the ruins of which are now lying on the ground.

Making the circuit of the edifice on the outside, one is astonished to behold the prodigious stones which are the remains of the old wall. They are in general not under sixty feet in length, twelve feet high, and the same in breadth. These stones lie contiguous to each other in a row, at the height of twenty feet from the ground ; and from the difficulty of accounting how such huge bodies could be ranged there in such a situation, the people in the neighbourhood have a tradition that they were brought thither by supernatural agents.

Not far from the temple, or castle, as it is now called, is another ancient edifice, of a round form, consisting of the same kind of stones as those before-mentioned, and which has a strong resemblance to the temple of Janus at Rome. The pillars are
likewise

likewise of the Corinthian order, decorated with architraves and cornices of exquisite workmanship.

Various have been the conjectures concerning the founders of these immense buildings. The inhabitants of the country generally ascribe them to Solomon, but some to the time of Antoninus Pius. Perhaps they are of different æras; and though that prince and his successors may have rebuilt some part of them, yet the boldness of their architecture, the beauty of their ornaments, and the admirable excellence of the whole, seems to fix their foundation to a period before the Christian æra, but without ascending to the ancient times of the Jews or Phœnicians, who probably knew little of the Grecian style of architecture.

Balbec is at present a small city, encompassed with a wall. It contains about five thousand inhabitants, chiefly Greeks, who live in or near the circular temple, in houses built out of the ancient ruins. A free-stone quarry in the neighbourhood, furnished the stones for the body of the temple; and one

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of the stones, not quite detached from the bottom of the quarry, is seventy feet long, fourteen broad, fourteen feet five inches deep, and reduced to our measure, is eleven hundred and thirty-five tons. A coarse white marble quarry, at a greater distance, furnished the ornamental parts.

Near the road leading from Balbec to Mount Lebanon, at the distance of a few miles from the city, stands a pillar of the Corinthian order, consisting of fifteen blocks of stone, placed on each other, to the height of fifty-seven feet, and five feet in diameter. The cause of its being erected is utterly unknown, there not remaining on the pedestal the least trace of any inscription.

Mount Lebanon is still distinguished by cedars, which are remarkable both on account of their great antiquity, and the mention made of them in Scripture. They seem to be of very different ages: the younger shoot up vertically, with their branches expanded all round, but the old standards have a low and coarse stem, not above six feet high to the branches,
growing

growing in figure like fruit-trees. Some of these are four or five fathoms in circumference, with several names cut on them. On this mountain are to be found stones, which have all the appearance of having been formerly mud; containing the bones of fishes, and some entire fishes, supposed to have been deposited at the time of the deluge.

LETTER

LETTER XXXIV.

YOUR taste for the Arabian Nights Entertainment will no doubt render you desirous of knowing the present state of Bagdad, which was the metropolis of the caliphate under the Saracens. It is built upon the Tigris, and supposed to be near the site of the ancient Babylon. It retains but few marks of its ancient splendor, but has still a considerable trade. The houses are generally large, built of brick and cement ; and most of them have a court yard in front, in the middle of which is a small plantation of orange trees. The inhabitants of this place were anciently famous for making various figures of earth or clay, with which the country abounded. The same materials still exist in the neighbourhood ; the clay is of a brownish colour, and

and bituminous quality, and I observed several children amusing themselves with forming images of it.

The ancient Thnevea is now a heap of ruins, and the site of it is occupied by Curdistol, the capital of a country of the same name, which was the ancient Assyria.

As I know the estimation in which you hold a certain celebrated critic of antiquity, who shall hereafter be mentioned, I may be assured of your desire to receive some account of Palmyra.

Palmyra, or as it was called by the ancients, Tadmor in the Desert, is situated in the wilds of Arabia Petrea, about two hundred miles to the south-east of Aleppo. It is approached through a narrow plain, abounding with remains of antiquity, at the termination of which the eye is presented with a sight the most magnificent that can be imagined in architecture. The Temple of the Sun lies in ruins ; but the access to it is through a vast number of beautiful Corinthian columns of white marble, the grandeur and beauty of which can only be conceived from drawings ; and for this I must refer you to the accurate plates published

lished by Mr. Wood. Superb arches, amazing columns, a colonnade extending four thousand feet in length, terminated by a noble mausoleum, temples, fine porticos, peristyles, intercolumniations, and entablatures, all of them in exquisite taste, and executed with the most beautiful materials, appear on all hands; but now so much disjointed, that it is impossible from them to form any adequate idea of the whole of the structure when perfect. These striking remains are contrasted by the miserable huts of the wild Arabs, who reside in or near them.

Amidst the present desolation of this wonderful place, there yet exists in it one of the most perfect pieces of antiquity that is any where to be found. It is a mausoleum, consisting of five stories, the floors and stairs of which are still entire. An inscription upon it informs us that it was built by Jambelicus, son of Mocimus, as a burial-place for himself and his family; and the date of it corresponds with the third year of the Christian æra: so that it is now 1795 years old.

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That so superb a city, formerly ten miles in circumference, could exist in the midst of what are now tracts of barren uninhabited sand, is a fact which appears almost incredible. Yet nothing is more certain, than that Palmyra was formerly the capital of a great kingdom ; that it was the emporium of the Eastern world, and that its merchants carried on a trade with the Romans, and the western nations, for the merchandizes and luxuries of India and Arabia. Its present alter'd situation, therefore, can be accounted for only by natural causes, which have turned the most fertile tracts into barren deserts. The Asiatics think that Palmyra, as well as Balbec, owes its origin to Solomon, and their opinion receives some countenance from sacred history. No mention of it occurs in profane history before the time of Mark Anthony, and its most superb buildings are thought to be of the lower Empire, about the time of Gallienus. Odenathus, the last king of Palmyra, was highly caressed by that Emperor, and even declared Augustus. His widow Zenobia reigned in great splendor for some time, and her secretary, as you know,

know, was Longinus, the celebrated critic. Not being able to brook the Roman tyranny, she declared war against the Emperor Aurelian, who made her prisoner, led her in triumph to Rome, where he put to death her principal nobility, and among others the excellent Longinus, the critic above mentioned. He afterwards took possession of her city, and massacred its inhabitants; but expended large sums out of Zenobia's treasure on repairing the Temple of the Sun.

Turkey in Europe and Asia forms a very large empire, but the population of the country is by no means equal to its extent or fertility. It is certainly not so great as it was before the christian æra, or even under the Roman Emperors. One principal cause of this declension is the tyranny under which the inhabitants live; and another their polygamy. That the latter is unfavorable to population, may be evinced from many reasons; and in fact we find that the Greeks and Armenians, among whom it is not practised, are incomparably more prolific than the Turks, notwithstanding the rigid subjection under which they are kept by that nation. An addi-

onal cause of depopulation is the plague, so frequent in many parts of these countries. After all, I believe the Grand Seignior has more^d subjects than any two European princes; though they are a greater mixture of people extremely different from each other in religion, than is to be found in most other countries. Though this extensive empire contains materials for the largest plan of industry and commerce, yet the Turks content themselves with manufacturing cotton, carpets, leather, and soap. The most valuable of their commodities, such as silk, a variety of drugs, and dying stuffs, they generally export without giving them much additional value from their own labour; a circumstance highly disadvantageous to themselves, but what renders the commerce with them more favorable to other nations. In one article, however, which is that of dying cotton scarlet, they evince a dexterity beyond every other people in the world.

The internal commerce of the empire is extremely small, and managed entirely by Jews and Armenians. In their traffic with the several maritime countries of Europe,
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the Turks are entirely passive; leaving to those nations the benefit of resorting thither with their commodities, and bringing back those of Turkey in the same bottoms. But the inattention of the Turks to objects of commerce is perhaps the best security to their government; for did they prosecute it with an activity suitable to the advantages they enjoy, they would excite in other nations such a jealousy as might shake the Ottoman throne. It is certain that if the Turkish dominions were in the possession of Russia, or any active state, the trade maintained at present by other nations, would experience a vast diminution.

In general the character of the Asiatic Turks is preferable to that of the European. They are hospitable to strangers; and the vices of avarice and inhumanity prevail chiefly among their great men. Their charity and public spirit is conspicuous in their building caravansaries, or places of entertainment, on roads that are destitute of accommodation, for the refreshment of poor pilgrims or travellers. With the same laudable view, they search out the

best springs, and dig wells, for the convenience of such passengers.

The sedent posture of the Turks is peculiar to themselves. They sit cross-legged upon mats, or sofas, not only at their meals but in company. They dine about eleven o'clock in the forenoon, and sup at five in the winter, and six in summer, and this is their principal meal. Among the great people the dishes are served up one by one; but they have neither knife nor fork, and they are not permitted by their religion to use gold or silver spoons. Their victuals are always high seasoned. Rice is the common food of the lower sort, and sometimes it is boiled up with gravy, but their chief dish is pilau, which is mutton and fowl boiled to rags; and the rice being boiled quite dry, the soup, which is high seasoned, is poured upon it. Their drink is water, sherbet, and coffee; and the only debauch they know is in Opium. Guests of high rank sometimes have their beards perfumed by a female slave. They are sober from a principle of their religion, which forbids them the use of wine; but in private

vate, many of them indulge themselves in the use of strong liquors.

The Turkish mode of life is extremely prejudicial to health and the vigor of the constitution. It is very uncommon to see any of the considerable inhabitants of this vast empire take the exercise of walking or riding either for health or amusement. They spend almost their whole time within doors, conversing with the women, drinking coffee, smoking tobacco, or chewing opium.

In Asiatic Turkey in particular, nature seems to have brought all her productions to the greatest perfection ; and if the character of the inhabitants does not bear a just proportion to the excellence of the vegetable and animal kingdoms, it is because they are debased by the form of their government, enervated by indolence and other causes, and deprived of all means of acquiring either useful or elegant knowledge.

LETTER

L E T T E R XXXV.

I AM now to write to you of a country, which having never visited, (as very few Europeans have done,) I can only describe from the imperfect accounts which have hitherto been delivered of it by travellers. This country is Tartary, in Asia, a region of prodigious extent. You may well excuse the defect of information on this subject, when even the Emperor of Russia, to whom a great part of it belongs, and his ministry, are ignorant of its precise limits with the Chinese, the Persians, and other nations.

Tartary, taken in its fullest extent, is bounded by the Frozen Ocean on the north; by the Pacific Ocean on the east; by China, India, Persia, and the Caspian sea, on the south, and by Muscovy on the west.

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The air of this country is greatly diversified, by reason of its vast extent from north to south ; the northern parts reaching beyond the arctic polar circle, and the southern being in the same latitude with Spain, France, Italy, and part of Turkey.

Nova Zembla and Russian Lapland are most uncomfortable regions ; the earth, which is covered with snow nine months in the year, being extremely barren, and encumbered with unwholesome marshes, uninhabited mountains, and impenetrable woods. The climate of Siberia is cold, but the air pure and wholesome ; and a person of credit who has visited that country, observes, that its inhabitants, in all probability, would live to extreme old age, if they were not addicted to an immoderate use of intoxicating liquors.

Siberia produces rye, oats, and barley, almost to the 60th degree of northern latitude. Some of the common vegetables likewise grow tolerably well ; but every attempt to bring fruit-trees to bear, has hitherto proved ineffectual. There is reason however, to believe, that industry and patience may in the end overcome the rudeness

ness of the climate. There are no bees in Siberia, but though it be therefore a land that flows not with honey, it is not destitute of milk, for cattle constitute the greater part of Tartarian property.

Astrachan and the southern parts of Tartary are extremely fertile, owing more to nature than industry. The parts that are cultivated produce excellent fruits of almost all the kinds known in Europe, especially grapes, which are reckoned the largest and finest in the world. The summers are very dry, and from the end of July to the beginning of August, the air is pestered, and the soil sometimes ruined, by incredible quantities of locusts.

No probable conjecture can be formed with respect to the number of inhabitants in Tartary; but there is reason to conclude, that they are far from being proportioned to the extent of the country. They are in general, strong-made stout men. The beauty of the Circassian women is a kind of staple commodity in that country; for parents there make no scruple of selling their daughters, to recruit the seraglios of the great men of Turkey and Persia. They
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are purchased when young, by merchants, and taught such accomplishments as suit their capacities, to render them more valuable against the day of sale.

The Tartars are in general a wandering people. In their peregrinations they set out in the spring, their numbers in one body being frequently ten-thousand, preceded by their flocks and herds. When they come to an inviting spot, they live upon it till all its grass and verdure is eaten up. They have little money, except what they get from their neighbours, the Russians, Persians, or Turks, in exchange for cattle. With this they purchase cloth, silk, stuffs, and other apparel for their women. There are few mechanics amongst them except those who make arms. They avoid all labour as the greatest slavery: their only employment being to tend their flocks, and manage their horses.

