-were proud of profeffing a religion, which was the religion of all those mighty empires that had been founded by their ancestors.

The attachment of the Morefcoes to the Mahometan religion accounted for.

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THEY had often entertained the hopes of being refcued by means of the Turks, and other Mahometans, from the Spanish yoke, and could not refolve entirely to abandon a religion which they expected, fooner or later, to be at liberty to profefs. Their hereditary hatred of the Spaniards, which had been nourifhed by an uninterrupted courfe of hoftilities during feveral centuries, had been rivetted, fince the conquest, by the feverity with which they had been used; while their averfion to the catholic worfhip was heightened by the appearance which the ufe of images in that worthip gave it of idolatry, against every species of which all Mahometans are actuated with the most irreconcileable averfion. When to these confiderations we add how little gualified the Spanish ecclesiaftics were to instruct them in the principles of Chriftianity, and that most of the Morofcoes lived detached from the Spaniards in towns and villages, and diffricts by themfelves, feldom affociating with any but those of their own perfuasion, and speaking a language of which the ecclefiaftics, as well as the people, were extremely ignorant; when all these circumstances are confidered, it

will not be fo furprifing, as at first fight it might appear, that fo fmall a number of them should have been converted to the Christian faith.

IT must, at the fame time, be acknowledged that their infidelity afforded just ground for uneafinefs to the Spanish monarchs, who could hardly expect to gain the affections of a people differing fo widely from themfelves, and from their Spanish subjects, in matters regarded as the most important and effential. The most inveterate enemies of Spain had for many years been the Turks, and the Moors of Barbary; and it could fcarcely be fuppofed, that, in the cafe of an invafion by thefe powers, the Morefcoes would be averfe to exchange their prefent mafters, for others, whole religion, cuftoms, and manners, were fo nearly fimilar to their own.

Good policy, therefore, required that no pains fhould he fpared, on the part of the kings of Spain, to accomplifh the conversion of their Morefco subjects. Nor does it appear that these princes were at any time neglectful of an object which they justly deemed so highly deferving of their attention. They had instituted schools, as already mentioned, for teaching the Arabic tongue. They had often inculcated upon the clergy, to whom the instruction of the

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the Morefcoes was intrufted, the neceffity of greater diligence in their endeavours to reclaim them. The royal commands on this head had, on different occafions, been inforced by the Roman pontiffs; and, in order to engage men, properly qualified, to apply themfelves to this important work, they had augmented the church livings in many of those parts of the kingdom where the Moors refided.

THESE were perhaps the only means which the religious prejudices of the people, and the maxims or genius of the Spanish government, would permit to be employed; and if the Morefcoes had, at the fame time, been ufed with greater kindnefs, or even with greater lenity and forbearance, it is probable that, fooner or later, thefe means would have been attended with the defired fuccess. But, befides that the faith which the Spanish princes had pledged to them when they fubmitted to their authority had been often violated, they had been from the beginning treated with every mark of jealoufy and fufpicion; they had been excluded from all the honours, and from every important office in the ftate; encouragement had been given to the most minute and malignant inveftigation of their private conduct; and after the power of the barons, who had long acted as their protectors, was reduced, they were

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were exposed a defenceles prey to the avarice BOOK and cruelty of the inquifition *.

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THE kings of Spain were too deeply tinctured with the bigotry of the Romifh church, and their maxims of government too defpotic, to allow them to perceive the abfurdity of these measures, so extremely ill calculated to promote the purpole for which they were defigned. Charles the Fifth, however, and Philip the Second, two princes noted for their political difcernment, being aware of the prejudice which the kingdom would fuftain, if the Morefcoes, who formed fo great a proportion of their fubjects, were expelled, had given no ground to fufpect that they would ever confent to their expulsion; nor does it appear that the clergy, who earneftly withed that this meafure might be embraced, ever attempted to recommend it either to Charles or his fon. But, foon after the acceffion of the prefent king, they conceived the hopes of being able to accomplifh their defire; becaufe both Philip and his minifter, they thought, would be influenced more by religious than political confiderations; and, in cafe they could be perfuaded that the interest of religion was concerned in the expulsion, would be eafily re-

* Carta de Don Pedro de Valentia, MS. No. 1.

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BOOK IV. conciled to the political inconveniencies that might attend it.

THE motives which determined the ecclefiaflics in their conduct on this occasion were not merely fuch as were fuggefted by religious zeal or bigotry. The obftinacy of the Morefcoes in adhering to Mahometanisin had been generally afcribed to the remiffnefs or negligence of those who had been employed to inftruct them *; and the clergy were fenfible that much greater pains were requifite for this end than they were willing to beftow. Befides which, their revenues had been taxed for augmenting the Morefcoes vicarages, and for building and endowing an additional number of churches for their inftruction. They were, on both thefe accounts, inflamed against the Morescoes with a peculiar hatred; and, in order that they might at once avoid the labour neceffary for converting them, and the cenfure which they must incur in case of their declining it, they earneftly defired their expulsion; and, in order to effectuate it, were perpetually inveighing against them as an incurable race 'of infidels, of whofe conversion, without a miraculous in-

* By a brief from the pope, Gregory III. an. 1576.

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terpolition of Divine Power, no hopes could BOOK justly be entertained.

OF all the ecclesiaftics, the perfon who difcovered the most unrelenting hatred against this unhappy people was Don John de Ribera, patriarch of Antioch, and archbishop of Valentia, an aged prelate, who was held in high veneration by his countrymen for his piety and learning; and, in different hiftories of his life, published in Spain and Italy, is celebrated as one of the brighteft ornaments that ever adorned the Chriftian church.

But there is nothing for which the hiftorians have been to liberal in his praife as the flaming zeal which he difplayed in his unwearied exertions for the expulsion of the Morefcoes, in which they fuppole him to have been equally animated by a patriotic concern for the fafety of Spain, and a pious folicitude for the prefervation of the Catholic faith.

IT has been queftioned, however, whether his motives were in reality fo pure as his admirers would have us to believe; for there is ground to fuspect, that, after the Pope, at the request of Philip II. imposed a new tax of between three and four thousand dollars yearly on the reve-

BOOK revenues of his archbishopric, for augmenting the falaries of the curates employed in inftructing the Morefcoes, his zeal for their expulfion became more violent than ever. This tax, it is faid, neither he, nor any of the clergy in his diocefe, ever paid ; and although the king, in order more eafily to reconcile the Morefcoes to Christianity, had obtained from the Pope an edict of grace in their favour, containing a plenary pardon of all their paft offences, on condition that, within the fpace of four years, they fhould make confession to certain commiffioners, to be appointed by Ribera and the other bishops, yet this edict was not published, nor any commissioners appointed till after two years and a half, when Philip III. interpofed his authority for that effect.

