

rior; but the mules are fine, and nearly equal to those of Spain. Improvement, however, is neglected; nor have the indolent Portuguese profited by crossing their sheep from the merinos of Spain. A long-legged race of swine is common to both kingdoms, and furnishes excellent hams.

SECT. III.—*Historical Geography*

The Carthaginians and Romans who occupied the Peninsula, did not recognise Portugal as a distinct country. Their Lusitania included a part of Spain, and did not comprise the whole of Portugal: Merida, in Estremadura, was its capital. Portugal, like Spain, submitted successively to the formidable irruptions of the Goths and of the Moors.

The existence of Portugal as a distinct kingdom dates from the commencement of the twelfth century. At that time, Henry, duke of Burgundy, having married the daughter of the duke of Castile, obtained as her dowry the northern part of Portugal, which had been rescued from the Moors. The capital, at that time, was Porto or Oporto, whence the modern name of the kingdom appears to be derived. His successors gained a series of conquests, and obtained possession of Lisbon and the southern provinces, carrying their conquests to the frontier of Seville.

The fifteenth century, and the reigns of John and Emanuel, formed the true era of the greatness of Portugal, when it outshone all the other kingdoms of Europe. Confined on the land side within narrow limits, it opened for itself a vast career of maritime discovery and conquest. Spain, indeed, shared this pursuit; but her first acquisitions were made by private individuals, partly foreign, with only faint assistance from the government; while the Portuguese expeditions were planned, fitted out, and all the resources for them supplied by the government. Their flag, at one time, floated victorious over all the eastern seas; while in the west, by the possession of Brazil, they came into some competition with Spain.

A disastrous eclipse of the Portuguese monarchy took place in the sixteenth century, in consequence of the rash and romantic expedition undertaken by king Sebastian into Morocco, where he himself and the flower of his troops were cut off. Hereupon Philip II. of Spain, a powerful and ambitious prince, raised a claim to the succession, which the superiority of his arms enabled him to secure. Portugal, with all her eastern and western possessions, then became an appanage to the crown of Spain. The connection was every way unfortunate. Not only did she lose her political and civil liberty, but many of her finest foreign possessions were wrested from her by the Dutch, the spirited and active enemies of Philip.

The restoration of the monarchy, in 1640, was still more sudden than its fall. The deep-rooted indignation of the people was combined into an extensive conspiracy, which, having been concealed to the last moment, burst forth at once: the Spaniards were driven out, and the duke of Braganza raised to the throne, under the title of John IV. Yet Portugal did not thus achieve any revival of her ancient glory. The new monarch soon re-established absolute power: a sluggish and indolent character pervaded all the departments of government: its foreign possessions were lost or neglected; and Portugal continued a stranger to all the improvements and energies which raised Britain and France to the first place in the system of Europe. Yet, during this period, the elevation of the Bourbons to the Spanish throne, led to a very intimate alliance between England and Portugal, the natural foe of Spain. It was cemented in 1803, by a commercial treaty, in which Portugal secured an exclusive market for her wines, while Britain obtained a market for her woollens, and an arrangement by which the gold of Brazil might find its way into her ports.

The recent convulsions of the Peninsula have been very amply shared by Portugal. Regardless of the neutrality which she had strictly maintained, Bonaparte, by a most unprovoked aggression, sent Juvénal, in 1807, to take possession of Lisbon. The king did not attempt a vain resistance, but sailed for Brazil, and established his court at Rio de Janeiro. The British arms, and the glorious achievements of Wellington, drove the French out of this part of the Peninsula, and finally out of the whole. Afterwards Portugal imitated the example of Spain in compelling her monarch to grant a representative constitution; but again, by a counter-revolution, she re-established an absolute monarchy. More recently, on the death of the late king, Don Pedro proclaimed the separation of Brazil from Portugal, reserving the former to himself, but granting to the latter a charter, the observance of which was made the condition of holding the throne.

SECT. IV.—*Political Geography.*

Portugal, after the downfall of the feudal system, and especially after her subjection to Philip II. became one of the most absolute of European governments. The Marquis of Pombal and one or two more enlightened men found their way into the ministry; but, in general, measures were as ill conducted as possible, and corruption prevailed in every department of the state. The course of justice was equally polluted; and, no adequate salaries being allowed to the judges, they were under an almost irresistible temptation to accept bribes.