The dwellings of the Tartars are huts, half sunk in the ground; they have a fire in the middle, with a hole in the top to let out the smoke, and benches round the fire to sit or lye upon. In the extreme northern provinces, during the winter, every family

family burrows itself as it were under ground; and they are said to be so sociable in their dispositions, that they make subterraneous communications with each other. They are immoderately fond of horse-flesh, especially if it be young and a little tainted, which makes their habitations extremely nauseous. Some of the northern tribes prefer the flesh raw, but the general way of eating it, is after it has been smoked and dried.

The religion of the Tartars is for the most part accommodated to that of their neighbours; for it partakes of the Mahometan, the Gentoo, the Greek, and even the Popish religions. Some of them are professed idolaters, and worship little rude images dressed up in rags. But the religion of the kingdom of Thibet, and Lessa, a large tract of Tartary bordering upon China, is the most remarkable.—These people are governed by the Grand Lama, whom they not only acknowledge as their sovereign, but their deity; and he is also the great object of adoration for the various tribes of Heathen Tartars, who roam through the vast tract which stretches
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from the banks of the Wolga to Corea on the sea of Japan. He is not only the sovereign pontiff, the vicegerent of the deity on earth; but, as superstition is ever the strongest where it is most removed from its object, the more remote Tartars absolutely regard him as the deity himself. They believe him to be immortal, and endowed with all knowledge and virtue. Every year they come up from different parts to worship and make rich offerings at his shrine. Even the Emperor of China, who is a Manchou Tartar, does not fail of acknowledging him in his religious capacity, though the Lama is tributary to him.

These people entertain the notion, that when the Grand Lama seems to die either of old age or sickness, his soul in fact only quits a crazy habitation, to look for another younger and better; and it is discovered again in the body of some child, by certain tokens known only to the lamas or priests, in which order he always appears. Besides his religious influence and authority, the Grand Lama is possessed of unlimited power through his dominions, which are very extensive, and border on Bengal.

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Another religion very prevalent among the Tartars is that of Schamanism, the professors of which believe in one supreme God, the creator of all things. They believe that he loves his creation, and all his creatures; that he knows every thing, and is all powerful; but that he pays no attention to the particular actions of men, being too great for them to be able to offend him, or to do any thing that can be meritorious in his sight. But they also maintain that the supreme being has divided the government of the world, and the destiny of men, among a great number of inferior divinities, under his command and controul, but who nevertheless generally act according to their own fancies; and therefore mankind cannot dispense with using all possible means for obtaining their favor.

You will perhaps be surprised to see mention learning among a nation of Tartars; yet nothing is more certain than that under Zingis Khan, and Tamerlane, and their early descendants, Astrachan, and the neighbouring countries were the seats of learning and politeness, as well as empire and magnificence. The most splendid modern

dern luxury falls short of that of those princes; and some remains of their taste in architecture are still extant, but in spots so desolate that they are almost inaccessible.

Though Tartary, formerly known by the name of Scythia, was the nursery which peopled the northern parts of Europe, and furnished those amazing numbers, which under various names, overturned the Roman empire, yet it is now but thinly inhabited. This must be owing to the dreadful massacre made by the two abovementioned princes and their descendants; for nothing is more common in their histories, than their putting to the sword three or four hundred thousand persons in a few days.

The country of Usbec Tartary was once the seat of a more powerful empire than that of Greece or Rome. It was not only the native country, but the favorite residence of Zingis Khan, and Tamerlane, who enriched it with the spoils of India and the eastern world. Some authors have absurdly questioned the veracity of the historians of those great conquerors, though in reality

reality it be better established than that of the Greek or Roman writers.

The present inhabitants of this immense common, compose innumerable tribes, who range at pleasure with their flocks and herds, in the old patriarchal manner. Their tribes are commanded by separate khans, or leaders, who, upon particular emergencies, elect a great khan, who claims a paramount power over strangers as well as natives, and can bring into the field from twenty to a hundred thousand horsemen. Their method of carrying on war is by wasting the country ; and this circumstance renders them a dreadful enemy to regular troops, who must be deprived of all subsistence, while the Tartars having always many spare horses to kill and eat, are at no loss for provisions.

Thus have I given you an account of a people the most rude in their polity, and the most singular in their superstition, of any that we find on the globe. But in general, singularity appears to be a predominant feature in the character of the Eastern nations.

LETTER

LETTER XXXVI.

I AM next to conduct you to China, under the particular impression of the sentiment with which I concluded my last letter. Excepting towards the north it is a plain country, containing no remarkable mountains. But there are in it many artificial mountains, on the tops of which are temples, monasteries, and other edifices. The country is better supplied with rivers, of which there are several; but the common water in China is very indifferent, and is in some places boiled to make it fit for use. To correct its bad quality, they likewise infuse in it, in many parts, the leaves of the tea plant; and I believe it is by that expedient that other nations first became acquainted with this celebrated shrub, now so generally used in the British dominions.

It appears from Sir George Staunton's account, that we have hitherto been in a mistake respecting the green tea, which was said to acquire its colour by being dried upon plates of copper. But he informs us that there is no such practice in China, and that the green colour is entirely owing to the leaves being plucked off the shrub before they have come to maturity. A roughness of quality even from this cause, may prove hurtful to persons of a nervous constitution, but by no means in such a degree as from an impregnation of copper.

The character of the Chinese for wisdom and industry, is in nothing more conspicuous than in their early attention to the construction of canals, for the purpose of facilitating commerce. The commodiousness and length of their canals are almost incredible. The chief of them are lined with hewn stone on the sides, and they are so deep as to carry vessels of great burden. They sometimes extend above a thousand miles in length. These vessels are fitted up for all the convenience of life ; and it has been thought by some, that in China the water contains as many inhabitants as the land.

land. They are furnished with stone quays, and sometimes with bridges of an amazing construction. The navigation is slow, and the vessel sometimes drawn by men. No precautions are wanting that could be formed by art or perseverance, for the safety of the passengers, in case a canal is crossed by a rapid river, or exposed to torrents from the mountains. These canals and the variety that is seen upon their borders, render China highly pleasant as well as fertile in places which are not so by nature.

This country being of great extent, the temperature of the air is different according to the situation of the places, so that while sharp in the north, it is extremely hot in the southern parts. The soil is, either by nature or art, fruitful of every thing that can minister to the necessities, conveniences, or luxuries of life; and this it is that renders the nation so populous. The millions of inhabitants which China is said to contain are almost beyond credibility; and all between twenty and sixty years of age pay an annual tax. Notwithstanding the industry of the people, we are told that their amazing population frequently occa-

sions a dearth. Parents who cannot support their female children, are permitted to cast them into the river; but they fasten to the child a gourd, that it may float on the water; and it often happens that some compassionate people of fortune, who are moved by the cries of the children, save them from perishing.

The Chinese in general have been represented as the most dishonest, low, thieving set of people in the world. Their hypocrisy is said to be without bounds; and the men of property among them practice the most avowed bribery, and the lowest meanesses to obtain preferment. But this character has been drawn by those who were little acquainted with any parts of that empire but the sea-port towns, where the inhabitants probably are worse than in the interior parts of the country.

Among the customs peculiar to China, one is, that every Chinese keeps in his house a table upon which are written the names of his father, grandfather, and great grandfather, before which they frequently burn incense, and prostrate themselves; and when the father of the family dies, the name
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of the great grandfather is taken away, and that of the deceased is added.

One of the greatest peculiarities in this country is its language. The Chinese language contains only three hundred and thirty words, all of one syllable; but each word is pronounced with such various modulations, and all of them with a different meaning, that it becomes more copious than could be easily imagined, and enables them to express themselves sufficiently well in the communications of life. The Chinese oral language being thus barren and contracted, is unfit for literature; and therefore their literature is all comprised in arbitrary characters, which are amazingly complicated, and so numerous that it has been said they amount to about eighty thousand. Whatever eulogiums have been bestowed on the learning of the Chinese, this circumstance is, in my opinion, sufficient to refute the possibility of any great excellence in respect of such an accomplishment. In no part of the world, however, is learning attended with such honors and rewards as in China. The literati are revered as men of another species, and are

the only nobility known in the country. If their birth be ever so mean and low, they become mandarins of the highest rank, in proportion to the extent of their learning. On the other hand, however exalted their birth may be, they quickly sink into obscurity, if they neglect the studies which had distinguished their fathers.

The Chinese range all their works of literature into four classes; comprising, respectively, religion, history, philosophy, and poetry. What proficiency they have really made in those several branches, it is impossible for any person not acquainted with their language to ascertain; but if we may form an opinion from the extreme veneration in which they hold the celebrated Confucius, the father of their moral philosophy, we may reasonably suppose that this is the branch which, next to that of religion, they consider as the most perfect of their sciences. With natural philosophy they appear to be but little acquainted. That they have, however, a just claim to the invention of gunpowder, is fully ascertained, from their making use of it against Tamerlane, before any such composition
was

was known in Europe; but they were acquainted with cannon only, and knew nothing of small fire arms. Their industry in their manufactures of stuffs, porcelane, jappanning, and the like sedentary trades is amazing, and can be equalled only by their labors in the field, in making canals, levelling mountains, raising gardens, and navigating their punts and boats.

China contains few natural curiosities, but those of the artificial kind are stupendous. The great wall separating China from Tartary, to prevent the incursions of that nation, is supposed to extend about fifteen hundred miles. It is carried over mountains and vallies, and is built for the most part with brick and mortar, from twenty to twenty-five feet high, and about half as much in thickness. The Chinese bridges cannot be sufficiently admired.—They are erected sometimes upon barges strongly chained together, yet so as to be parted occasionally, for allowing passage to the vessels which sail up and down the river. Some of them extend from mountain to mountain, and consist only of one arch: that over the river Saffrany is four hundred

hundred cubits long, and five hundred high, though a single arch, and joins two mountains. It is said that in the interior parts of the empire some are yet more stupendous.

The triumphal arches of this country form the next species of artificial curiosities. They are not built in the Greek and Roman style of architecture, but they are superb and beautiful; erected with vast labor and expence, and all of them to the memory of their great men. The number of them over the empire is said to amount to many hundreds. Their sepulchral monuments make likewise a distinguished figure. Their towers, the models of which are now frequent in Europe, under the name of Pagodas, are great embellishments to the face of the country. That of Nanking, which is two hundred feet high, and forty in diameter, is the most admired, and is called the Porcelane Tower, on account of its being lined with Chinese tiles. Their temples are chiefly remarkable for the uncouth taste in which they are built, their whimsical ornaments, and the ugliness of the idols they contain. The Chinese, like the people of Cracow, are remarkably fond of bells; of
which

which there is one at Peking that weighs one hundred and twenty thousand pounds, but its sound is said to be disagreeable. The last curiosity I shall mention is their fire-works, which are generally allowed to excel those of all other nations.

The empire of China is said to contain four thousand four hundred wall'd cities, the chief of which are Peking, Nanking, and Canton. The first of these, the capital of the empire, is situated in a very fertile plain, upwards of fifty miles distant from the great wall, and is said to contain of inhabitants to the enormous amount of many millions. The walls and gates of Peking are of the extraordinary height of fifty cubits, and are so broad that the sentinels are placed upon them on horseback. The principal edifice is the imperial palace, the grandeur of which consists not so much in the elegance of the architecture as in the multitude of its buildings, courts, and gardens, all regularly disposed. The palace is said to be three miles in circumference; and the front of the building shines with gilding, paint, and varnish, while the inside is set off with every thing that is most beautiful

tiful and precious in China, the Indies, and Europe. The gardens of this palace are of great extent, and there are raised in them, at proper distances, artificial mounts, from twenty to sixty feet high, between which are a number of small vallies, plentifully watered with canals, and which uniting, are formed into a number of lakes.

Beautiful and magnificent barks sail on these pieces of water, and the banks are ornamented with ranges of buildings, constructed in the most pleasing and fantastic variety. The mounts are covered with such trees as produce beautiful and aromatic flowers; and the canals are edged with rustic pieces of rock, so happily disposed as to imitate the wildness of nature.

Of the religion of China little can be said with any certainty. It seems as if the bulk of the people worshipped sensible objects; but their philosophers, we are told, entertain more just sentiments of the Deity; and in general the morality of the nation approximates to that of Christianity. * But when I say so, I would be understood to speak exclusively of the charges of dishonesty and

and hypocrisy which have been mentioned above.

The original plan of the Chinese government seems to have been patriarchal, almost in the strictest sense of the word, and the emperor has hitherto been held by the people in the highest degree of veneration. But if we may give credit to some late accounts from that country, the same spirit of sedition and tumult which at present actuates different provinces of Europe, has made its appearance in the empire of China. What may be the issue of these disorders it is difficult to say; but should intestine divisions proceed, it is probable that the Tartar nations on the north of the great wall, will embrace so favorable an opportunity of surmounting the barrier which has been raised to prevent their hostile incursions; and the standard of the Grand Lama may yet be erected on the imperial palace at Peking.

LETTER

LETTER XXXVII.

HAVING previously taken a survey of China, I come by a circuitous course to the continent of India; a country not unknown even in the time of Solomon, and whence the Greeks and Romans drew their most precious materials of luxury. What credit do you think would have been given to any prophet who should have predicted that in the course of the present century, a company of British merchants would acquire in this country a dominion far more extensive than that of their own native sovereign?