> IN defence of the archbishop's conduct in thefe inftances, it may be alledged, that, from long experience, and many fruitlefs trials, he believed the infidelity of the Morefcoes to be incurable, and that he would not have thus ventured repeatedly to difobey the orders of his fpiritual fuperior, had he not known that the fovereign pontiff, having the fame opinion as himfelf of the vanity of all farther attempts for their conversion, did not feriously defire to have his orders carried into execution. But what-

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whatever were the motives of this prelate's conduct, and though it justly exposed him to the imputation of wifhing rather to have the Morefcoes expelled than converted, no perfon had greater influence on this occafion with the king and his minifters in recommending the measure that was afterwards embraced.

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FROM the arguments which he employed in two memorials on the fubject, prefented to of Spain athe king, the reader will be better able to judge of the motives by which both he and the court of Spain were determined. In his first memorial, dated in the year 1602, his principal defign was to found their inclination, and to awaken in them a fenfe of the danger to which the kingdom was exposed.

" AFTER all the pains, he faid, which had been beftowed in attempting to convert the Morefcoes to Christianity, they were still as ftrongly as ever attached to the Mahometan superstition. In the kingdom of Valentia, the bishops, the rectors, and preachers, had in vaid used their most strenuous endeavours to perfuade them to avail themfelves of the Pope's edict of grace, which had been lately published. In reafoning with their leading men, it had been observed, that as often as they were

Memorials to the king . gainft the Morefcoes.

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put to filence by the arguments employed to convince them, they changed colour, and were fo inflamed with indignation, as evidently fhewed how much they defired to be able to employ force in defence of their opinions. They corresponded with those of their own fect in the most diffant part of the country, and fent their emiffaries every where, to encourage the people to perfevere in their infidelity. They all fpoke with one mouth, and had the fame answer to return to their instructors, that they were already Chriftians; that they had already confeffed all the fins of which they were confcious, to their respective priefts; and that, being occupied with their proper bufinefs, they had not leifure to attend to the conduct of others, and therefore knew not of any perfons who practifed the rites of the Maliometan religion. They had often been convicted of falfhood; but on these occasions they were either filent, or they repeated the fame reply to the queftions that were put to them. Since the publication of the edict of grace, they had celebrated the feftivals of their religion with greater folemnity than before; and, with much effrontery, had caroufed together, on receiving intelligence of the unfuccefsful iffue of the expedition of his majefty's forces against Algiers.

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⁴⁴ FROM this conduct of the Morefcoes, continued Ribera, which I have reprefented with my wonted impartial regard to truth, two important confequences follow, which require your majefty's most ferious attention.

" THE first is, that the bishops, and other paftors of the church, are laid under the painful neceffity of doing what many learned doctors of the church think unlawful, the administering of the facrament of baptifm to those who they knew will, fooner or later, become apoltates from the faith; for there is a moral certainty that every Morefco child, whom we baptize, will, through the example and instruction of his Mahometan parents, become himfelf a Mahometan. And this we are taught to expect, not only by reafon and experience, but by the fpirit of God, who in fpeaking of the infidelity of Rehoboam, makes twice mention, in one chapter, that he was the fon of Naama, a Gentile; which is equivalent to declaring that to be the child of a mother who is an infidel, and to be educated by her; is a certain means of making the child an infidel.

"In baptizing the Morefco children, therefore, our conficiences are greatly diffurbed Vol. I. E e with BOOK IV.

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B O O K IV. 1609. with the apprehension that we are guilty of violating the commandment of our Lord Jefus Chrift, who has prohibited the giving of holy things to dogs, and the cafting of pearls before fwine.

" Nor is this the only unhappy confequence arifing from the incurable infidelity of the Morefcoes. But the kingdom of Spain is therefore exposed to the greatest risk of becoming an eafy prey to the hoftile defigns of our enemies. This kingdom was ruined in former times by the intrigues of a fingle perfon, count Julian, at whole infligation it was invaded and fubdued by the Saracens, when they had no friends within the kingdom to fecond their attempt. And from thence may be perceived how great occafion there is for the most difquieting apprehenfions at this time, when there are eftablifhed in the kingdom ninety thousand men fit to carry arms, and all of them actuated with the most irreconcileable averfion to the prefent government. The Turks and Moors are the most inveterate enemies of Spain, because fhe is the principal bulwark of Chriftendom; the French, from jealoufy, or envy of her greatnefs; and the English, on account of her zeal for maintaining the purity of the Catholic faith.

faith. Is there not just ground to dread that these our foreign enemies, allured by the hopes of affistance from those whom we nourish in our bosom, shall unite their forces, and undertake the subversion of the monarchy? Especially when it is confidered that, with the powerful affistance they would receive from the Morescoes, a small number of troops would be sufficient, and no extraordinary preparations or expense required.

"THE Morefcoes, in Granada alone, had withftood the whole force which the late king could mufter againft them, although, befides his Spanish troops, he brought into Spain a numerous reinforcement of Germans and Italians. But, if all the Morefcoes in the different parts of the kingdom were to take arms, which it is unquestionable they would do, if either the Turks, or French, or English, were to attempt an invasion, our condition would then be the most deplorable and desperate, and, like our ancestors, we must resolve either to yield our necks to the yoke of conquerors, or to take shelter, as they did, among the rocks and mountains of Asturia.

"As often as I have reflected on the imminent danger to which this mighty monarchy E e 2 ftands 419 B O O K IV.

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B O O K IV. ftands exposed, I have thought it unaccountable, that; during the long reigns of two fuch wife and powerful monarchs, as the emperor and the late king, no fufficient fecurity againft it was provided. Nor can I account for their negligence in this respect, but on the supposition that God, who rules the hearts of kings, thought fit to referve this important work, so worthy of your royal breast, on purpose to adorn the annals of your pious reign; as he referved the deliverance of his chosen people for Moses, their entrance into the promifed land for Joshua, the conquest of the Philistines for David, and the inflicting of vengeance on the Amalekites for Saul.

"EITHER this has been his intention, or he hath fo long prevented the Spanish monarchs from perceiving the necessity of delivering Spain from fo great a danger, that, by means of the Morefcoes, he may punish us for our fins. But, in my opinion, one of the greatest of these is the permitting of fo great a number of inveterate enemies of the church and state for fo many years to retain their power of doing mischief; nor is it reasonable to expect success in foreign enterprizes, till the kingdom shall be purged of its domestic fors.

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" In the year 1 588, when the great Armada was deftroyed, I was emboldened by my zeal for the intereft of religion and my country, to reprefent to your royal father, that after having long and carefully enquired why it had pleafed God to permit fo great a calamity to befall us, I was perfuaded that he intended thereby to inftruct the king, that, till he had extirpated herefy from his own dominions, he ought not to have fuffered his attention to be diverted by any thing that paffed in foreign ftates. And, in like manner, confiding in your majefty's clemency for forgiveness of the liberty which I take, I must declare that, after the most mature confideration, it appears to me, that no other account but this can be given of the late failure of your expedition against Algiers, in which there was nothing omitted which human prudence could fuggeft to infure fuccefs.

