

Spain, occupying the NE. portion of the kingdom, between lat. $40^{\circ} 30'$ and $42^{\circ} 51'$ N., and long. $0^{\circ} 15'$ and $3^{\circ} 21'$ E. It is of a triangular shape, and has the E. Pyrenees, which separate it from France on the N.; the Mediterranean on the E.; and Aragon, and a small part of Valencia on the W. Greatest length and breadth, 190 and 130 m.; area about 12,150 sq. m., including Andorre. Offsets from the Pyrenees spread themselves through the whole prov. from N. to S., forming valleys of larger or smaller extent, like those of Ampurdan, Urgel, Aran, and Lerida. Towards the middle of the prov., 29 m. NW. from Barcelona, is the celebrated Montserrat, 4,500 ft. in height; and farther S., on the Ebro, is the Sierra de la Llena. The Pyrenees are not so rugged on this as on the French side, and descend gradually towards the Mediterranean. They are mostly granitic. The other mountains of Catalonia are in many respects similar. The mountain of Cardona, 17 m. NW. Montserrat, almost in the centre of the prov., is a mass of pure rock-salt, without the least crevice or fissure, between 400 and 500 ft. high, and 3 m. in circ. This prodigious mass of salt is unparalleled in Europe, and perhaps in the world. In almost any other country it would be turned to great account, and be made the means of an extensive trade; but here, owing to the badness of the roads and the difficulty of access, this inexhaustible source of wealth is but little known, and comparatively neglected. (Dillon's Travels in Spain, p. 300.) Near Olot, in this prov., about 55 m. N. Barcelona, is a remarkable district of extinct volcanoes, that has been visited and described by Mr. Lyell. It contains about 14 distinct cones, with craters. The greatest number of perfect cones are close to Olot; and the level plain on which the town stands has clearly, according to Mr. Lyell, been produced by the flowing down of lava from the adjoining hills. Most of these volcanoes are as entire as those near Naples, or on the flanks of Etna. Some of them contain caverns called *bufadors*, from which a current of cold air blows during summer. There is no record of any eruption here; but the town of Olot was nearly destroyed by an earthquake in 1421. (Principles of Geology, li. 38, 3d. ed.) The mountains in the S. of the prov., near the coast, are limestone. On the E. of Cervera gypsum only is met with; but more to the W. it gives place to chalk. The coast is mostly bold and rugged. In the N. is Cape Creus, the most E. point of Spain, being the extremity of a rocky peninsula stretching out into the sea, and separating the Gulf of Lyons from that of Rosas, lat. $42^{\circ} 19' 53''$ N., long. $3^{\circ} 20' 16''$ E. The prov. is well watered. One of the affluents of the Ebro, the Naguera, forms for nearly 60 m. the line of demarcation between it and Aragon. The Ebro itself enters the prov. at Mequinenza, and flowing through its most S. portion by Tortosa and Amposta, falls into the Mediterranean 15 m. E. from the latter. The Segre, with its affluents, unites with the Ebro at Mequinenza. The principal rivers, unconnected with the Ebro, are the Llobregat and Ter, the one flowing SE., and the other E., to the Mediterranean.

The Pyrenees furnish iron, copper, zinc, and manganese. There are lead mines in various districts. Coal is abundant, but much difficulty has always been encountered in working it, from the want of capital and of improved means of communication. Townsend says, that copper and silver abound in the valley of Aran, and that coal, silver, and gold, have all been found in the vicinity of Lerida. There is abundance of alum in the valley of Aran; nitre is produced spontaneously in the plains of Urgel, and cathartic

salts at Cervera. The mountain of rock-salt at Cardona has been already noticed. There are marbles, jasper, and other stones useful in architecture and sculpture; alabaster, amethysts, topazes, and coloured rock crystal; quartz, barytic spa, fluor spa, limestone, chalk, and gypsum, in all varieties; amianthus, talc, serpentine, and chalcodony. There are many mineral waters and hot springs.

The air is dry and unusually bright and clear in the interior; but on the coast it is variable and moist; and in summer pestilential diseases not unfrequently prevail. The mountains are everywhere covered with snow during the winter, and in the Pyrenees frequently even in June.

Soil and Produce.—About half the surface is susceptible of cultivation, the rest consisting of rocks, naked barren hills, and woodland. The mountain land is stony, and full of fragments of granite; but the valleys are mostly fertile. All sorts of grain are grown, viz. wheat, rye, maize, barley, oats, and millet. The plains of Ampurdan are suitable for rice; but its cultivation is prohibited, as prejudicial to health. (Milfano.) Pulse is produced in all parts. Hemp, flax, saffron, madder, woad, anise, liquorice, and barilla are also produced. The E. districts yield good strong wines, which are frequently employed to give body to the wines of other provs., and are sometimes exported for that purpose to Cete, and thence to Bordeaux. Oranges, lemons, and citrons, are found on the coast; figs and almonds are grown in the plain of Tarragona; and apples, pears, cherries, quinces, medlars, apricots, peaches, walnuts, chestnuts, and filberts, in all the plains. Oil, though not of the best quality, is produced in all the warmer parts of the coast district. Silk, honey, and wax are also produced in considerable quantities. Timber is plentiful, especially the noble-oak, beech, fir, elm, evergreen poplar, cork-tree, &c. Nuts and cork constitute important articles of export from the prov., being in this respect second only to linen and cotton goods and brandy. Bears and wolves are sometimes seen in the Pyrenees. Laborde estimated the produce of wool at 30,000 quintals.

Catalonia is the best cultivated, and the people the most industrious, of any of the Spanish provs. This is owing to a variety of causes, but principally, perhaps, to its exemption from the *alcavala* and other oppressive imposts (See SPAIN), and to the mode in which lands are occupied. Generally, throughout Spain, the land is divided into vast estates, held under a system of strict entail, and administered by stewards on account of the proprietors. The disastrous influence of this system is apparent in the low state of agriculture, and the wretchedness of the peasantry, in most parts of the monarchy. But in Catalonia its influence is materially modified by the landlords having power, by what is called the *emphyteutic* contract, to lease a portion of their estates. This they may do for a term of years, either absolute or conditional, for lives or in perpetuity; always reserving a quit-rent, as in the English copyhold, with a relief on every succession, a fine on the alienation of the land, and other seigniorial rights dependent on the custom of the district. The reserved rent is commonly paid in money; but the agreement is often for wine, oil, corn, or poultry. If the tenant quits before the end of his term (which he may do), he loses all claim for improvements, for which he must otherwise be paid. Persons occupying land under this tenure have an obvious interest in its profitable cultivation; and wherever it prevails the country is in a comparatively flourishing state.