————— *quod optanti diuini promittere nemo
Auderet, volentia dies en attulit ultro.*

Yet such an event has taken place; an extraordinary phenomenon, and unexampled in the history of mankind. This country is generally divided into three great parts; namely,

namely, the Peninsula of India beyond the Ganges, called the Farther Peninsula; the Main-Land, or the Mogul's Empire; and the Peninsula within, or on this side the Ganges.

The original inhabitants of India are called Gentoos; or, according to others, Hindoos, and the country Hindostan or Indostan. They pretend that Brumma, their legislator, both in politics and religion, was inferior only to God, and that he existed many thousand years before our account of the Creation. The Bramins, who are the Gentoo priests, farther say, that he bequeathed to them a book called the Vidam, containing his doctrines and institutions, and that though the original is lost, they are still in possession of a commentary upon it, called Shatika, which is written in the Shanscrit tongue, now a dead language, and known only to the Bramins who study it. The foundation of Brumma's doctrine consisted in the belief of a Supreme Being; who has created a regular gradation of beings; in the immortality of the soul, and a future state of rewards and punishments; which is to con-

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sist of a transmigration into different bodies, according to the lives they have led in their pre-existent state. From this it appears more than probable that the Pythagorean Metempsychosis took its rise in India. The Bramins, however, to operate upon the minds of the people, have had recourse to sensible representations of the Deity and his attributes, so that the original doctrines of Brunma have degenerated into rank and ridiculous idolatry, in the worship of several animals, and various images; which are likewise of the most hideous figures, either painted or carved.

The Hindoos have, from time immemorial been divided into four great tribes; comprehending the different classes of society: the first and noblest of these are the Bramins, who alone can officiate in the priesthood, like the Levites among the Jews. Besides this division into tribes, the Gentoos, or Hindoos, are also divided into casts; of which it is computed there are no less than eighty-four, though some make the number still greater. All these casts differ from each other in point of rank, and they are extremely tenacious of the privileges

leges and customs annexed to their different divisions. An Indian of an inferior would think himself honored by adopting the customs of a superior cast; but the latter would have recourse to blows, sooner than not vindicate its prerogatives. The inferior receives with respect the victuals prepared by a superior cast, but the latter will not partake of a meal which has been prepared by the hands of an inferior; and their marriages are circumscribed by the same barriers as the rest of their intercourses.

The diet of those people is chiefly rice and vegetables, dressed with ginger and other spices, which grow almost spontaneously in their gardens. They esteem milk the purest of food, because they think it partakes of some of the properties of the nectar of their gods, and because they esteem the cow herself almost as a divinity. Their manners are gentle, and their happiness consists in domestic life. Their religion permits them to have several wives, but they seldom have more than one; and it has been observed that their wives are distinguished by a decency of behaviour, and a faithful attachment to their husbands,
which

which might do honor to married women in the most civilized countries. The custom of women burning themselves upon the death of their husbands, seems not to be abolished, though it is now less frequent than formerly.

The religion of the Gentoos forbids them to quit their own shores; and this injunction seems to be founded upon a principle of policy. They are taught that the waters of the three great rivers, Ganges, Kistna, and Indus, have the sacred virtue of purifying those who bathe in them from all pollution and sins; and hence they are restrained from emigrating into distant countries. The sacred rivers are so situated that there is no part of India where the inhabitants may not have an opportunity of washing away their sins. The Ganges, which rises in the mountains of Thibet, runs through the provinces of Bengal, Bahar, and Orixá, and the upper provinces of Oude, Delhi, &c. The Kistna divides the Carnatic from Golconda, and runs through the Visapour into the interior parts of the Decan; while the Indus, bounding the
Guzarat

Guzarat provinces, separates Indostan from the dominions of Persia.

The Gentoos are much less under the influence of their passions than the inhabitants of other countries; and for this there seems to be two causes. Their vegetable diet affords less nourishment than that which consists of animal food; and by marrying early, the males before fourteen, and the females at ten or eleven years of age, they are kept low and feeble in their persons. A man is in the decline of life at thirty, and the beauty of the women is in decay at eighteen; at twenty-five they have all the marks of old age.

Such are the people who form the great body of the subjects of the British empire in India; and considering they are extremely numerous, it is fortunate for the security of our settlements in that country, that they are of pacific dispositions. This is more than can be said of the neighbouring natives in India.

The Mahometans, who, in Indostan are called Moors, are of Persian, Turkish, Arabic, and other extractions. They early began, in the reigns of the caliphs of Bagdad,

dad, to invade Indostan. They penetrated as far as Delhi, which they made their capital; but their empire was overturned by Tamerlane, who founded the Mogul government. Those princes being strict Mahometans, received under their protection all who professed the same religion, and who being a brave, active people, counter-balanced the number of the natives. They are said to have introduced the division of provinces, over which they appointed soubahs; and these provinces, each of which might be styled an empire, were subdivided into nabobships; each nabob being immediately accountable to his Soubah, who, in process of time became almost independent of the Emperor, or, as he is called, the Great Mogul, upon their paying him an annual tribute. The vast resort of Persian and Tartar tribes has likewise strengthened the Mahometan government; but it is observed, that in two or three generations, the progeny of those adventurers degenerate into all the indolence and sensuality of the East.

Of all those tribes, the Mahrattas at present make the greatest figure. They are a
kind

kind of mercenaries; who live on the mountains between Indostan and Persia. They commonly serve on horseback, and when well commanded, they have been known to give law even to the court of Delhi. Though originally Gentoos, they are of bold active spirits, and pay no great respect to the principles of their religion.

Bengal, of all the Indian provinces, is perhaps the most interesting to a Briton. It is regarded as the store-house of the East-Indies. Its fertility exceeds that of Egypt after having been overflowed by the Nile; and the produce of its soil consists of rice, sugar-canes, corn, resamum, small mulberries and other trees. Its calicos, silks, saltpetre, lacca, opium, wax, and civet go all over the world; and provisions here are in great plenty, and incredibly cheap, particularly pullets, ducks, and geese. The country is intersected by canals cut out of the Ganges for the benefit of commerce, and extends near a hundred leagues on both sides of the Ganges, full of towns and villages. The principal English factory in Bengal is at Calcutta, which is likewise

the capital seat of the British government in that country.

The winds in this climate generally blow for six months from the south, and six from the north. April, May, and the beginning of June are excessively hot, but refreshed by sea-breezes ; and in some dry seasons, the hurricanes, which tear up the sands, and let them fall in dry showers, are extremely disagreeable. In general the Europeans who arrive at Indostan are commonly seized with some illness, such as a flux, or fever, under different appearances; but when properly treated, especially if the patients are abstemious, they recover, and afterwards prove healthy.

In the peninsula within the Ganges, about the end of June a south-west wind begins to blow from the sea on the coast of Malabar, which lies to that aspect ; and this, with continual rains, lasts four months, during which time all is serene on the coast of Coromandel, on the east side of the peninsula. Towards the end of October, the rainy season, and the change of the monsoons begin on the Coromandel coast, which being destitute of good harbours,
renders

renders it extremely dangerous for ships to remain there during that time ; and to this is owing, the periodical returns of the English shipping to Bombay, upon the Malabar coast. The air is naturally hot in this peninsula, but it is refreshed by breezes ; the wind changing every twelve hours. The inhabitants in this part are more black in complexion than those of the other peninsulas of India, though lying nearer to the equator, which has made some suspect them to be the descendants of an ancient colony from Ethiopia. Fort St. George, better known by the name of Madras, is the capital of the English East India Company's territories in this part. But I have said enough to you of this country. The farther peninsula of India is still very imperfectly known ; and I shall not enter upon any account of the numerous islands in the Indian sea, as the distinction between them consists chiefly in the difference of extent, and the diversity of produce, which is mostly that of the spices.

LETTER

L E T T E R XXXVIII.

DIRECTING our course westward from India, we enter the kingdom of Persia, formerly the dominion of the great Cyrus, and a country which gave name to one of the most celebrated monarchies in the ancient world. In so extensive an empire, both the air and the soil must differ greatly in the several provinces. Those in the northern part, as lying near mountains commonly covered with snow, are cold; but in the southern provinces, the air is hot, and sometimes communicates noxious blasts to the midland part, which otherwise enjoys a serene and pure atmosphere. The soil is not luxuriant towards Tartary and the Caspian sea, but with cultivation it might produce abundance of corn and fruits. South of Mount Taurus, the fertility of the
country

country in corn, fruits, wine, and the other luxuries of life, are equalled by few countries. The fruits in general are delicious, and in some parts, near Ispahan especially, produce almost all the flowers that are cultivated in Europe, but of a more exalted flavour. There is, however, perhaps no country of so great an extent, that has so few rivers as Persia. The most considerable are those of Kur, ancient Cyrus; and Aras, anciently Araxes, which rise in the mountains of Ararat, and joining their streams, fall into the Caspian sea. Some small rivulets falling from the mountains, water the country in particular parts; but upon the whole, there is a scarcity of water, though this defect, where it prevails, is usually supplied by means of reservoirs, aqueducts, canals, and other ingenious expedients. Water, in all the Mahometan countries, is an article of great consumption, on account of their frequent ablutions; and this is no where more necessary, than in Persia, as the inhabitants seldom change their linen: a custom in hot climates particularly prejudicial.

In

In the morning early the Persians drink coffee, and about eleven o'clock go to dinner, which consists of fruits, sweet-meats, and milk. Their chief meal is at night. They eat at their repasts cakes of rice, and others of wheat flower ; and holding it an abomination to cut either bread or any kind of meat, after it is dressed, these cakes are made thin, that they may be easily broken with the hand. Their meat which is generally mutton, or fowls, is so prepared, that they divide it with their fingers. But with respect to one dish in particular, they have deviated from the taste of their ancestors. The ancient Persians never sat down to a great entertainment without a roasted ass before them, which was always served up entire. This luxury is now fallen into disuse ; but the change seems not to proceed from any superior delicacy in their entertainments of eating and drinking. They are temperate, however, in every thing, except in the use of tobacco ; of which they are so immoderately fond, that some of them have been known to leave their country, rather than be debarred from that enjoyment. They smoke through a
tube

tube fixed in water, so as to be cool in the mouth. The Persians are passionately fond of poetry, moral sentences, and hyperbole; and in all ages have been remarkable for hospitality. They are likewise fond of riding, and excel, as their ancestors the Parthians did, in archery.

There is in Persia an extraordinary fine breed of sheep, the wool and flesh of which are equally valued. It is not uncommon for them to have tails that weigh eight or ten pounds, and they have six or eight horns; some of which stand out horizontally, and occasion a great deal of blood to be spilt when the rams engage with each other. Their goats likewise are much esteemed for the fine wool on their bellies, as well as for their flesh.

Men may marry for life, or for any determined time; in Persia, as well as over all Turkey; and travellers or merchants, who intend to stay some time in any city, and are disposed for such a contract, commonly apply to the cadee or judge, for a wife during the time of his residence.

The Persians in ancient times were famous for learning, and their poets renowned

ed all over the east ; but I suspect, from the taste which the Persians have for hyperbole, that however animated their compositions might be, they would furnish a critic with more examples of bombast than of the genuine sublime. Be this as it may, there certainly is in the University of Oxford, a manuscript, containing the lives of no less than a hundred and thirty-five of the finest poets. One of these, named Ferdosi, compiled the history of Persia, in a series of epic poems, which employed him near thirty years, and which Mr. Jones affirms to be a glorious monument of Eastern genius and learning. Two other celebrated Persian poets are Hafiz and Sheik Sadi ; and the tombs of both, which still remain, are held in great veneration. That of Hafiz stands about two miles from the city of Sherauz. It is constructed of fine white marble, eight feet in length, and four in breadth. On the top and sides of the tomb are select pieces from the poet's own works, most beautifully cut in the Persian character. During the spring and summer seasons, the inhabitants visit here, and amuse themselves with smoking, playing at chess and

and other games ; reading alſo the works of Hafiz, whoſe memory they venerate almoſt to a degree of adoration.

About three or four miles from the tomb of Hafiz, is that of Sheik Sadi. This is a large ſquare building, at the upper end of which are two alcove reſſes in the wall, built of ſtone, in good preſervation. On the ſides of it are engraved many ſentences relative to the poet and his works. Sadi flouriſhed about five-hundred and fifty years ago, and his productions are held in great eſteem among all the eaſtern nations, for their morality, and the excellent precepts they inculcate. On the top of the tomb is a covering of painted wood, black and gold, on which is written an ode of the Sheik's, and on removing this board, is perceived the ſtone coffin in which his remains were depoſited. This the votaries who come thither, take care to ſtrew with flowers, roſaries, and various offerings.