"It is the will of heaven, that your majefty fhould first provide for the fafety and tranquillity of your own dominions; and, in order to accomplish this end, it is neceffary that your domestic enemies, those apostates from the faith, who are equally enemies to the state and to our most holy religion, should be deprived of the power of disturbing your re-E e 3 pose.

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pofe. No object furely can be more deeply interefting; and therefore I truft I fhall be pardoned for prefuming, with due humility, to exhort your majefty to require your minifters, without delay, to apply themfelves to the confideration of it, with all that ferious attention which it fo highly deferves, excluding from all the councils which fhall be held for that purpofe, all those perfons whose private intereft may hinder them from perceiving what is conducive to the public good *."

THIS memorial was most graciously received by the king and the duke of Lerma, both of whom wrote letters of thanks to the patriarch for the wholefome counfel which it contained, and required him to give them his opinion with regard to the proper means of obviating that imminent danger, to which it appeared, from his memorial, the kingdom was exposed. In compliance with this request, and emboldened by the confidence reposed in him, Ribera foon after prefented another memorial, of which the purport was, partly to perfuade Philip that no other means could prove effectual but the utter extippation of the Morescoes; and partly to

* Vita de Ribera,

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take off the force of fuch objections, as either B O Oreligion or humanity might fuggeft, to deter him from having recourfe to this expedient.

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IN facred writ, he faid, there was no precept fo often repeated to the chofen people of God as that of rooting out from among them those infidel nations whom they found in poffeffion of the promifed land. A ftrict obedience to this precept was particularly inculcated on the kings and rulers of the people; and the first king, whom God himfelf had appointed to rule over them, incurred the divine difpleafure, and was deprived of his kingdom, merely on account of his difobedience. The pernicious confequences of permitting the Morefcoes to remain in Caftile and Arragon-were the fame as those which the children of Ifrael experienced from their communication with the idolatrous heathens; for the faithful in Spain were in equal danger from the infection of their example, and the extirpation of thefe infidels was therefore equally incumbent on the catholic king, as that of the heathens on the kings and captains of the Jews.

In following the example of David, and other good kings of Ifrael, Philip would likewife imitate the conduct of fome of the beft and Ee4

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B O O K IV. and greateft of his predeceffors; by whom the Jews had, at different periods, been expelled from Spain, though their provocations had never been fo great as those of the Morefcoes; for the Jews were not heretics and apoftates as they were, and were never accused of holding correspondence with the enemies of the ftate,

tert period

Hrs illustrious grandfather, Charles V. the wifeft and greateft prince of the age in which he lived, had published an edict, requiring the Morefcoes either to fubmit to be baptized, or to depart from Spain; expecting that by fubmitting to be baptized they would become both Christians and friends. It now appeared how much he was mistaken in this expectation; but, from the tenor of his edict, it was manifeft how much he thought it his duty, and how neceffary he believed it for the fafety and prosperity of his people, to extirpate infidels from his dominions,

THE pernicious effects of tolerating apoftates from the faith, had been feverely felt by the French monarchs, whole kingdom had thereby been reduced to the loweft ebb, and their Catholic fubjects exposed, for almost half a century, to all the miferies of civil war; whereas, if they had acted conformably to the measures of the church,

church, and either put to death their heretical B 0.0 B fubjects, or expelled them from the kingdom, all those unhappy confequences might have been prevented, and the purity of the faith preferved. energy for the fows were not hereins and apo-

THE temporal as well as the fpiritual intereft of the king's Catholic and loyal fubjects, required that the Morefcoes should be expelled; becaufe, if they were not, there was much ground to apprehend they would ere long become mafters of all the riches in the kingdom. They were not only industrious, but frugal and parfimonious to excess. They could labour for much lower wages, and were fatisfied with much fmaller profits in trade than were requifite for the fubfiftence of the Spaniards; great numbers of whom were thus excluded both from trade and labour, and thereby reduced to indigence, The Spanish villages, all over Caftile and Andalufia, had fallen into decay; while those of the Morescoes increased and flourished; and the Spanish farmers were unable to pay their rents, though they cultivated the most fertile parts of the country: while the Morefcoes, who generally lived in the most barren parts, after paying the third part of their crops to the proprietors of their farms, were not only able to support themfelves and their families, but annually to increase their flock.

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In confequence of this, their number had of late been greatly augmented; and there was ground to dread that, if fome remedy were not fpeedily applied, the natives would in a few years be outnumbered and overpowered. But no remedy whatever, he believed, would be found effectual, while the Morefcoes were permitted to continue within the kingdom. The king's humanity, he fuppofed, would revolt at the thoughts of putting fo many hundred thoufands to the fword, and therefore the only expedient which remained was to tranfport them into foreign parts.

HE did not however think it adviseable to expel them all at once: for, as those of Valentia lived in a great measure detached from the Chriftians, in villages and diffricts by themfelves, there was little danger from the infection of their example; befides that, the Moors of those parts practifed various useful arts, which were unknown to the Chriftians, but were extremely neceffary for the comfort and convenience of life. If all these Moors were to be at once expelled, those arts would be entirely loft, and a great part of the country would become wafte and defolate. But although for thefe reafons it might be judged expedient to delay their expulsion, they ought, in the mean time, to be loaded with taxes for the

the maintenance of an army, fufficient to prevent any prejudice that might arife from permitting them to remain; their numbers ought, as quickly as poffible, to be diminished, by fending annually fome thousands of their young men to the gallies and the mines, and Christians, acquainted with their arts, ought gradually to be fubstituted in their room.

BUT a different courfe, he thought, ought to be purfued with regard to the Morefcoes in the other provinces, who were, on many accounts, much more formidable than those of Arragon and Valentia. They had every where intermixed with the Chriftians; their example was confequently more infectious; and the churches and altars were profaned by their hypocritical and mock compliances with the holy rites of the true religion. They fpoke the Caftilian language; their minds were more cultivated and improved; they were better acquainted with the ftate of Spain, and much more capable of giving dangerous intelligence to her enemies; befides which, great numbers of them, having ferved in the royal army, were thereby not only qualified to act as fpies, but to afford affiftance to the enemy, in the cafe of an invafion or attack, or to any foreign enemy, by whom the kingdom fhould be attacked. they where their own wheney

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B O O K IV. By these confiderations he was induced to believe that the prefervation of the kingdom, as well as the interest of religion, required that all the Morescoes in Spain, those of Arragon and Valentia excepted, should be instantly expelled. They were all to be confidered as obstinate heretics, or as apostates from the faith, whom the king, if he thought fit, might justly punish with death; and there could be no room therefore to doubt of the lawfulness of transporting them to foreign countries, which was the mildest punishment that, confistently with the fastery of his kingdom, he could inflict.

