

to the society for a mean subsistence, or perchance be obliged to end her days in a monastic confinement: and again, that should I happen to give them any provocation, or break their orders or rules, I might be unjesuited, expelled their society, and excluded both from my inheritance, and all means of living. And then, she added, that if in after-life my inclinations continued, when youth was conquered, and the world could yield me no pleasure, I might then do as I pleased; and it would yet be time enough to retire.

Thus advised, I no longer appeared at St. Anthony's, nor in my student's dress; yet my bookish inclination continued: but the course of my studies was changed, for instead of Aristotle's Philosophy, School Divinity, and Casuistry, I now relished nothing but Voyages, Travels, and Geography; and such other books as would lead me into a just notion of the world, and assist me in that state of life I then had just entered into.

As for languages, I had been very happy in taking them at school; so that I was at no loss in reading authors of diverse nations, except the English; for though the English factory at Lisbon is both the richest and the largest, and there is also an English college, an English nunnery, and two Irish colleges, and a nunnery of that nation also, who speak the English tongue; and I may add, though our greatest dealings in the mercantile way are with the subjects of Great Britain, none of the natives endeavour to teach or learn their language. Therefore my next step towards obtaining true ideas of a nation I, in all probability, was to deal with during my life, was to search not only for Portuguese and Spanish, but for French and Italian authors; yet I could find none in any of these languages, that are any other than mere superficial accounts, and, in my opinion, no way capable to convey just ideas of so deserving a people, nor sufficient to instruct a foreigner how to manage an advantageous commerce with them. For so long as we are kept ignorant of any country, and traffic with its natives only by factors of their own nation, settled among us, we must take only what they please to import, and at their own times and price, to our own great loss: whereas a merchant, that is thoroughly acquainted with the product, manufacture, and genius of the nations he traffics with, has the advantage to supply himself with the best commodities, in the best seasons, and at the cheapest rates. Consequently,

I, resolving to merchandise with Great Britain, resolved also first to learn the language, and then to make a voyage to the island itself. I soon made myself master of as much of the English tongue, as to enable me to attempt my intended voyage, without the incumbrance and the accidents that often befall gentlemen, who are obliged to trust all to an interpreter. Having gained my parents' consent, I embarked with their blessing, on board the packet, on the 23d of April, being St. George's day, commonly called the patron of England; and, after a pleasant voyage of seven days, we arrived safe at Falmouth, the 30th of April 1730, N. S.

CHAPTER II....A CHOROGRAPHICAL DESCRIPTION OF ENGLAND.*

BEING thus accompanied and instructed, it was to be my peculiar care to improve my journey to the uses I first intended, at my departure from Lisbon; and, in particular, to render it, for the future, subservient to my mercantile way of life: Therefore I began to take minutes of the soil, produce, and manufactures of every county through

* In the original this is the ninth chapter, seven chapters being filled with a hasty and imperfect history of England, which can nowise interest the reader.