At preſent learning is at a very low ebb among the Perſians. Their boated ſkill in aſtronomy is reduced to a mere ſmattering in that ſcience, and terminates in judicial aſtrology,

astrology, to which the Persians are now superstitiously addicted. The learned profession in greatest esteem amongst them is that of medicine, which is at perpetual variance with astrology; because every dose must be administered in the auspicious hour fixed by the astrologers: a restriction which must often defeat the success of whatever has been prescribed.

The most remarkable piece of antiquity in Persia, is the famous palace of Persepolis, which stands at the distance of between thirty and forty miles from Sherauz. It is situated on a rising ground, and commands an extensive prospect over the plain of Merdasht. The mountain Rehumut encircles the palace in the form of an amphitheatre. You ascend to the columns by a grand stair-case of blue stone, consisting of a hundred and four steps. The first object that strikes the beholder on his entrance, are two portals of stone, each about fifty feet in height. The sides are embellished with two sphinxes of an immense size, dressed out with a profusion of bead-work, and, contrary to the usual method, they are represented standing. On the sides above
are

are inscriptions in an ancient character, the meaning of which no person hitherto has been able to decypher.

At a small distance from these portals you ascend another flight of steps, which lead to the grand hall of columns. The sides of this stair-case are ornamented with a variety of figures in basso-relievo. Most of them have vessels in their hands; here and there a camel appears, and in other parts a triumphal car, designed after the Roman fashion. Besides these, are several led horses, oxen and rams, which diversify the procession. At the head of the stair-case, is another basso-relievo, representing a lion seizing a bull; and close to this are other inscriptions in ancient characters

On arriving at the top of the stair-case, you enter what was formerly a most magnificent hall. Fifteen of the columns yet remain entire, and are masterly pieces of masonry. Their pedestals are curiously worked, and appear little injured by the ravages of time. The shafts are fluted up to the top, and the capitals are adorned with a profusion of fret work.

Proceeding

Proceeding eastward from this hall, you arrive at a very large square building, the entrance to which is through a door of granite. Most of the doors and windows of this apartment still exist; they are of black marble, and polished like a mirror. On the sides of the doors, at the entrance, are bas-reliefs of two figures at full length, they represent a man in the attitude of stabbing a goat; with one hand he seizes the animal by the horn, and with the other thrusts a dagger into its belly. One of the goat's feet rests upon the breast of the man, and the other upon his right arm. This device is common throughout the palace. Over another door of the same apartment, is a representation of two men at full length: Behind them stands a domestic, holding in his hand a spread umbrella. They are supported by large round staves, appear to be in years, have long beards, and a profusion of hair upon their heads.

At the south-west entrance of this apartment are two large pillars of stone, upon which are carved four figures; they are dressed in long garments, and hold in their hands

hands spears ten feet in length. At this entrance also the remains of a stair-case of blue stone are still visible. Vast numbers of broken pieces of pillars, shafts, and capitals, are scattered over a considerable extent of ground; some of them of such an enormous size, that it is wonderful to think how they could have been brought whole, and set up together.

The materials of which this palace is composed, are chiefly hard blue stone; but the doors and windows of the apartments are all of black marble, and so beautifully polished as to reflect an object like a mirror. One of the principal things worthy of remark, is the immense strength of the foundation. The whole of the palace takes in a circuit of fourteen hundred square yards; its front from north to south is six hundred paces, and from east to west three hundred and ninety. The height of the foundation, in front, is in several parts from forty to fifty feet, and consists of two immense stones laid together. The sides are not so high, and are more unequal, owing to the vast quantity of sand which has fallen from the mountain.

The

The hall of pillars appears to have been detached from the rest of the palace, and to have had a communication with the other parts by hollow galleries of stone. By the pedestals of the pillars which remain, the hall seems originally to have consisted of nine distinct rows of columns, each containing six; making consequently in all fifty-four. The fifteen that remain are from seventy to eighty feet in height, the diameter at the base is twelve feet, and the distance between each column twenty-two. By the position of the front pillars, the hall appears to have been open towards the plain; but four of the pillars facing the mountain, and which are at some distance from the rest, seem to have been intended for a portico, or entrance from the east. The materials of the columns are a mixed sort of red stone, granular. The hall, situated on an eminence, and commanding an extensive view of the plain of Merdasit, is strikingly grand, and conveys to the beholder the idea of a hall of audience of a powerful and warlike monarch.

When and by whom this palace was originally built, it is impossible to determine.

Some

Some have ascribed it to Darius, the Persian emperor, who was conquered by Alexander. That it is however of great antiquity no doubt can be entertained.

Behind the hall of pillars, and close under the mountain, are the remains of a very large building of a quadrangular form.— This may have made either a part of the palace, or perhaps a detached temple; as it has within-side symbols emblematical of religious appropriation. This building has four principal entrances in different quarters.

Notwithstanding the magnificence of these, and other ancient buildings found in different parts of Persia, they are void of that elegance and beauty which we admire in the Greek architecture. The tombs of the Persian kings are stupendous works, cut out of a rock, and highly ornamented with sculpture.

The houses of the men of quality in Persia are in the same taste with those of the Asiatic Turks. They are seldom above one story high, built of bricks, with flat roofs for walking on, and thick walls. The doors are narrow and clumsy, the hall arched; and the rooms have no communi-

cation but with the hall, the kitchen and office houses being built apart. Instead of chimnies, most of them have a round hole in the middle of the room. Their furniture chiefly consists of carpets; and their beds are two thick cotton quilts, which serve them likewise for coverlids, with carpets under them.

Isfahan, the capital of Persia, stands in a fine plain, within a mile of the river Zenderhand, which supplies it with water. It is computed to be twelve miles in circumference; of which the royal palace occupies a great part. The streets are narrow and crooked, and the chief amusement of the inhabitants is on the flat roofs of their houses, where they generally spend the summer evenings. There are in Isfahan no less than a hundred and sixty mosques, and eighteen hundred caravanseras. The number of public baths is likewise very great.

The Persians equal, if not exceed all the manufacturers in the world in silk, woollen, mohair, carpets, and leather. In their carpets, in particular, they have the art of joining fancy, taste, and elegance to richness,

ness, heatness, and shew; notwithstanding which they are ignorant of painting, and their drawings are very rude. Their dying excels that of Europe. Their silver and gold laces, and threads, are admirable for preserving their lustre. Their embroideries, and horse furniture are not to be equalled; nor are they ignorant of the pottery and window-glass manufactures. On the other hand, their carpenters are very indifferent workmen; which is said to be owing to the scarcity of timber all over Persia. Their jewellers and goldsmiths are also clumsy artists, and they are ignorant of clock-making, and the manufacture of looking glasses. But they lie under great disadvantages from the arbitrary form of government, and the rapacity exercised by those who often ascend the throne by usurpation.

The irrevocable laws of the ancient Medes and Persians are no longer known, having perished, it is probable, with the constitution to which they owed their existence. At present, in Persia, as in every mahometan country, they have no other law but the koran, and the comments of the ecclesiastics upon it. The priests enjoy

the privilege of being judges in all cases, both civil and religious; but such as are criminal, the governors take upon them to decide: not however without this authority being protested against by the priesthood. In respect to the judgments of the king, or his viceroys, they are all arbitrary.

The law in cases of debt is extremely severe. If the debtor be unable to pay, he is delivered to the creditor to be dealt with as he shall determine; the latter having it in his power to sell him, with all his family, or make slaves of the whole, if he pleases.

All persons here plead their own cause, the women as well as the men; only the former are veiled, and have a particular part of the court assigned them to stand in. The principal business for which they appear before a judge, is to obtain a divorce. They usually ground their action on the impotence of their husbands, and are always on those occasions extremely clamorous.

Murders and robberies rarely occur in Persia, guards being placed on every road to prevent them, or apprehend offenders. Bakers and cooks have sometimes been baked or roasted alive, for defrauding the
people

people of their provisions by false weights; but for the most part, they are only confined, or condemned to the bastinado.

Though the Persians profess the religion of Mahomet no less than the Turks, they differ considerably in their principles from those of that nation; the latter following Abubeker, Omar, and Osman, and the former the comments of Hali. Such is the antipathy between those two sects, that, not content with the most rancorous hatred, they even curse each other in their prayers. Both parties, however, call themselves Musselmén, or of the number of the faithful. They have two articles of faith, namely, that there is but one God; and that Mahomet is his prophet. The commandments of their religion are, to observe corporal purifications; to pray five times a day; to give alms; to fast in the month Ramezan; and to go on pilgrimage to Mecca. To this system the Persians add another article of faith, which is, that Hali is the vicar of God.

Their religion is, if possible, in some things, more fantastical and sensual than that of the Turks, and is in many points mingled

with Bramin superstitions. Some of them even maintain the Pythagorean doctrine of transmigration. There are still in the country a vast number of Guebres or Gaurs, who pretend to be the disciples and successors of the ancient Magi, the followers of Zoroaster. A combustible spot of ground, about ten miles distant from Baku, a city in the north of Persia, is the scene where these people perform their solemn devotions. There are upon this ground several old little temples, in one of which the Guebres pretend to preserve the sacred flame of the universal fire, which rises from the end of a large hollow cane stick in the ground, resembling a lamp burning with very pure spirits.

LETTER

LETTER XXXIX.

FROM the kingdom which I last visited, there is an immediate transition into Arabia. This country is formed into three divisions, which are Arabia Petræa, on the north-west ; Arabia Deserta, in the middle ; and Arabia Felix, on the south-east. It is almost surrounded with seas, and there are few fountains, springs, or rivers in this country, except the Euphrates, which washes the north-east limits of it. As a considerable part of this territory lies under the Torrid Zone, the air is excessively hot and dry, and the country is subject to hot pestilential winds, like those on the opposite shores of Persia, which often prove fatal, especially to strangers. The soil in some parts, is nothing more than immense sands, which, when agitated by the winds, roll like the troubled ocean, and sometimes
form

form mountains, by which whole caravans have been overwhelmed. In these deserts the caravans having no tracks, are guided as at sea, by a compass, or by the stars, for they travel chiefly in the night.

This country, except sometimes at the equinoxes, is never refreshed with rain; and the intenseness of the cold in the night, is almost equal in degree to that of the heat in the day-time. But the southern parts of Arabia, deservedly called the happy, is blessed with an excellent soil, and in general, is very fertile. The cultivated lands, which are chiefly about the towns near the sea coast, produce balm of gilead, manna, myrrh, cassia, aloes, frankincense, spike-nard, and other valuable gums; with cinnamon, pepper, oranges, lemons, pomegranates, figs, and other fruits. Honey and wax are in great plenty, and there is a small quantity of corn and wine. This country is famous for its coffee and its dates, the last of which are scarcely found any where in such perfection as here and in Persia. There are few trees fit for timber in Arabia, and little wood of any kind.

The

The most useful animals in this country are camels and dromedaries, which are admirably fitted by Providence for traversing the dry and parched deserts ; for by a peculiar contrivance in their œconomy, they can throw up the liquor from their stomach into their throat, and by that means can travel six or eight days without water. The camels usually carry eight hundred pounds weight on their backs, which are also peculiarly formed for the security of burdens, which are not removed during the whole journey : for the camels naturally kneel down to rest, and afterwards rise without discomposing their loads. The dromedary is a small camel that will travel many miles a day. It is a common observation among the Arabs, that wherever there are trees, water is not far off. The camels will smell a pool at a considerable distance, and set up their great trot till they come to it. I need not tell you, that the Arabian horses are well known in Europe, and have contributed to improve the breed of those in England.

The Arabians, like most of the nations in Asia, are of a middle stature, thin, and of

a swarthy complexion, with their hair and eyes black. They are swift of foot, excellent horsemen, and in general a martial people, expert at the bow and lance, and, since they became acquainted with fire arms, good marksmen. The inhabitants of the inland country live in tents, after the manner of the Tartars, and remove from place to place with their flocks and herds. But they are in general such robbers, that travellers and pilgrims who come thither from all nations, through motives of devotion or curiosity, are struck with terror on approaching towards the deserts. For those banditti, headed by a captain, traverse the country in considerable troops on horseback, and assault and plunder the caravans. On the sea coast they act likewise as pirates, and make prizes of every vessel which they can master, of whatever nation.

The roving Arabs have all the appearance of banditti. Their habit is a kind of blue shirt, tied about them with a white sash or girdle ; and some of them have a vest of furs or sheep skins over it. They wear drawers, and sometimes slippers, but no stockings ;

stockings ; and have a cap or turban on their heads. Many of them go almost naked ; but, as in the eastern countries, the women are so wrapped up, that nothing can be seen but their eyes. Like other Mahometans, the Arabs eat all kinds of flesh, except that of hogs ; but prefer the flesh of camels to any other. Their usual drink is water, sometimes sweetened with sugar, or sherbet made of oranges. They likewise drink coffee, and even tea ; but use no strong liquors.