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THEIR children, under feven years of age, might be detained, in order to be educated in the Chriftian faith; and the king might, without any fcruple of confcience, compel any number of those who were grown up, to ferve on board his gallies, or in the mines of America; while, for the benefit of his exchequer, he might fell the reft for flaves to his Chriftian fubjects in Spain and Italy. It could not be unjust to punish men in this manner, who by their crimes had forfeited their lives; and if it was just to punish them either with flavery or death, the fimply expelling them from Spain, and transporting them to other countries, where their own religion was profeffed, could.

could not be confidered in any other light than BOOK IV. as an act of clemency and mercy on the part all the Mereleses an Spaingthole of Arragon

IT might be difficult, he acknowledged, to effectuate their expulsion, without endangering the internal peace of the kingdom ; but God, he trufted, would enlighten the minds of the king's ministers, and enable them to difcern the most proper means of carrying fo laudable a defign into execution; for, as the counfel he had offered was equally dictated by his regard to the fpiritual and to the temporal intereft of the kingdom, he could not doubt that it was acceptable to God; and when he reflected on his great age, his natural temper and difpofition, and the habits which he had long indulged of a retired and fequeftered life, he could hardly fuppofe that the zeal and refolution with which he felt himfelf infpired In his addrefs to the king, on the prefent occafion, could proceed from any other caufe but the fecret and all-powerful influence of the of fpirit of God upon his mind *. e an about

THE reasoning in this memorial was admirably fitted to make impression on the superftitious and timid temper of the king; nor was

nin this manner, who by

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• Vita de R.bera, p. 388. Por Eleriva. its where the own religion was protection. 429

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its efficacy leffened by the patriarch's vain pretenfion to divine illumination. But although both Philip's religious fcruples, and his apprehenfions of impending danger, were eafily excited, his natural difpolition, which was gentle and humane, rendered him extremely averfe to a measure fo replete with cruelty, as that which Ribera had exhorted him to adopt. He could not therefore refolve to comply with the counfel that was given him, and his irrefolution was increased by a memorial which was foon afterwards prefented to him by the barons of Valentia.

THEY had received intelligence from fome of their friends at court of the patriarch's two memorials. They knew that he had advifed the king to permit their vaffals to remain for fome time longer, which they afcribed to his dread of their refentment; but they believed that the expulsion of the other Morefcoes would be quickly followed by that of those of Valentia, and for this reason they were equally alarmed as if he had counfelled the whole to be expelled.

In order to deter the king from liftening to his propofal, they unanimoufly remonstrated against the expulsion, as a measure that would be attended with the most pernicious confe-

quences;

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The effect of the rea-

foning of Ribera on

the mind of the king,

quences: for the Morefcees were not only a frugal, temperate, and induffrious race of men, but they were the moft skilful farmers, and the most ingenuous manufacturers in Spain. There were several manufactures, equally nécessary for internal confumption and foreign trade, with which they alone were acquainted; and without their skill and labour, it was an unquestionable fact, that a great part of the kingdom would lie waste, and innumerable families of the highest rank, who entirely depended on the rents of their lands, be reduced to indigence.

It had been affirmed that they were all Mahometans, but no fufficient evidence had been produced to prove the truth of this affertion. They had all been regularly initiated, by baptifm, into the Chriftian church; they all profeffed themfelves to be Chriftians; and although many of them, perhaps, were not able to give a fatisfactory account of the doctrines of the Chriftian faith, yet the fame thing might be faid of innumerable other Chriftians of the lower rank, befides the Morefcoes.

But if many of them were in reality ingorant or unbelieving, this could not juftly be imputed to them, fo much as to those to whom their BOOK IV.

1609. Remonfirance of the barons of Valentia againft the expulsion of the Morefcoes.

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their inftruction had been committed. Suffcient pains to instruct them; and proper methods of dealing with them, had feldom been employed. They had, at first, been dragged into the church by force and violence, and had afterwards been treated with inhumanity; as if bitter invectives, corporal punifiments, and the confilcation of their effects, were the proper means of enlightening their understandings with the knowledge of the truth. In order to engage them to liften to instruction, it was necessary that their instructors should study to conciliate their affections. This end could be obtained only by gentlenefs and forbearance: and if the king would be pleafed to take effectual care to prevent them from being treated more like brutes than men, and ftill more, if, as a reward for their relinquishing the Mahometan fuperstition, he would grant them accefs to the fame immuninities and privileges that were enjoyed by his other fubjects, there would be no ground to defpair of their conversion.

THEY had been accused of holding a treafonable correspondence with the enemies of the state; but ought a vague and general affertion to be held as a sufficient evidence of their guilt? was not this crime of such a nature, that it must necessarily be confined to a few? ought

ought the guilt of a few to be imputed to fo great a number? ought even the few who had been guilty, to be condemned without a hearing, without a trial, and without the fmalleft evidence ? . so of famile state more made

THIS imputation had been often caft upon the Morefcoes, by fpeculative and fequeftered men, who had no accefs to know the truth of their affertion, but were prompted by their zeal and prejudices to believe it. It had always been difregarded by the wifeft of the king's predeceffors; and juffice, they hoped, would determine the king to imitate fo laudable an example, till fome proof or evidence was adduced. This remonstrance, which the barons prefented in a cortes or parliament held in the year 1604, was not altogether without effect. Its effects. In compliance with the intention of it, Philip refolved to delay the expulsion of the Morefcoes for fome years longer, and, in the mean time to make a further trial, whether it was poffible to effectuate their conversion to the faith; and for this purpose he procured a brief from the pope, impofing a tax on the Paul V. ecclefiaftical revenues, a part of which he was authorifed to employ in building and endowing a Morefco college; and in order to induce men of abilities to accept of curacies among the Morefcoes, he was impowered from the Vol. I. Ff fame

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fame fund, to augment the falaries of the BOOK curates.

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But no greater regard it would feem was paid to this than to the other brief above mentioned. The college was not endowed, and the church livings remained the fame as before: from whence there was but too much ground for the fufpicion which was entertained, that the king had neither been able to intereft the pope nor the Spanish ecclesiaftics in the execution of his plan.

THE latter laboured affiduoufly to convince both the pope and the king, that every thing already had been done for the conversion of the Morefcoes, that was in the power of man to perform, The archbishop of Valentia prefented a third memorial to the king, containing, as he pretended, a full reply to what had been afferted by the barons, but confifting principally, either of invectives against the Morefcoes, or of denunciations of divine judgments, which must ere long overtake the kingdom, if they were not fpeedily expelled *.

* Some prodigies are recorded by Ribera in his memorial, and by other writers, as clear and certain indications of the will of heaven on the prefent occasion; fuch as, that the church bell of Villila rung of itfelf for feveral days, &c. But it does not appear, whether arguments of this kind were defpifed or regarded by the king.

