

manded. (March 1492) all the Jews in Spain to become Christians or to leave the kingdom in four months; and 170,000 families*, all industrious and valuable members of society, by whom a great part of the trade of the country was conducted, were driven out to enrich other countries with their arts and industry, and as much of their property as they could save. With respect to the Saracens, or Moors, instead of imitating the wise and liberal conduct of the ancestors of those people, who, when they conquered Spain, permitted their Christian subjects to enjoy their religion and laws, or that of the Christian conqueror of Sicily, who gave the Saracen inhabitants the same indulgence, or paying any regard to his own treaty, Ferdinand the Catholic † resolved to compel all his new subjects to become Christians ‡. Many of them professed the Christian religion, while they retained their own: but those hypocrites were soon exterminated by the burning zeal of the holy fathers of the inquisition. Others, by far the greatest number of them, were either murdered, or plundered and driven out of the country. Most of the exiles took refuge among their brethren on the opposite coast of Africa, and, in revenge for the miseries inflicted on them by the Spaniards, resolved to carry on a perpetual predatory war against their oppressors. But their war of just reprisals has been perverted by their descendents into indiscriminate piracy against every nation professing the Christian religion, excepting only those, who by bribes, or superior naval power, allure or compel them to respect their flags: and thus it happens, that a private merchant in the United States of America, a country not known to exist when Granada was conquered, is ruined in consequence of that event. By these depopulations with the subsequent drains to the colonies, by blind and furious bigotry, and the lazy pride introduced by the acquisition of the American mines, Spain, from the time of entering upon possession of the greatest opportunities of improvement, has been falling back in civilization, industry, and commerce, while all the other countries in Europe were rapidly advancing: a memorable and dreadful example of the fatal consequences of persecution for religious opinions. [See *Mariana, Ll. xxv, xxvi, xxvii.*]

It has been observed that the commerce of the Venetians acquired a very great extension by the depression of their rivals, the Genoese, upon the establishment of the Turkish empire in Europe. The wealth of Europe, and, along with it, the taste for the spices, jewels, pearls, and other rich productions and manufactures of the East, continued to increase. Those articles of luxury were almost entirely supplied by the

* This is the most moderate estimate. Some authors make the number much greater.

† He was the first king of Spain who had that title, which was doubtless given to him as a reward for his zeal against heretics.

‡ This conversion did not begin till the year

1499; but I have introduced it here for the sake of connection. The archbishops of Toledo and Granada were the chief advisers and executors of this persecution, which, as Mariana acknowledges, was the source of all the subsequent troubles.