The Arabians in former times were famous for their learning, and skill in all the liberal arts, particularly that of medicine ; and science was known amongst them even during the period of the darkest ages in Europe : but there is scarcely any country at present where the people are so universally ignorant. The common language in the three Arabias is the Arabick, or corrupt Arabian, which is likewise spoken with some variation of dialect, over great part of the East, from Egypt to the court of the Great Mogul. The pure Arabic which is said to be a dialect of the Hebrew, and accounted by the eastern nations the most copious

pious and energetic language in the world, is taught in their schools, as Greek and Latin among the Europeans, and used by Mahometans in their worship ; for as the Koran was written in this language, they will not suffer it to be read in any other.

The famous Mount Sinai, is situated in Arabia Petræa. From it may be seen Mount Horeb, where Moses kept the flocks of Jethro, his father-in-law, when he saw the burning bush. On both these mountains are many chapels and cells, occupied by the Greek and Latin monks, who, like the religious at Jerusalem, pretend to shew the very spot which was the scene of any miracle or transaction recorded in scripture. What is called the Desert of Sinai, is a beautiful plain near nine miles long, and about three in breadth. It lies open to the north-east, but to the southward is closed by some of the lower eminences of Mount Sinai ; and other parts of the mountain make such encroachments upon the plain, as to divide it in two, each so capacious as to have been sufficient to receive the whole camp of the Israelites.

The

The chief cities in Arabia are Mocha, Aden, Muscar, Suez, and Juddah, where most of the trade of this country is carried on. Mocha is well built, the houses very lofty, and covered with a stucco which gives them a dazzling whiteness. The circuit of the walls is two miles, and there are in it several handsome mosques. Suez, the Arsinoe of the ancients, is surrounded by the Desert, and is but an ill-built place. Juddah is the place of the greatest trade on the Red Sea. But the capital of all Arabia is Mecca, the birth-place of Mahomet. There is here a mosque which is generally accounted the most magnificent of any temple in the Turkish dominions. Its roof, which is lofty, is raised in the fashion of a dome, and covered with gold; having at the end two beautiful towers, of extraordinary height and architecture. The mosque has two gates, with a window over each; and the whole building within is decorated with the finest gildings and tapestry. The number of pilgrims who yearly visit this place is almost incredible; every musselman being obliged by his religion

gion to come thither once in his life time, or send a deputy. .

At the city of Medina likewise, to which Mahomet fled when he was driven out of Mecca, and which is the place where he was buried, is a stately mosque, supported by four hundred pillars, and furnished with three hundred silver lamps, which are continually burning. The Turks give this mosque the name of the "Most Holy," because in it is placed the coffin of their prophet Mahomet, covered with cloth of gold, under a canopy of silver tissue, which the Bashaw of Egypt, by order of the Grand Seignior, renews every year. The camel which brings it, is held in a sort of veneration, and is never afterwards to be employed in any drudgery. Over the foot of the coffin is a rich golden crescent, curiously wrought, and adorned with precious stones. To this place the pilgrims resort, as to Mecca, but not in such numbers.

From the licentiousness of the Arabs, and the predatory life which they lead, one would be apt to think that there was no political subordination amongst them; but the inland country of Arabia is under the government

government of many petty princes, who are styled Xerifs and Imans, both of them comprising the offices of king and priest, in the same manner as the caliphs of the Saracens, the successors of Mahomet. They are in fact absolute both in temporal and spiritual authority; the succession is hereditary, and they have no other laws than those found in the koran, and the comments upon it. The northern Arabs owe subjection to the Turks, and are governed by bashaws residing among them; but it is certain that they receive large gratuities from the Grand Seignior, for protecting the pilgrims that pass through those parts from the danger of being robbed.

The southern and inland parts of Arabia have had the singular good fortune not only to maintain their freedom and independence through all ages, but to have made the most extensive and rapid conquests ever achieved by any nation. This was, however, not the effect of valor, or military exertion alone, but of an enthusiasm, inflamed with superstition, which bore down every thing before it. An ignorant, but artful impostor, Mahomet, a native of this territory, had the
address

address to impose himself upon his countrymen as a prophet sent immediately by God into the world, for the purpose, as he pretended, not only of instructing mankind in the divine will, but of compelling them to obey it. The result of the fiction exceeded his most sanguine expectations. All Arabia instantly caught the flame of innovation, and it was spread in a short time over a vast part of Europe, Asia, and Africa; all sects of religion were either overawed, or rendered proselytes to the belief of the new doctrine; christian churches were converted into mosques; a new æra was introduced into the history of mankind; and in the end an impostor, who would have merited the severest punishment in civilised society, not only received in his person the homage of a multitude of nations, but obtained such posthumous honors as never before were conferred on any mortal; and has transmitted his name, with that of his spurious doctrines, to half the habitable world.

I E T T E R

L E T T E R XL.

LEAVING Asia on the east, I entered the third grand division of the globe ; and it was optional to take my passage thither, either by sea or land : for though the two continents now mentioned are separated from each other, along the far greater part of their extent, by the Red Sea, they are joined towards the north by a neck of land, about sixty miles over, called the Isthmus of Suez, which lies between the extremity of that sea and the Mediterranean.

As the equator divides this extensive continent almost in the middle, and the most considerable part of it is within the tropics, the heat is in many parts almost insupportable to a European ; it being there increased by the rays of the Sun reflected from the vast deserts of burning sands. The coast, however,

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and

and banks of the rivers, such as the Nile, are generally fertile ; and most parts of this region are inhabited, though it is far from being so populous as Europe or Asia.

In many parts of Africa snow is generally never seen but on the tops of the highest mountains ; and the inhabitants have no conception of the possibility of water being congealed into the form of a solid substance. The most considerable rivers are the Niger and the Nile, each of which runs a prodigious course ; and both of them increasing and decreasing alike, fertilize the adjacent countries in a wonderful manner.

The greatest mountains on the Continent are the Atlas, a ridge extending from the Atlantic Ocean as far as Egypt, and had its name from a king of Mauritania, a great lover of astronomy, who used to observe the stars from its summit ; on which account the poets represent him as bearing the heavens on his shoulders : The Mountains of the Moon, extending themselves between Abyssinia and Monomotapa, and are still higher than those of Atlas : Those of Sierra Leone, or the Mountain of the Lions, which divide Nigritia from Guinea,
and

and extend as far as Ethiopia. These were styled by the ancients the Mountains of God, on account of their being subject to thunder and lightning.

The situation of Africa for commerce is extremely favorable, having a much nearer communication with Europe, Asia, and America, than any of the other quarters has with the rest. Yet, though stored with inexhaustible treasure, and capable, under proper improvements, of producing many luxuries as well as conveniencies, within itself, it seems to be almost entirely neglected, not only by the natives, but the more civilized Europeans who are settled in it. It is however to be hoped, that the establishment lately made at Sierra Leone, by some public spirited men of our own country, will prove the means of improving those benefits which nature has bestowed on this continent.

Africa once contained several kingdoms and states, eminent for the liberal arts, for wealth and power, and the most extensive commerce. The kingdoms of Egypt and Ethiopia, in particular, were much celebrated ; and the rich and powerful state of

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Carthage,

Carthage, that once formidable rival of Rome itself, extended her commerce to every part of the then known world. After the reduction of these countries by the Romans, the natives, constantly plundered, and of course impoverished, by the governors sent from Rome, neglected trade and cultivated no more of their lands than might serve for their subsistence. Upon the decline of the Roman empire, in the fifth century, the north of Africa was overrun by the Vandals, who contributed still more to the destruction of arts and sciences; and to add to the calamity of this continent, the Saracens made a sudden conquest of all the coasts of Egypt and Barbary in the seventh century. Those were succeeded by the Turks; and both being of the Mahometan religion, the professors of which carried devastation wherever they came, the ruin of this once flourishing part of the world was by that means completed.

The inhabitants of this continent, with respect to religion, may be divided into three classes, namely Pagans, Mahometans, and Christians. The first are the most numerous, possessing the greatest part of the
country

country from the Tropic of Cancer, to the Cape of Good Hope, and those are generally black. The Mahometans, who from their more northern situation are of a tawny complexion, possess Egypt, and almost all of what is called the Barbary coast. The people of Abyssinia, or the Upper Ethiopia, are denominated Christians, but retain many Pagan and Jewish rites. There are many Jews in the north of Africa, who manage all the little trade that is carried on by that part of the country.

Having said thus much of Africa in general, I proceed to my survey of Egypt.

In April and May the air in Egypt is hot, and often infectious; and the inhabitants are almost blinded with drifts of sand: but these evils are remedied by the rising and overflowing of the Nile. This celebrated river, supplying the want of rain, of which very little falls in the country, begins to rise when the Sun is vertical in Ethiopia, and the annual rains fall there, which happen periodically from the latter end of May to September, and sometimes October. At the height of its flood in the Lower Egypt, which is the northern division of

the country, nothing is to be seen in the plains but the tops of forests and fruit-trees, all the towns and villages being built upon eminences either natural or artificial. When the inundation of the river is at its height, the inhabitants celebrate a kind of jubilee, with all sorts of festivities. The banks or mounds which confine the waters of the river are cut by the Turkish bashaw, attended by the chief inhabitants of the country. The water is then laid into what they call the chalis, or grand canal, which runs through Cairo, whence it is distributed into cuts, for supplying the fields and gardens. This being done, and the waters beginning to retire, so great is the fertility of the soil, that the husbandman has almost nothing to do with cultivation. He throws his wheat and barley into the ground in October and May; he turns his cattle out to graze in November; and you would be delighted with the prospect which the face of the country presents in about six weeks, in rising corn, vegetables, and verdure of every kind. The air is perfumed with oranges, lemons, and a variety of fruits. March and April are the harvest months.

The

The Egyptian pasturage is equally prolific, most of the quadrupeds producing two at a time, and the sheep four lambs in the year.

Aristotle informs us, that the new waters of the Nile, whether drunk, or used in the way of a bath, never failed to render the women fruitful; that they usually conceived in July or August, and were delivered in April or May. According to Diodorus Siculus, they sometimes were delivered of four children at a birth, sometimes of seven. But I have not been able to find upon the strictest enquiry, that there is at present the smallest foundation for those assertions. The women of Egypt, like those of other countries, are delivered equally in all months of the year; nor do they seem any way peculiarly disposed to the production of two or more children at a birth.

The country abounds in black cattle; so that in all ages the flesh pots of Egypt have been well supplied. The Egyptian horses are very fine: they never trot, but walk well, and gallop with great speed. The breed of the asses is of a large kind, and upon them the Christians ride: for they are
not

not permitted by the Turks to make use of any other animal; but this restriction is not extended to travellers. The Hippopotamus, or river horse, an amphibious animal, resembling an ox in its hinder parts, is common in Upper Egypt; and among various other creatures, there is in this country an ape with the head like a dog. The crocodile was formerly thought peculiar to Egypt; but there does not seem to be any essential difference between it and the alligators of India and America. The Ibis, a creature somewhat resembling a duck, and which was deified by the ancient Egyptians for its destroying serpents and noxious insects, was also thought peculiar to Egypt; it appears, however, that a species of them has been lately discovered in other parts of Africa. Ostriches are common here, and are so strong, that the Arabs sometimes ride upon their backs.

Egypt is certainly at present not near so populous as formerly, owing to the oppression of the inhabitants by the Turks; but they are still very numerous. The descendants of the original Egyptians are distinguished by the name of Coptis. In complexion,

complexion, they are rather sun burnt than swarthy or black; and are an ill looking slovenly people, immersed in indolence. Their ancestors were once christians, and in general they still pretend to be of that religion; but mahometanism is the prevailing worship among the natives. Those who inhabit the villages and fields, at any considerable distance from the Nile, consist of Arabs, or their descendants, who are of a deep swarthy complexion. They pass their time in tending their flocks, and many of them have no fixed place of abode. The Turks who reside in Egypt, retain all their Ottoman pride and insolence, with the Turkish habit, to distinguish themselves from the Arabs and Copts, who dress very plain. The ordinary dress of the latter is of blue linen, with a long cloth coat, either over or under it; and their chief finery is an upper garment of white linen, and linen drawers. The Christians and Arabs of the meaner sort content themselves with a linen or woollen wrapper, which they fold like a blanket round their body. The dress of the women is tawdry and unbecoming; but their cloaths are silk, when they can afford it;

it; and such of them as are not exposed to the sun, have delicate complexions. All Egypt is over-run with jugglers, fortune-tellers, mountebanks, and travelling flight-of-hand men.

The papyrus is one of the natural curiosities of Egypt, and served the ancients to write upon; but we are unacquainted with the manner in which they prepared it.—The pith of it is a nourishing food. The method of hatching chickens in ovens is common in Egypt, and is now practised in some parts of Europe. But I shall suspend till my next letter the farther account of this country.

LETTER

L E T T E R XLI.