RIBERA

RIBERA was powerfully feconded by feveral other ecclefiaftics, and particularly by Bleda, a Dominican friar; diftinguished for his acquaintance with the learning of his time, and equally noted for his activity, his zeal, and bigotry; who composed feveral bitter invectives against the Morefcoes, and dividing his time between Rome and Madrid, employed all his eloquence to perfuade the pontiff and the king of the neceffity of their expulsion.

But the archbishop's most powerful allociate, was Don Bernardo de Roias y Sandoval, brother to the duke of Lerma, who was the cardinal archbishop of Toledo, inquisitor-general and chancellor of Spain. This prelate approved and feconded every part of Ribera's memorials, except where he advifed the king to retain fuch of the Morelco children as were under feven years of age, and to fuffer the Morefcoes in Valentia to remain till their place could be fupplied by Chriftians; for it was more adviseable, this cardinal maintained, to put them all, men, women, and children, to the fword, than to have the Spanish blood contaminated, as it would be, if either of these exceptions were admitted by a mixture of the polluted blood of infidels.

THE duke of Lerma, who from the begining of his administration had studied, with Ff 2 great BOOR IV.

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great affiduity and folicitude, to ingratiate himfelf with the court of Rome and the Spanifh ecclefiaftics, readily efpouled his brother's fentiments; and, as the duke was at this time in unrivalled and full pofferfion of the royal favour, nothing now was wanting to fix the refolution of the king *.

Expulsion of the Moe refcoes.

IT was accordingly refolved, that all the Morefcoes in Spain, those in Valentia as well as those in the other provinces, should beexpel led. The cardinal archbishop went himself to Rome, with the defign, it is believed, to perfuade the fovereign pontiff to grant his fanction to the expulsion by fome public deed: but, if this was the intention of his journey, it did not produce the defired effect. The pontiff, probably, chofe that the odium which must attend a measure fo barbarous and fo unprecedented, fhould rather fall on the court of Spain than on the holy fee; and, therefore, we do not read of any other papal bull or brief published on the prefent occasion, but one addreffed to the bifhops of Valentia, commanding them to affemble together, in order to confider whether any method of converting the Morefcoes could be devifed. This bull was dated in the year 1606, a few months before the cardinal-primate fet out for Rome, but

* Fonfeca Traycion de Morefcos, p. 196.

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was not published till after his return, in 1608. It was published in the month of April of that year; and, in compliance with it, the bishops foon after met together, and spent several months deliberating on the subject. But, as if the design of their meeting had been to condemn the Morescoes, and not to confider of the means of converting them, they at length pronounced the following sentence: "That the Morescoes of the kingdom of Valentia were all apostates from the Christian faith, and were, besides, so obstinate and inflexible in their infidelity, that, whatever means should be employed, no hopes could justly be entertained of their conversion."

THIS fentence having been transmitted to the court, contributed to confirm the king in the refolution which he had formed. It was agreed, however, that the expulsion should be deferred till a more convenient feason; and that, in the mean time, the strictest fecrecy should be observed. It was judged necessary to keep the defign fecret, left the Morescoes should either of themselves, or instigated by the barons, have recours to arms; and, as no court was ever more diffinguished for maintaining the most inviolable fecrecy in its counfels than that of Spain, it would feem that no fuspicion was entertained, either by the Morescoes or barons, of the king's determination

Bleda, p. 503

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in a matter wherein they were fo deeply interefted, till every neceffary preparation was made for carrying it into execution.

THE court having determined to begin with the expulsion of the Valentian Morefcoes, orders were fecretly given to the naval commanders in Spain, Portugal, and Italy, to receive a certain number of troops on board their fhips, and to rendezvous in August, 1609, at Alicant, Denia, and other fea-ports in the Mediterranean, on the coaft of Valentia. About the fame time, Don Augustin Mexia, an old experienced officer, governor of Antwerp, was fent to the city of Valentia to concert with the viceroy, the marquis of Cararena, and others, concerning the measures neceffary to be taken within the kingdom to prevent a tumult or infurrection. The pretext employed for affembling the fleet was an expedition against the Moors in Barbary. But tha barons, observing that frequent conferences were held, by night and by day, at the viceroy's, with regard to the fubject of which they were kept entirely in the dark, and being informed that the archbishop (who affisted at thefe conferences), as if he expected to be befieged, had conveyed into his palace an extraordinary quantity of provisions, befides fome troops and arms, they foon came to fufpect what was the real purpole of the naval armament;

ment; and having, conformably to a privilege BOOK which belonged to them by the conftitution of Valentia, fummoned one of those affemblies of their own number, termed the Military Arms, they fent deputies to the viceroy, requefting him to acquaint them with the defign of the prefent preparations. To this enquiry, the viceroy, without pretending ignorance of the king's intention, replied, that, whatever it was, the barons might reft affured that no refolution could be formed, either by the king, " who had ever regarded them as his moft faithful vaffals, or by the duke of Lerma, their countryman, whole eftates were intermingled with theirs, which in the iffue would not be found conducive to the true interest of Valentia.

By this anfwer the barons were confirmed in their fufpicions; and, as they could not but fuppofe that the viceroy would have chofen, had it been in his power, to difpel their apprehenfions, they could no longer doubt that the object of all the preparations which had been made was the expulsion of their vaffals. They inftantly convened again, and drew up a remonstrance to be prefented to the king : of which the purport was, that Valentia would be-entirely ruined if the Morefcoes, by whom moft of the work in that kingdom was carried on, were expelled.

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At the defire of the viceroy, who dreaded that this flep might give an alarm to the Morefcoes, the juftiza, or chief juftice in criminal matters, having attempted in vain to divert them from their purpofe, was fo violently agitated with grief and rage, that he dropt down dead in the affembly. This accident prevented them from coming to an immediate . decifion; but next morning they had another meeting, in which they appointed deputies to carry their remonftrance to the king,

Remonftrance of the barons of Valentia against the expulsion of the Moors.

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It was expressed in the ftrongest terms, dictated by a deep conviction of the melancholy truth which it contained; but the deputies, though received by the king and his minister with much distinction and respect, were told, that the king's resolution, having been formed after the most mature deliberation, was unalterable; that the barons had been too late in prefenting their petition; and that the edict of expulsion was already published.

A STRONG body of Caftilian troops had actually entered Valentia about the time of the arrival of the deputies at Madrid; and the Morefcoes were now acquainted with their fate.

In the edict of expulsion, which was published with the usual formalities, by the vice-

roy, in the beginning of .September, 1609, they were all commanded, men, women, and children, under the penalty of death, to be ready within three days to repair to the feaports appointed for their embarkation, and there to go on board of fhips prepared for carrying them into foreign parts.

It was ordained under the fame penalty, that they fhould all remain in the places where they were, at the time of publifhing the edict, till the commiffaries appointed to conduct them to the fea-coaft fhould arrive; that if any of them fhould, before the arrival of the commiffaries, prefume to change the place of their abode, they might be carried by any perfon before a judge; and, in cafe they fhould make refiftance, might inftantly be put to death.

