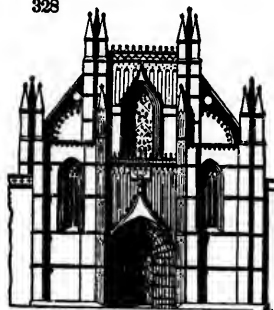


magnificent monastery, founded by Emanuel, and in which many of the royal family have been interred.

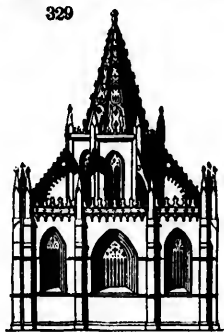
There are several other towns of some note in Portuguese Estremadura. St. Ubes or Setubal lies sixteen miles from Lisbon, on the coast south of the Tagus, on a long interior bay, the waters of which, evaporated by the heat of the sun, leave the excellent bay-salt, one of the national staples. The town is considerable, having been well rebuilt since the earthquake of 1755, when it was almost totally overthrown. The mountain of Ursabida, here extending into the sea, forms a bold and striking promontory, covered with trees and various vegetation. Ascending the Tagus, we come to Santarem, a considerable and ancient town, the *Præsidium Julium* of the Romans. It has an academy of history, established in 1747. Here the great French army, under Massena, remained long posted, unable to penetrate to Lisbon. Abrantes, higher up, is an important military position, situated on a height whence it commands the passage of the Tagus. Leiria, to the north, is an ancient town, in a most productive territory, and where a great annual fair is held for the supply of the peasantry of the neighbouring country round. At Batalha, is a church (*fig. 328.*), and monastery, which, united, form the finest structures in all Portugal. It is 541 feet by 416, and is considered by Mr. Murphy to be one of the noblest existing specimens of the Norman

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Church of Batalha.

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Mausoleum of King John.

Gothic. It is constructed entirely of marble, and the front appeared to him almost unrivalled in chaste and delicate ornament. Among the different parts, the mausoleum erected in honour of King John, is pre-eminently beautiful (*fig. 329.*). Vimiero is only a village, but celebrated for the signal victory gained by the British over the army of Junot. Three miles distant is Torres Vedras, a tolerable old town, but chiefly noted as the centre of the grand fortified lines formed by Wellington in 1810, which so completely baffled all the manœuvres by which the French had hoped to reconquer Portugal.

Alentejo is an extensive province, comprising the greater part of Portugal south of the Tagus. The interior presents an extensive plain; but the frontier towards Spain is finely diversified with hills, wooded mountains, and deep valleys extremely well watered, and very fertile. It contains some large towns. Evora is situated on an eminence in a fine country, and is of great antiquity. Its origin has even been dated seven centuries before the Christian era. It is more clearly ascertained that the Romans made it a municipal town, and adorned it with some of their finest structures. There is a noble aqueduct, of which the piers are nine feet broad, and supported by buttresses; also a Temple of Diana built by Sertorius, in which great elegance is displayed. Elvas, on the Spanish frontier, immediately facing Badajoz, is the strongest fortress in Portugal, and designed as the barrier of the kingdom. The works were constructed under the directions of the celebrated Count Schœmberg-Lippe; and the fort, bearing his name, is considered a masterpiece of the art. In this neighbourhood are also Villa Viçosa, a pleasant town, and a favourite country residence of the Portuguese monarchs, who have here a handsome hunting-park; and Portalegre, a handsome little town in a delightful country, with a good cathedral. Southward, in the interior, is Beja, a Roman colony, and subsequently a strong Moorish fortress. After being nearly demolished, it was rebuilt by Alfonso III., and fortified by King Diniz, and is still a considerable town.

Algarve forms the extreme south of Portugal; and is a maritime province, bearing in an especial sense, the appellation of kingdom, since it long remained independent, and was a celebrated theatre of war between the Moors and the Christians. It is tolerably fertile in wine, fruits, and oil. Faro, the largest town, is also the principal seat of trade, and has a