EGYPT abounds more with antiquities than perhaps any other part of the world; for its cities were very numerous, and remarkably splendid in ancient times. In many places, not only temples, but the walls of cities, built before the time of Alexander the Great, are still entire, and many of their ornaments, particularly the colours of their paintings, are as fresh and vivid as when first laid on. Alexandria, which lies several miles west of the Nile, was once the emporium of all the world; and by means of the Red Sea, furnished Europe and great part of Asia with the riches of India. It owes its name to the founder, Alexander the Great. It rose upon the ruins of Tyre and Carthage, and
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is famous for the light-house erected on the opposite island of Pharos, for the direction of mariners, deservedly esteemed one of the wonders of the world. All the other parts of the city were magnificent in proportion, as may be seen from the ruins, particularly the cisterns and aqueducts.—Many of the materials of the old city, however, have been employed in building New Alexandria, which at present is a very ordinary sea-port, known by the name of Scandaroon. Notwithstanding the poverty, ignorance, and indolence of the inhabitants, their mosques, bagnios, and other public buildings, erected within these ruins, preserve a great air of majesty.

Near Alexandria are to be seen the remains of the mausoleum of Cleopatra. It is the same in which she had deposited the body of Anthony, and where she herself was likewise interred, in consequence of her request to Octavius Cæsar, immediately before her death. This structure was begun in her own life time, and completed by the order of Cæsar. That it was very grand, we have the testimony of historians, and

Martial

Martial alludes to it in the following beautiful epigram.

De vipera electro inclusa.

*Fleutibus Heliadum ramis dum vipera serpsit,
Fluxit in obstantem succina gemma feram.
Quæ dum miratur pingui se rore teneri,
Concreto riguit vincula repente gelu.
Ne tibi regali placeas, Cleopatra, sepulchro,
Vipera si tumulo nobiliore jacet.*

Lib. iv. Ep. 46.

Near this spot are the foundation and stately ruins of an ancient structure, which some affirm to have been Cæsar's palace. In the neighbourhood, likewise, stands Pompey's pillar, which is a fine regular column of the Corinthian order, eighty-four feet nine inches high, and all of one stone. Including the capital and pedestal, the height of the whole is a hundred and fourteen feet.

Rosetta, or Raschid, stands twenty-five miles north-west of Alexandria, commanding a beautiful prospect of the country, or island of Delta, formed by the Nile near its mouth; and is a place of considerable trade.

The

The whole country towards Grand Cairö; is a continued scene of antiquities, of which the oldest are the most stupendous; but the more modern the most beautiful. Cairo, now Mairs, the present capital of Egypt, is a large and populous city, but disagreeable on account of its pestilential air, and the narrowness of the streets. It is divided into two towns, the Old and the New, and defended by an old castle, the works of which are computed to be three miles in circumference. This castle is said to have been built by the famous Saladine, about six hundred years ago. At the west end are the remains of very noble apartments, some of which are covered with domes, and adorned with pictures in mosaic work. The well, called Joseph's well, is a curious piece of mechanism, about three hundred feet deep. You must know that the memory of that Patriarch is still revered in Egypt; they shew granaries, and many other works of public utility, that go under his name. They are certainly of great antiquity; but whether they have been erected by him may still be matter of doubt. On the banks of the Nile, facing
Cairo,

Cairo,, lies the village of Gizie, which is thought to be the ancient Memphis.

A favorite exhibition in this part of the country, is dancing camels, which, when young, they place upon a large heated floor: the intense heat makes the poor creatures caper; and being plied all the time with the beating of drums, the sound of that instrument sets them a dancing all their lives after.

But what afforded more gratification to my taste, was the opportunity I had of seeing the *sistrum*, a musical instrument anciently used at the Egyptian sacrifices; and with which Virgil makes Cleopatra assemble her troops at the battle of Actium.

Regina in mediis patrio vocat agitare sistro.

It is an iron hoop of an oval form, about four inches long, through which run three moveable cross bars of the same metal. It has a wooden handle; somewhat resembles a gridiron, and makes a rattling noise on being shaken.

The other towns of note in Egypt are Damietta, supposed to be the ancient Pelusium ;

tium ; Bulac, where they cut the banks of the Nile every year, that it may fill their canals ; Seyd, on the west bank of the Nile, two hundred miles south of Cairo, said to be the ancient Egyptian Thebes, where are still many remains of antiquity.

Would not the greater part of mankind be apt to question my veracity, when I affirm, that I have really seen several persons, who, if they did not precede the age of Solomon, may have been at least his contemporaries ? You will readily understand that I mean mummies, which I have seen taken from the catacombs of Egypt. There are subterraneous vaults hewn in the rock, and used by the ancients for burial places. They consist of a vast number of apartments, communicating with each other, and extending to a very great distance underground. Round every apartment run three ranges of niches, all large enough to contain a coffin. The rock in which they are hewn being soft, many of the apartments are in ruins. At the entrance are still some remains of steps cut in the rock ; and it is not doubted but these places were formerly very magnificent.

The

The bodies which I have seen are painted with hieroglyphical figures; and were preserved in cases made of the sycamore tree, a sort of wood as durable as themselves. Near them, in the catacombs, were several of the birds Ibis, embalmed in earthen pots. Vast antiquity, of itself, is apt to excite in the mind some degree of veneration; but this is perhaps more particularly due to the inhabitants of the catacombs than to any other natural objects, when we consider that they have passed the solemn and impartial trial after death, from which even those of the highest quality in Egypt were not exempted; by which their actions and characters were fully canvassed and approved, before they could be allowed interment. Indeed there is reason to think, that this scrutiny was not carried with so much rigor into the private scenes of life, as in the more public steps of conduct, which might affect the welfare of the community.

The art of embalming among the ancient Egyptians has been very imperfectly transmitted by historians. It is doubtless more a matter of curiosity than use. From the blackness of the bones, however, and the
i i pitchy

pitchy substance found within them, it would seem to have consisted in boiling the body in pitch, after having embowelled it, and extracted the brains through the nose, as Herodotus informs us.

The practice of embalming was originally founded on the opinion, that after a certain number of years, the soul should be re-united to the body. Whether such practice could really have any influence on the morals of the Egyptians, by keeping in remembrance the virtues of their ancestors, as some have imagined, is not easy to determine. Perhaps we have attributed to that custom an effect, which proceeded only from the principle on which the custom was founded. It is probable that the greatest advantage which the state derived from its dead, was in relation to commerce. For by a law of Asychis, it was enacted, that no person should borrow money without pawning the body of his ancestor, which it was reckoned the greatest infamy not to redeem. But, whatever effect it might have had on the virtue of individuals, I am inclined to think, that, from the esteem in which it was held, the custom of embalming

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ing must, upon the whole, have had a very pernicious influence on their national courage. For they would not readily expose their bodies to danger, who were so ambitious of preserving them as entire as possible, till the time they expected the resurrection. And in fact we find, that never any people were so often, or so easily conquered as the Egyptians. They regarded the dwellings of the living as inns, which were intended to accommodate them for a short space of time only, while they called the mansions of the dead their houses, which they were to possess for a long revolution of ages; and provided they enjoyed the security of the latter, they were little disposed to defend the former.

The lake Mæris in Egypt is likewise a prodigious excavation; and of all the ancient wonders in this country, it seems to have been the only one which united utility with grandeur: for we are told that it was dug by order of an Egyptian king, to correct the irregularities of the Nile, and to communicate with that river by canals and ditches which still exist.

Adjoining to it, was the celebrated labyrinth, which contained twelve magnificent palaces, answering to the twelve provinces of Egypt. In each of them was a vast hall, with an equal number of doors opposite to each other; six opening to the north, and as many to the south. The number of chambers in this edifice was three thousand; in the lowermost of which were the sepulchres of the holy crocodiles, and of several of the kings. But what was more astonishing than its prodigious magnitude, was the intricacy which prevailed through the whole. The passages between the chambers ran in directions so extremely various, that by nothing but such an expedient as the clue of Ariadne was it possible to unravel them.

LETTER

LETTER XLII.

HAVING in my last letter made mention of the "Holy Crocodiles," I cannot refrain from expressing my surprise, at the absurd veneration which was paid by the ancient Egyptians to that animal, as well as to several others, as the cat, the dog, the hawk, and the ibis. Particular lands were appropriated for the maintenance of each species; and the care of feeding and attending them was accounted the most honorable employment in the kingdom. To those animals the inhabitants solemnly offered up their prayers; and with such profusion were those ridiculous deities entertained, that by one man, who had the care of a number of them, no less, we are told by Diodorus Siculus, than a hundred talents were expended. They were kept in consecrated inclosures, where their victuals

consisted of the greatest dainties. The most usual food was the finest flour boiled in milk; cakes of several sorts made with honey; and the flesh of geese either boiled or roasted. Those which fed on raw meat were supplied with birds of different kinds.

The conduct of the Egyptians in the maintenance of their animals and of their own children, displayed a remarkable contrast. For while they lavished such exorbitant sums on the former, the latter were fed and cloathed at so small an expence, that from birth to the age of manhood, a boy seldom cost his father more than twenty drachms, or about thirteen shillings.

They went for the most part naked; and their usual diet consisted of the stalks and roots of the plants which grow in the marshes. This frugal manner in which they brought up their children was probably one great cause of the 'populousness of Egypt.

My progress now leads me to give you an account of the Egyptian pyramids, which have been the wonder of the world for upwards of three thousand years.

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The greatest of these pyramids are three in number, and are situated in the neighbourhood of the ancient Memphis. The largest stands on a rock, hewn in the form of a camel's back, about sixty feet high, and traverses obliquely the base of the pyramid from north to south. The base is an exact square, each side measuring six hundred and ninety three English feet. The four sides face the four cardinal points, and the entrance is on the north. The perpendicular altitude of this stupendous structure is five hundred feet, and the length of its inclosed plain six hundred and seventy feet. The pile is ascended on the outside, not by regular steps, there being none, but by the stones of the building, the great thickness of which renders the journey exceedingly troublesome. The top is covered with six stones, each about six feet in length, but with an interval between each, which would require six other stones of equal dimensions to fill up. This circumstance gives rise to a conjecture, either that the pyramid never was completely finished, or that some attempt had been made to pull it down. The pyramid is entered by a nar-

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row aperture a little above the level of the base. But before a traveller attempts to gratify his curiosity by such an adventure, it is necessary to discharge some pistols, to frighten away the owls, bats, snakes, and other reptiles harbouring here, and which, on those explosions, hasten away to their lurking places.

I shall not detain you with a minute account of the internal arrangements, but only inform you, in general, that, after a descent of several feet, you ascend through two narrow passages, one of which is eighty four feet in length, and the other ninety-six. This leads into a gallery of polished marble, the height of which is twenty-two feet and a half above the pavement; whence you pass into a magnificent chamber, built of Thebaic marble, thirty-six feet in length, eighteen in breadth, and the same in height. In this apartment is a marble chest, but without either cover or contents, supposed to have been designed for the tomb of the founder. Ascending still higher, through a passage of a hundred and thirteen feet in length, you come to another large apartment, the smell of which is extremely offensive,

sensive, and doubtless arises from the ordure of the multitudes of vermin which infest this place.

About a mile from this structure stands the second pyramid, which appears to have been covered with marble, but hitherto the entrance of it has not been discovered. It is, except on the south side, well preserved, having neither chasms nor fissures; and from its surface being every where smooth and even, there is no possibility of ascending it. Not far thence is another pyramid, but something less than the preceding: and at some distance in the desert, several others of inferior dimensions.

Different accounts are delivered by authors, respecting the building and object of these wonderful structures. Pliny affirms that they were built for ostentation, or to keep an idle people in employment; but others, that they were destined for the sepulchres of Egyptian Kings; and this is the more general opinion. Josephus tells us that the Egyptians compelled the Israelites to build them; but Herodotus ascribes the first and largest pyramid to king Cheops, who flourished after the Trojan war; and
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adds, that this king began the building of it, in order to find employment for his subjects; that it was built of stones dug from quarries in the mountains of Arabia, brought thither by vessels on the Nile; and that above a hundred thousand persons were employed, thirty thousand every month. Diodorus Siculus calls the founder of this pyramid Chemmis; but agrees with Herodotus, with regard to time, though he increases the workmen to three hundred and sixty thousand; and both agree with Pliny, that it was twenty years in building.

With regard to the second pyramid, both Herodotus and Diodorus Siculus make the founder to have been Cephrenes, brother to Cheops, or Chemmis. The third is generally ascribed to king Mycerinus, the second son of Chemmis; though others allege that it was built by Rhodope, a favorite concubine of king Amasis.

There is the same difference between writers, in respect of the great pyramid, whether it was ever completed.* Most of them maintain the negative, as several stones are wanting at the top: nor does it appear to have been ever covered with
marble,

marble, like the second. It is added, that this pyramid being built by Cheops, one of the most tyrannical kings of Egypt, the inhabitants would neither suffer the pyramid to be completed, nor his body deposited in it; it being the general opinion, as already mentioned, that the pyramids were intended for sepulchres.

Others on the contrary affirm, that this pyramid was completely finished; but that afterwards attempts were made to demolish it: and accordingly the marble with which it was covered, was taken off, and the stones, which seem to be wanting at the top, were thrown down. It is certain that several modern princes have formed designs of demolishing it. Even in the year 1580, Ibrahim Pacha intended to blow it up with gun-powder, imagining that he should find among the ruins immense treasures. But Georgio Eino, then consul from the republic of Venice, at Cairo, diverted him from his project; convincing him, that the explosion of so large a quantity of gun-powder as would be requisite for that purpose, and the fragments of stones which would be violently projected from the structure,

ture, would demolish at least the greater part of Cairo, and at the same time, destroy multitudes of people.