IT was enacted, that all their effects fhould belong to the lords whofe vaffals they were, except fuch as they could carry along with them; and, that in cafe they fhould conceal or deftroy any part of their effects, they fhould be punifhed with death.

For the prefervation of the fugar-works, grantaries of rice, drains or aqueducts, and, in order that the Christian inhabitants might be instructed 441 BOOK

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inftructed in the works and manufactures which had hitherto been carried on by the Morefcoes, it was declared that fix families, to be named by the barons, out of every hundred, might remain.

IT was ordained, that all children under fouryears of age might remain, provided their parents or guardians fhould confent; that children under fix or feven, one of whofe parents, was an old Chriftian, might remain, and the mothers with them, though they were Morefcoes; but if the fathers were Morefcoes, and the mothers Chriftians, that the fathers fhould be expelled, while the children might remain with their mothers; that all fuch of the Mrorefcoes might remain, who, for any confiderable time, had demeaned themfelves as Chriftians, who could produce certificates from the parifh-priefts of their having received the facrament, by permiffion of their respective bishops, or who had not for two years attended any of the Morefco religious meetings.

THEY were all permitted to depart into any country, not fubject to the crown of Spain, provided they fhould leave the kingdom within the time fpecified; and an affurance was given them, that no violence or injury fhould be offered them, by those who fhould

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be employed in transporting them to Barbary, BOOK or any other country they fhould make choice of *.

THE feveral conceffions contained in this edict were confidered by the ecclefiaftics and the court of Spain as proofs of extraordinary clemency on the part of the king; but they could not be regarded in the fame light by the Morefcoes. They were equally overwhelmed with aftonifhment, and with anguifh and diftrefs. They were furrounded with enemies on every hand. The king, they perceived, though they had been taught to believe his diftinguishing character to be gentleness and mercy, was their irreconcileable and mortal enemy; and their hearts funk within them, when they reflected on the mifery which they were doomed to undergo. They were not only difquieted with fo near a profpect of the lofs of their most valuable poffessions, joined to that of perpetual banishment from their native country; but they violently dreaded that they were all to be butchered as foon as they were put on board the fhips appointed for transporting them to foreign parts +. They had never had any friends to whom they could look for affiftance, except their patrons the

* Fonfeca, lib. iv. cap. 3. + Fonfeca, lib. iv. cap. 8. barons, 443

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B O O K IV. barons, whole intereft was infeparably linked with theirs; but the barons, they knew, were unable to afford them protection on the prefent occafion, and all the good offices which they had interpofed in their behalf had been without avail. They had little reafon, therefore to expect that any thing which they themfelves could do to avert the impending florm would prove effectual. That nothing, however in their power might be omitted, their leading men, having met together privately in the city of Valentia, drew up a petition, and fent a deputation of their number to prefent it to the viceroy; in which, after folemnly afferting their innocence of the crimes imputed to them in the edict, they offered, in cafe the king would be perfuaded to recall it, to maintain a certain number of gallies for the protection of the coaft against the corfairs; to build feveral new forts, and to fupport the garrifons not only of thefe, but of fuch as were already built; to redeem all the Chriftians of Valentia who fhould ever be taken captives by the Moors; and, befides, to furnish the king with a confiderable fum of money *. But the viceroy, though he was himfelf extremely averfe to the expulsion, without taking

* MSS. of Cottington's letters in lord Hardwick's polfession. Mad. 8th Oct. 1609.

time

time to deliberate on their propofals, immedi- B o o K ately replied, that there was now no room left for any petition or remonstrance; that the king was unalterably determined to put his edict into execution, and they must instantly prepare themfelves, however reluctant, to fubmit *.

WHEN this anfwer was reported by the delegates to the affembly in Valentia, their minds were varioufly agitated with grief, defpair, and indignation. It was proposed by some of them that they fhould inftantly have recourfe to arms; for it was better, they maintained, to die fighting like men for their property and lives, than tamely to fuffer themfelves to be ftript of their poffeffions, and afterwards, perhaps, to be butchered like fheep, by an implacable and cruel enemy, to whom they had never given any just occasion of offence : befides, that it might not be impoffible for them to defend themfelves in the mountainous parts of the country, till fome foreign power, friendly to them, and hoftile to the Spaniards, should come to their relief. But this propofal was rejected as defperate and impracticable ;by a great majority of the affembly, who reprefented, that as they were not provided either with arms or military ftores, had no practice

Fonfeca, lib. iv. cap. 7.

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in war, and had been utterly unaccuftomed to military difcipline, it was impoffible they could hold out for many weeks against fo potent an enemy. The Spanish regular forces, under the most experienced officers, were already diffributed all over the country, and were every where prepared to attack them on the first appearance of opposition or refistance. No time would be allowed them to put themfelves into a pofture of defence. They would inftantly be either cut to pieces, or reduced to flavery, and an opportunity would be thus afforded to the Spaniards of gratifying at once, ftill more than by their expulsion, their avarice and their cruelty. It could not be fuppofed that the king would have incurred the expence, which his preparations for exporting them must have cost him; had he intended to deftroy them on their paffage, fince he could have done it more eafily without incurring fo great an expence; befides that fo ufelefs and fo wanton a piece of treachery would cover, his name with indelible difgrace. They might with confidence therefore expect to be fafely conveyed to Barbary, and this was furely preferable either to death or to flavery in Spain. But while, for these reasons, all thoughts of refiftance ought to be laid afide, they ought, not to accept of either of the two offers that were made to them in the edict of expulsion. Neither

NEITHER their children under age, nor the fix families out of every hundred who were permitted to remain, ought to be left behind. The Spaniards intended, by these concessions, to ferve themselves, and not the Morescoes, and the latter should, for that reason, unanimously resolve to reject them with disdain.

THIS refolution was warmly embraced by the whole affembly; and not by them only, but by all the other Morefcoes in the kingdom of Valentia, except thofe, who, inhabiting certain mountainous parts of the country which they deemed impregnable, formed the desperate resolution of maintaining their poffeffions by force of arms. Before the meeting at Valentia, great numbers of those who lived in towns, and in the more fertile parts of the country, had earneftly folicited the barons to procure them to be named among the families who were to be permitted to remain; but ho fooner were they made acquainted with the determination of their leaders, than, with one heart, and one voice, they declared that no confideration fhould now induce them to ftay behind their kinfmen and companions.

THIS declaration was a matter of deep concern to the barons, who had, in fome meafure, 8 been

The Morefcoes refolve to de- " fead themfelves.