That the stones for building the pyramids were brought from so great a distance as is related by Herodotus, notwithstanding the great extravagance, and astonishing undertakings of the Egyptian kings, seems extremely improbable, as they might be supplied with those materials in the neighbourhood of the pyramids; and in fact, the quarries adjoining them discover so much the specific marks and characteristics of the pyramidal stones, that they are not to be distinguished from them. On the whole, the pyramids of Egypt are the most stupendous, and, to appearance, the most useless structures, that ever were created by the hands of men.

Near these pyramids, on the west bank of the Nile, is to be seen the famous Sphinx, which consists of the head and shoulders of a woman, cut out of the rock, and is forty feet in height. There were anciently many of these sphinxes on the banks of the Nile; they were symbolical figures, with the head of a woman and the body of a lion, signifying

signifying, •that the Nile began to swell in the months of July and August, when the Sun passes through the signs of Leo and Virgo. One of them in particular, cut out of a rock, was remarkable for its prodigious dimensions. According to Pliny, the body was a hundred and forty-three feet in length, well proportioned ; and the circumference of the head a hundred and two feet.

LETTER

L E T T E R XLIII.

THOUGH it is generally admitted, that the Greeks derived the rudiments of science from the ancient Egyptians, and that Thales and many other philosophers visited Egypt for improvement in knowledge, yet there scarcely remains a vestige of it among the present inhabitants of the country. The bigotry and ignorance of their Mahometan masters might be sufficient to produce this change; which however, was effected many ages ago. The Caliphs, or Saracens, who subdued Egypt were of three kinds. The first, who were the immediate successors of Mahomet, made war from principle upon all kinds of literature, excepting the koran; and to this it was owing, that when they took possession of Alexandria, which

which contained the most magnificent library the world ever beheld, its valuable manuscripts were applied for some months in cooking their victuals, and warming their baths. The same fate attended the other magnificent Egyptian libraries. The caliphs of the second race were men of taste and learning, but of a peculiar strain. They bought up all the manuscripts that survived the general conflagration, relating to astronomy, medicine, and some useful parts of philosophy, but they had no taste for the Greek arts of architecture, sculpture, painting, or poetry; and learning was confined to their own courts and colleges, without ever finding its way back to Egypt. The lower class of Caliphs, especially those who called themselves caliphs of Egypt, disgraced human nature; and the Turks have rivetted the chains of barbarous ignorance which they imposed.

But we ought not to confound the state of learning in Egypt, at the destruction of the Alexandrian library, with that in which it existed in the time of Thales and other Grecian Philosophers who had visited that country. For the Alexandrian library contained

tained not only the Egyptian literature, but that likewise of the Greeks and Romans, which probably formed the most valuable part of the collection. Notwithstanding the reputation of learning, which the ancient Egyptians had acquired, there is no satisfactory evidence of their having made much progress in any useful research. Geometry was the only science which they appear to have understood in any tolerable degree. For, though they made observations on the stars, they were ignorant of those principles which are indispensable for erecting a scientific system of astronomy. And in the knowledge of any additional science, if we except the visionary doctrines in which they rivalled the Chaldeans; they were equally deficient with other nations.

One circumstance was peculiar to the Egyptians, and, if I mistake not, proved the cause of that celebrity which they universally obtained. The priests, beside the common alphabet used in the ordinary affairs of life, had, as we are informed by Herodotus, a symbolical character appropriated to subjects of science. This being

a hereditary possession in their families, and accessible only to the priesthood, it furnished them with the means not only of concealing from the world the knowledge which they had really acquired, but of imposing upon mankind by a fallacious display of learning which had no foundation.—The pretensions to knowledge could not be disproved which were never submitted to investigation; and ignorance might safely bid defiance to detection, when the veil of mystery within which it lay concealed was impenetrable.

Under the management of the most learned of the priesthood, this boasted symbolical character was absolutely incapable of accommodation to the purposes of science. For, admitting that the representation which it afforded of ideas was not both too arbitrary and ambiguous to be universally intelligible in any definite signification, yet the language must have been extremely circumscribed, which afforded no expression for any other ideas than such as could be represented by the pictures of material objects, numerous as they might be to any native of the most extensive ob-

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servation

servation in Egypt. Such a character, so far from being useful, was utterly inadequate to every exigence of precision. It could neither mark the copulation nor disjunction of ideas. It could express neither prepositive nor adverbial signification. In a word, it was incapable of describing any determinate relations of ideas, and could never attempt to delineate the abstract evolutions of sentiment.

To what purpose then, it may be asked, did the Egyptian priests make use of this symbolical character? The answer is obvious: they used it for the purpose of that priestcraft which in those times, universally disgraced the principles of men who subsisted by popular superstition. To this I will add another reason. The Egyptians were always addicted to ostentation of mystery: they excited the astonishment of the world by their pyramids, which, though built as royal sepulchres, never included the ashes of any king; and they affected to construct a language, which notwithstanding its arrogated superiority, contained not a tittle of any science.

The

The polity of the ancient Egyptians has been no less the object of admiration than the supposed learning of the priesthood; but I think the excellence of their constitution has been greatly exaggerated.— Perhaps the most salutary of all their laws was that which related to the celebrated trial of the dead. But admitting that this practice had actually a beneficial influence on the morals of the people, the institution of it proceeded not so much from any superior legislative wisdom, as from the universal prejudice of the nation. The greatest ambition amongst them was, that their bodies should be preserved as entire as possible to the end of the world; and nothing therefore could offer greater violence to their fondest hope, than to be denied the privilege of interment.

But in my opinion, this singular mode of trial is a strong proof that the administration of criminal justice in Egypt was extremely imperfect. If men had committed crimes for which it could be deemed proper to deprive them of what the Egyptians held as the most valuable of all human privileges; why were they not brought to a

legal trial? Was it consistent with, common justice that men should be condemned upon any accusation when they could not be heard in their own defence? Or was it equitable to punish with eternal infamy, offences which had not been thought of sufficient magnitude to justify the immediate cognizance of the laws? In every light in which this trial can be viewed, I must consider it as an absurd violation of the most sacred rights of mankind, and the resource of a legislature indisputably feeble and capricious.

But if the enforcement of morality amongst the Egyptians required such an institution as was unknown to any other people, the necessity of that restraint affords a strong presumption that their polity was defective in other parts. I am well supported by the evidence of history when I affirm, that no nation was ever less exposed than Egypt to the perpetration of those crimes which prove most injurious to society. The extreme fertility of the land, and the simplicity of cloathing, precluded the usual temptations to rapine and theft; whilst the unlimited number of wives in
which

which men were indulged, and the general practice of early marriage, equally tended to prevent the unlawful commerce of the sexes. If in such a situation, therefore, the Egyptians required the most forcible inducement to moral conduct, to what principle in their natural or political constitution ought we to ascribe this necessity? They were not more disposed to voluptuousness from the temperature of the climate than the inhabitants of many other countries. On this subject, there is some reason to suspect, that the morals of Egypt were corrupted by a cause which has generally been considered as productive of salutary effects. I mean the practice of introducing the figure of a dead person at entertainments. That the object of this custom was to promote, and not restrain festivity, or rather intoxication, is evident from the words with which the ceremony, as Herodotus relates, was accompanied: "Look upon this, and be merry; for such as this is, shalt thou be when thou art dead;" and it is further confirmed by the acknowledged intemperance to which the practice was rendered subservient. We are told by the

authority, that the Egyptians were remarkably addicted to drinking; and that they ate every night of boiled cabbage, as a preparative for the greater indulgence of their favorite vice.

In subjecting men to the employment of the distaff, and other domestic offices, whilst the women alone performed all business without doors, the polity of Egypt was a direct inversion of nature. By this preposterous custom the men became so effeminate, that they were shamefully vanquished by an inferior army of Persians, and indeed became the prey of every subsequent enemy who invaded them. It is said of Sesostris that he erected in Syria several stones, bearing upon them a representation of the private parts of a woman, as a reproach on the imbecility of his enemies; but one might almost be induced to suspect an error in history, which has converted into a sarcasm on foreign nations what was meant as a memorial of female valor; that the victories of this celebrated prince were obtained not by men, but the women of Egypt.

The

The custom of all trades being hereditary was also liable to strong objections. Though it suited œconomy, and seemed to favor proficiency in the various arts, it supported a restraint detrimental to the efforts of genius, and placed thousands of people in situations for which they were unqualified by nature.

When I consider all these circumstances, and the rude severity of the Egyptian punishments, I shall never admit, notwithstanding the claims of this people to high antiquity, that they afforded any example of that political wisdom which distinguished, in all other countries, the periods of refined civilization.

Their religion was the most odious mass of superstition ever invented by the human mind. Exclusive of geometry, and some astronomical observations, their learning, with all its ostentation, I affirm it, was but ignorance in disguise; and their polity, their boasted polity, had its foundations in extravagant caprice. The Egyptians nevertheless have had the peculiar fortune not only to impose upon contemporary

porary nations, but even to be^d venerated by posterity. That eternity which they wished with ardor to their own natural bodies, they have secured to the fame of their country. The wisdom of the Egyptians has been echoed from age to age. It is a mighty name, like the pyramids of the nation, but is in fact no more than a name; and I shall now suggest to you the means by which it arose.

Great populousness, and facility of subsistence have ever been regarded as the surest signs of a flourishing nation. These objects, being in general, attainable only by wise regulations of government, the countries in which they are most conspicuous are therefore supposed to enjoy a happy system of polity. Egypt was remarkable both for populousness and plenty of provisions: on which account it acquired the reputation of transcendant-excellence in respect of its customs and municipal laws. But the inference which in all other cases was just, coincided not with truth when applied to the particular circumstances of Egypt.

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This kingdom was indebted for its great prosperity to the annual inundation of the Nile; and the beneficial effects which proceeded entirely from this cause, were erroneously ascribed by inattentive observers to the superior polity of Egypt.

LETTER

L E T T E R XLIV.

THE next and last object of my survey, is the States of Barbary, which consist of those countries in Africa that lie on the coast of the Mediterranean sea. These States, under the Roman empire, were justly denominated the garden of the world. The produce of their soil formed the magazines which furnished all Italy, and great part of the Roman empire, with corn, wine, and oil. Though the lands are now uncultivated, through the oppression and barbarity of their government, yet they are still fertile, not only in the abovementioned commodities, but in dates, figs, raisins, almonds, apples, oranges, and other fruits, with plenty of esculent roots and herbs. In short, the country abounds in all that can add to the pleasures and conveniences

niences of life. Neither the elephant nor rhinoceros are to be found in the States of Barbary; but their deserts abound with lions, tygers, leopards, hyænas, and monstrous serpents. The Barbary horses were formerly very valuable, but their breed is now not equally good. Among their beasts of burden, which are camels, dromedaries, asses, and mules, there is a species called *kumrahs*, a servicable creature, begot by an ass upon a cow. Their cows are but small, and the quantity of milk they give scarcely proportioned to their size. Their sheep yield indifferent fleeces, but are very large, as are their goats. Bears, porcupines, foxes, asses, hares, rabbits, and all kinds of reptiles are found here; as are likewise partridges, eagles, hawks, and wild fowl of various kinds. Vermin, however, is frequent in this country; and seldom a night passes but one's repose is interrupted by the bite or sting of the scorpion, the viper, or the venomous spider. The seas and bays of Barbary abound with the finest and most delicious fish of every kind, which were preferred by the ancients to those of Europe,

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Having here had an opportunity of seeing the salamander, that famous creature which is said by the ancients to live in the midst of fire, I was extremely desirous of bringing the fact to the test of experiment. Aristotle tells us, that it not only lives amidst fire, but even extinguishes that element. The truth is, that on being laid upon the fire, there flows from between its scales a watery liquid, which at first produces, in some degree, that effect; but after this moisture is dissipated, the salamander is no longer capable of resisting the force of fire.

The territory of Tripoli was once the richest, and most populous of all the states on the coast, but it is now much reduced; though the inhabitants are still computed to amount to between four and five hundred thousand. The city of Tripoli consists of an old and a new town, the latter of which is the more flourishing, but great inconveniences attend its situation, particularly the want of sweet water. The city of Oran, lying upon the coast, is about a mile and a half in circumference, and well

well fortified, but commanded by the neighbouring hills

Proceeding westward, we come to the kingdom of Tunis, which is the most polished of all the Barbary States, and contains the remains of many noble cities, some of them still in good condition. The capital contains about ten thousand families, and above three thousand tradesmens shops.— Though the men here be sun burnt, the complexion of the women is very delicate, nor are they less neat and elegant in their dress; but they improve the beauty of their eyes by art, particularly the powder of lead-ore; supposed to be the same pigment that Jezebel made use of, when she is said to have painted her face: the words of the original being, that she set off her eyes with the powder of lead-ore. The better sort of inhabitants, in general, are sober, orderly, and clean in their persons, their behaviour genteel and complaisant, and a wonderful regularity prevails through the whole town. The Dey of Tunis is an absolute prince, elected by the Turkish soldiers; but his reign is very precarious, and seldom of long duration; depending entirely upon
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the caprice of that body, who are generally composed of renegadoes, pirates, and the very refuse of mankind.