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been reconciled to the expulsion by the promife which had been given for fix families out of every hundred to remain, and now dreaded the utter ruin of their eftates, if the Morefcoes fhould perfevere in their prefent refolution. Of all the barons the duke of Gandia was likly to prove the greateft fufferer, as his eftate chiefly confifted of those manufactures with which the Morefcoes alone were acquainted. By employing all his influence with them. and making them the most advantageous offers, he at length obtained their confent, on condition that they fhould be allowed the free exercife of their religion. The duke folicited the viceroy to grant them this indulgence, till the Chriftians should be instructed in the manufactures, which would not require more than two or three years at moft; but was told by the viceroy, that, agreeably to his orders from the king, it could not be granted for a fingle day *. This answer being communicated to the Morefcoes, there was not one perfon of more than a hundred and fifty thousand who could be perfuaded to remain.

* The viceroy received a letter of thanks from Philip on this occafion, beginning thus : Yo os aggradefeo mucho lo que refpondiftes, y el parecer que days, que no por una hora fi confienta que es muy conforme a lo que de vueftra mucha Chriftianidad, fe podia efperar, &c. Fonfeca, lib. iv. cap. 8.

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Non were they lefs inflexible in refufing to leave their children behind them that were under fix years of age. They were well aware, as they faid to the ecclefiaftics who applied to them on this head, of the great inconveniencies and dangers to which fo many thousand children, with their mothers and nurfes, none of whom had ever been at fea, must be expofed from being crowded together on board the fhips and gallies; but they were unalterably determined to carry them along with them to whatever part of the world they themfelves fhould go, and chofe rather to fee them perifh before their eyes than to leave them in the hands of a people by whom their parents had been treated with fo much cruelty *.

THE army having been diffributed into the feveral flations, where they might most effectually prevent any diffurbance or infurrection, and the ships of war and transports, fully

* The ecclefiaftics, however, and fome religious women of rank, detained a confiderable number of the children, partly by flealth, and partly by compulsion; believing that, in doing fo, they performed a meritorious fervice in the fight of God, and faved the fouls of the children from perdition. Fonfeca, p. 233. Dio principio a efte fanto latrocinio, Donna Ifabel de Felafco Virreyna de aquel Reyno, la qual dio orden que le travessen a casa algunar Morifquillas, aunque fuesse hurtandolas afus curadores, como fe hizo, &c.

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equipped

BOOK equipped for their intended voyage, the viceroy, without any farther delay, began to carry the royal edict into execution, by fending commiffioners, with a fufficient body of troops, to collect the Morefcoes in different quarters together, and to conduct them to the coaft. The vaffals of the duke of Gandia, amounting to more than twenty thousand men, were the first who embarked, and, after a profperous voyage, they were fafely landed at Oran, a Spanish fortrefs on the coaft of Barbary.

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AT Oran they were well received by the count of Aguilar, the governor of the fort, and, on his application to the viceroy of Tremezen, which stands at the distance of two day's journey from Oran, leave was granted them to come to take up their refidence in the former of these places. In their journey thither they were deeply affected, and few of them could reftrain their tears, when they compared the defert barren plains, through which they paffed, with the fertile and delightful regions of Valentia. It afforded them, however, no finall confolation in their diffrefs to reflect that, as the dread which they had entertained of being murdered by the way had proved groundlefs, they had now found a prince of their own religion, difpofed to grant them

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them his protection. Upon their arrival at BOOK Tremezen, they were fuffered to retain all their wealth which they had brought along with them, and admitted to all the fame liberties and privileges as the natives of the place.

A Administration

An account of the treatment which they received having been carried to Spain, by ten perfons who were fuffered to return for that purpofe, it contributed, in fome meafure, to reconcile the other Morefcoes in Valentia to their fate; and, as the winter feafon was faft approaching, when they must encounter greater difficulties in their paffage, they even difcovered a degree of impatience to be permitted to embark *.

No time was unneceffarily loft on the part of the viceroy. The Morefcoes, conducted by his commiffaries and the royal troops, and many of them accompanied, from compaffion and humanity, by the barons whole valials they had been, were every where in motion, and haftening in crowds, with their wives and children, to the coaft. The fhips which had been provided for transporting them, having been found extremely inadequate to the purpofe, many more were collected from the fea-

* Fonfeca. Gg 2.

ports

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ports in Spain, Majorca, and Italy. Of thefe many were hired by the Morefcoes themfelves; who defired, as foon as poffible, to emancipate themfelves from the power of the Spaniards; while the greater number went on board the fhips provided by the king. And in a few weeks about a hundred and twenty thoufand men, women, and children, had embarked.

MANY of these were perfons of fubstance and condition; fome of them, on account of their early profession of Christianity, had been raised to the rank of nobility, by the emperor Charles V. And the elegance and beauty of the young Moresco women is highly celebrated by a contemporary Spanish historian, whose bigotry often prompts him to exult in their diffress.

Humanity of the barons of Valentia. WIDELY different from the fentiments of this bigoted ecclefiaftic were those of the Valentia barons; who gave their vaffals, on this melancholy occasion, every proof of generous compassion and humanity. By the royal edict they were entitled to all the property belonging to their vaffals, except what they were able to carry about their perfons: but the barons, despising this right which the edict bestowed on them, allowed the Morescoes to dispose of whatever

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whatever part of their effects could be fold for BOOK money, and likewife permitted them to convey their most valuable furniture and manufactures on mules and in carriages to the fhips. Many of them accompanied their vaffals in perfon to the fhore, and fome of them, having embarked along with them, faw them fafely landed on the coaft of Africa *.

But this kind attention of the barons ferved only for a little time to mitigate their diffrefs. Their exile from their native country, which justly excited in them the most bitter regret, and gave them fo much ground for anxiety with regard to their future fortune, was foon fucceeded by ftill greater calamities. Great numbers were fhipwrecked on their paffage, and never reached the African coaft; while

* Of the barons who thus diffinguished themfelves by their tenderness and humanity on this occasion, and who remained at the fea-ports during the whole time of the embarkation, employing all their intereft to protect the Morefcoes from injury, and to procure them the beft accommodation poffible aboard the fhips, Fonfeca has recorded the names of the following, adding that there were many others whom he has not named: the duke of Gandia. whofe great effate was almost entirely ruined; the marquis of Albada, the count of Alaguas, the count of Bunol, the count of Anna, the count of Sinarcas, the count of Concentayna, and the duke of Maqueda, who went over in the first embarkation to the port of Oran.

Hard fate of the Morefcoes.

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many others were barbaroufly murdered at fea, by the crews of the fhips which they had freighted: this latter calamity befel only those who had chofen to transport themselves in private fhips; and inftances are recorded of fuch inhuman cruelty exercifed against this harmlefs, perfecuted, and defencelefs people, by the owners and crews of thefe fhips, as equals any thing of the fame kind of which we read in hiftory. The men butchered in the prefence of their wives and children; the women and children afterwards thrown alive into the fea; of the women, fome, on account of their beauty, preferved alive for a few days to fatiate the luft of the inhuman murderers of their hufbands and brothers, and then either flaughtered or committed to the waves: fuch were fome of the horrid deeds of which thefe barbarians were convicted upon their trial, to which they were brought, in confequence of quarrelling with each other about the division of their prey; and fuch, if we may credit a contemporary historian, was the unhappy fate of a great number of the Morefcoes .

Nor was the fate of the greater part of those who reached the coast of Barbary less deplorable. They had no sooner landed on this

* Fonfeca.

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barren inhospitable shore, than they were attacked by the Bedouin Arabs, a wild banditti who live in tents, and fupport themfelves by hunting and by plunder. The Morefcoes, unarmed, and incumbered with their wives and children, were often robbed by those barbarians, who came upon them in numerous bodies, amounting fometimes to five or fix thousand men; and as often as the Morescoes attempted, with ftones and flings, their only arms, to make refiftance, put great numbers of them to the fword. Still greater numbers perished of fatigue and hunger, joined to the inclemencies of the weather, from which they had no means of fhelter, during their tedious journey through the African deferts, to Mostagan, Algiers, and other places, where they hoped to be permitted to take up their refidence. Few of them ever arrived at these places. Of fix thousand, who fet out together from Conastal, a town in the neighbourhood of Oran, with an intention of going to Algiers, a fingle perfon only, of the name of Pedralvi, furvived the difafters to which they were exposed; and of the whole hundred and forty thoufand, who were at this time transported to Africa, there is ground to believe, from the concurring teftimony of perfons who had accefs to know the truth, that more than a hundred thousand men,

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men, women, and children, fuffered death in its most hideous forms, within a few months after their expulsion from Valentia *.

COMPARED to the dreadful fate to which this unhappy people were doomed by the Spaniards, it would have been an act of mercy on the part of the king, had he either commanded them to be put to the fword, or committed to the flames; as their mifery would, in this cafe, have been of fhort continuance. The knowledge of what had befallen them ought, at leaft to have deterred him from expoing the reft of his Morefco fubjects to the like calamities.

But the fentiments of humanity in the ecclefiaftics and court of Spain were overpowered by those of the most illiberal superfition. They confidered that inexpressible misery, which they themselves had brought on the Morescoes, as a signal of divine judgment against that unhappy people, which ferved to justify the cruelty which they had exercised, and to prove that what they had done was acceptable in the sight of God. Far from feeling remorfe or forrow for what had happened, they rather triumphed and exulted in it, and were confirm-

envisite provident of all vices in the men

* Fonfeca, Gonfalez, Davila, p. 146.

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ed in their refolution of expelling all the Morefcoes in Spain without exception, and without thinking it incumbent on them to make provision for their reception in any of those countries to which they were about to be conveyed.

AND DEPARTURE WE STRINGER

But before they proceeded to the expulsion of the Morefcoes in Caftile and other provinces, it was judged neceffary to reduce to obedience all fuch of the Morefcoes in Valentia, above mentioned, as had retired to the mountainous parts of that kingdom, with the refolution of flanding on their defence. Their number, including men, women, and children, amounted nearly to thirty thousand. Having collected together a confiderable quantity of provisions of all kinds, they had begun, while the viceroy was employed in transporting their countrymen, to fortify themfelves as well as they were able, and to block up the narrow paffes, by which the Spaniards muft approach. But, befides being utterly deftitute of military skill, they were extremely ill furnished both with arms and ammunition; and the folly of their attempt quickly appeared in the feeblenefs of every effort which they made to repel the attacks of the enemy. The viceroy having fent against them the flower of the regular forces, under

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under the command of Don Agustin Mescia, who had acquired confiderable military experience and renown in the wars of Flanders, a great part of them were compelled to furrender, through the want of water, from which Mescia had found means to cut them off; and soon after, the rest were beaten from their intrenchments, and put to flight.

In the purfuit no mercy was fhewn, either to the aged or to the women and children, though rolling in the duft, and imploring mercy, by the favage conquerors. Upwards of three thousand perished *. The number of those who had furrendered was two and twenty thousand, who were all soon after transported to Africa, except the children under seven years of age, whom the soldiers were permitted to fell for flaves. The king decreed, that, after a certain number of years, they should be set at liberty; but as many of them were fent

* Fonfeca, p. 310.—From the ftyle of this author in this and many other paffages, there is little ground for doubt, that with pleafure he would have acted the fame bloody part which he deferibes.

Fueron Siguiendo la vittoria, los neuftros, matando fin excecion, quantos alconçavan, viejos, moços, grandes, pequennos, hombres. y mugeres, por mas que arrodillados ellos, y ellas con los braços a biertos les pedian mifericordia, no mereciendola los que fiempre ufaron mal della-Fonfeca, 310.

to foreign countries, there is ground to fufpect B'o o that the decree was not attended with the defired effect *.

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ANOTHER order of the king, which he publifhed at this time, proved more effectual. Befides the Morefcoes who were killed or taken prifoners, a confiderable number, diffruftful of the Spanish faith, or prompted by an inconquerable attachment to their native country, had difperfed themfelves among the woods and

* The viceroy and the archbishop of Valentia differed widely in their opinion with regard to the proper method of difpoling of the children. The former represented to the king, that all of them, who were under fifteen years of age, might be fafely permitted to remain in the hands of the Chriftians, to whom they had been fold by the foldiers, as there would be no Mahometans in the kingdom by whom they could be perverted from embracing the principles of the Christian faith. Befides, that as most of their parents and other relations had perifhed in the late infurrection, it would be lefs cruel to put them all to the fword, than to land fo great a number of helplefs young constant of Barbary. The archbishop, on the other hand, declared that, after a certain age, no Moreico could poffibly be converted ; and that, if the Morefco children, at fifteen, at twelve, at ten, of even feven years of age were fuffered to remain, the whole kingdom of Valentia would again be peopled with Mahometans before the end of the fecond, or at most of the third generation. The king, defirous to gracify both the viceroy and the archbilhor, but leaning more to the fide of the latter, gave his permifion as above-mentioned, for retaining only fuch of the children as were under feven years of age.

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rocks, where they hoped to elude the notice of the Spaniards. Philip put a price upon the heads of those unhappy men, and the foldier were fent out to hunt for them, as for bealts of prey. Hardly any of them were able to escape. Some of them chose rather to die of cold and hunger, than furrender themselves to the Spaniards: and at length their leader, who with his wife and children had concealed themselves in the most inaccessible parts of the mountains, was taken and carried alive to Valentia, where, after fuffering much mockery and infult for having allowed himself to be elected king of the infurgents, he was, by a folemn fentence, condemned and put to death *.

* In the appendix (B) the reader will find other intereffing circumftances relative to the condition of the Morefcoes in Spain, their expulsion, and subsequent fate, collected from fir Francis Cottington's Letters from Spain, 1609 and 1610.

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