Westward of Tunis, lies the territory of Algiers, which though tributary to the Grand Signior, is likewise governed by a Dey, elected by the soldiers, by whom he is often deposed, or put to death, upon the most frivolous pretext. The capital of that territory stands on the side of a hill rising gradually from the shore. It is computed to contain upwards of a hundred thousand inhabitants, among whom are fifteen thousand Jews, and two thousand Christian slaves. The environs of the town are adorned with gardens and fine villas, where the many fountains and rivulets are no small addition to the pleasure of the inhabitants, who resort thither in the hot seasons.

None of the gardens here are laid out with any degree of regularity, the whole being a confused mixture of trees, with beds of cabbages, turnips, beans, garvancos, &c. nay sometimes of wheat and barley dispersed amongst them. The soil is for the most part of a loose and yielding nature,

ture, in some places black, and in others inclining to red; but both kinds are equally fruitful, and impregnated with great quantities of salt and nitre. The banks of several rivers, to the depth sometimes of two or three fathoms, are studded in the summer with nitrous and saline particles and exudations. To this strong impregnation of salt, we may with justice attribute the great fertility for which this country has ever been so remarkable, without any other manuring than the burning of the stubble in a few places. It is however extraordinary, that the province of Briacium, which was formerly in so much repute for the richness of the soil, is at present the most barren and unprofitable part of those kingdoms.

The salt pits of Arzew are enclosed with mountains, encompassing an area of about six miles. The pits appear in winter like a lake, but are dry in summer, the water being then exhaled, and the salt left behind chrystallized. In digging, several different layers of this salt are discovered, some of which are an inch, and others more in thickness. The whole area consists

sists of a succession of similar strata; and in the same manner are the saline pits between Carthage and the Gulletta, those of the Shott, and other places in this quarter.

Jebbel Had-Dessa is entirely a mountain of salt, situated near the eastern extremity of the lake of Marks. The salt here is of a different quality and appearance from that of the salt-pits, being as hard and solid as stone, and of a reddish or purple colour. Yet what is washed down from those precipices by the dews, becomes perfectly white, and loses the bitterness it originally possessed in the rock. The salt in the mountains near Lawotaiah and Jebbel-Minifs, is of a blueish or grey colour, and without undergoing the like accidental purification as at Had-Dessa, is very agreeable to the palate.

This country abounds likewise in hot and sulphureous springs. In some of those, the waters are little more than luke-warm, others are of a greater heat, and very proper to bathe in, whilst the Hamman-Meskanteen, and the upper spring at Mercega are much too hot for that purpose; the former

mer, boiling a large piece of mutton very tender, in a quarter of an hour.

Besides the hot mineral effluvia that are constantly discharged by the *Thermæ*, there remains below the surface an inexhaustible fund of sulphur, nitre, and other inflammable bodies, which frequently prove the cause of local earthquakes in different parts of the country.

Morocco is the most westerly of the States on the Barbary coast, and has the title of an empire ; to the crown of which is now united the territory of Fez. The country is not now so populous as formerly; and the Emperor is said to maintain eighty thousand horse and foot of foreign negroes in his armies. The crown is considered as hereditary, but if there be more sons than one, they usually fight for the dominion, on the decease of their father, till only one of them survives. The Emperor is not immediately subject to the Porte, yet he acknowledges the Grand Signior to be his superior, and he pays him a distant allegiance as the chief representative of Mahomet..

Besides the above towns and cities, many others, formerly of great renown, lie scattered in the various parts of this immense tract of country. The city of Fez, at present the capital of Morocco, is said to contain near three hundred thousand inhabitants. Its mosques amount to five hundred; one of them magnificent beyond description, and about a mile and a half in circumference. Maquinez is now esteemed the great emporium of Barbary. Sallee was formerly famous for the piracies of its inhabitants. Tangier was the capital of the ancient Mauritania Tangitana, and is situated two miles within the straits of Gibraltar. This place was given by the crown of Portugal as part of the dowry of Queen Catherine, consort of Charles the Second, to England; and it must have been an important acquisition, had it remained in the hands of the British nation: but the misunderstanding which subsisted between the King and his parliament, not permitting the King to support the charge of maintaining its fortifications, he was induced to blow them up, and demolish its harbour; so that from being one of the finest cities in Africa,
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it is now little better than a fishing town. Ceuta, up the same strait, almost opposite to Gibraltar, is in the hands of the Spaniards, but often, if not always, besieged or blocked up by the Moors.

The established religion of all the Barbary States is the Mahometan; but many subjects of Morocco follow the tenets of one Hamed, a modern sectary, and an enemy to the ancient doctrine of the Caliphs. All the northern coasts of Africa, as well as Egypt, are fond of ideots; and in some cases their protection screens offenders from punishments, for the most notorious crimes.

There are in these countries many curious remains of antiquity, but lying scattered amidst ignorant and barbarous inhabitants, they are difficult of access. Some vestiges of the Mauritanian and Numidian greatness are still to be met with, and many ruins which bear evidence of their ancient grandeur and populousness. These point out the old Julia Cæsarea of the Romans, which was little inferior in magnificence to Carthage itself. A few of the extensive aqueducts of Carthage still remain, but no
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vestiges of its walls. The same is the fate of Utica, and many other renowned cities of antiquity; for such is the barbarism of the present inhabitants, that the very sites of those places are not known, even by their ruins, amphitheatres, and other public buildings, which remain still in tolerable preservation. Besides those of classical antiquity, many Saracen monuments, of the most stupendous magnificence, are likewise found in this vast tract. The walls of them form the principal fortifications of the country, both inland and maritime.

When Rome was mistress of the world, the States of Barbary formed the fairest jewels in the Imperial diadem, but their splendor, power, and glory, have long since been extinguished. And though the Carthaginians, who inhabited this country, had greater fleets and a more extensive commerce, than any other nation, or than all the people upon the face of the earth, when that state flourished, yet the present inhabitants have scarcely any merchant ships belonging to them, or indeed any other than what are fitted out for piracy. Nothing can afford a more convincing proof

proof of the pernicious effects of continual oppression, and frequent anarchy, on the interests and exertions of men; tearing up by the roots every motive to industry and commerce, which alone constitute the political prosperity of nations.

This part of Africa was doubtless peopled from Asia, from which it is separated only by the Isthmus of Suez and the Red Sea; but the Phœnicians or inhabitants of Tyre seem to have preceded all other nations in sending hither colonies. The first town they built on the Barbary coast was Utica, afterwards called Byferta; near which runs the river Bagarda or Bagrada, where we are informed that Atilius Regulus, and his whole army, attacked with warlike engines, and slew a serpent, which measured a hundred and twenty feet in length.

Carthage is supposed to have been built much later than Utica, namely, in the year of the world 3120, before the building of Rome a hundred and thirty-five years, and eight hundred and eighty-three before the birth of Christ. At this time, it is probable, the territory of Carthage was comprehended within very narrow limits, till gradually increasing

increasing in power by the great extent of their commerce, the inhabitants stretched their dominion as far as the Atlantic Ocean.

According to the description of Carthage by ancient writers, it was situated on three hills in a peninsula, almost surrounded by the sea. It measured in circumference twenty-two miles, and contained two harbours within its works; one for men of war, and the other for merchant vessels.— On the Isthmus stood the citadel, called Byrsa, defended by a triple wall, and towers at proper distances. The walls were two stories high, built upon arches. In the lower arches, were kept three hundred elephants, with their provisions and warlike accoutrements; and in the upper arches were store-houses and stables for four thousand horse, and barracks for twenty thousand foot. When the Romans invested the city, it contained seven hundred thousand souls; and there was found in it four hundred and seventy thousand pound weight of silver, besides what was plundered by the private soldiers, and buried in the ruins.

The religion of the Carthaginians appears to have been the same with that of the
Canaanites

Canaanites or Phœnicians, from whom they descended. That they worshipped a multitude of deities is obvious from the preamble of a treaty concluded between them and Philip of Macedon, reciting that the compact was made in the presence of Jupiter, Juno, and Apollo; in the presence of the *dæmon* or *genius* of Carthage; in the presence of Hercules, Mars, and Neptune, and all the confederate gods of Carthage; in the presence of the sun, moon, earth, rivers, meadows, &c. The gods which they chiefly invoked, however, were the moon (called *Cœlestis*, and sometimes *Urania*) and Saturn, named *Moloch* in sacred history. To the latter they sacrificed their children, sometimes burning them in a brazen statue of Saturn, heated for that purpose; sounding at the same time drums and trumpets, that the cries of the victims might not be heard. It was considered as a meritorious piece of heroism in their mothers to assist at those sacrifices with dry eyes, and without the least symptoms of regret, the offering not being thought acceptable to Saturn, if made with any reluctance. But as the most violent superstition could
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not perfectly reconcile their minds to the horror of those unnatural rites, they were usually contented with making their children pass through the fire; in which their miserable offspring frequently perished.— In great calamities, however, they actually burnt them, choosing for this purpose the most beautiful and noblest youths of the nation; and on those occasions, they have sacrificed children to their deity from morning till night.

Some laudable attempts have lately been made by a society in London, towards exploring the state of the interior parts of Africa; and there is reason to expect that important discoveries may be made by the prosecution of this plan. At present, however, our acquaintance with the more southern tracts of Africa, extends only to those parts where settlements have been established by different European Powers. We are ignorant not only of the bounds, but even of the names, of several inland countries. In many material circumstances, the inhabitants of this extensive continent agree with each other. If we except the people of Abyssinia, who are lawless and profane

profess a mixture of Christianity, Judaism, and Paganism, they are all of a black complexion. In their religion, except on the coasts, which have been visited by strangers, they are Pagans; and the form of government is every where monarchical. Few princes, however, possess an extensive jurisdiction; for as the natives of this part of Africa are grossly ignorant in all the arts of utility and refinement, they are little acquainted with one another, and generally united in small associations, each governed by its own prince. In Abyssinia, indeed, and some other parts, we are told of powerful monarchs; but it appears, on examination, that the authority of these princes stands on a very precarious foundation. In the succession to the throne, force generally prevails over right, and an uncle, a brother, or other collateral relation, is on this account commonly preferred to the lineal descendants, whether male or female.

In a country so prodigiously extensive, it might be expected that there was a great and regular variation of fertility in the different climates; but in fact, there is neither gradation nor modium in this part of Africa,

with regard to the quantity of vegetable produce; and the ground is either perfectly barren, or extremely fertile. This arises from the intense heat of the sun, which, where it meets with sufficient moisture, produces the utmost luxuriance; and in those countries where there are few rivers; reduces the surface of the earth to a barren sand. Of the latter kind are the countries of Anian and Zaara, which, for want of water, and consequently of all other necessities, are nothing more than deserts. In those countries, on the other hand, where there is plenty of water, and particularly where the river overflows the land, during part of the year, as in Abyssinia, the productions of nature, both of the animal and vegetable kind, are found in the highest perfection and greatest abundance. Some of the countries in Africa are extremely rich in gold and silver. The baser metals likewise are found in different parts. But the persons of the natives, make the most considerable article in the produce and traffic of this miserable quarter of the globe. Among the negroes, a man's wealth consists in the number of his family, whom he sells
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like so many cattle, and often at an inferior price; and when such is the practice with respect to the nearest relations, what enormities may we not suppose to be committed, to procure the persons of strangers for this lucrative traffic? Gold and ivory, next to the slave trade, form the principal branches of the African commerce, which are carried on from the same coast by several of the maritime nations of Europe.

Amongst the settlements established by the British, there is none so much entitled to commendation as that of Sierra Leone, which, instead of being undertaken for the purpose of an unjustifiable commerce, has, on the contrary, been made solely with the view of abolishing the slave trade, by encouraging, through the means of voluntary labour, the cultivation of those articles by which that commerce subsists. In addition to this advantage, it will set a beneficial example of industry to the natives in the neighbourhood, and may prove the happy means of introducing among them the rudiments of civilization, which has hitherto never reached those sequestered and inhospitable regions. Our own country has
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likewise lately made an important acquisition, in the Cape of Good Hope, which cannot but prove highly advantageous to the commerce of the East India Company. The possession of it is of great consequence, in a negative, as well as positive view: for were it still in the hands of the Dutch, considering the present subjection of that country to the power of France, it could not fail of immediately becoming an appendage to the latter, who would render it a source of great annoyance and depredation upon the ships of our East India Company.—When I mention the Cape of Good Hope, I cannot refrain from congratulating my country on the acquisition of two of the most important fortresses in the world; one in the southern extremity of Europe, and the other, in that of Africa.

F I N I S.



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