

The sea, like a modest bride, of course assents by silence, and the marriage is deemed valid and secure, to all intents and purposes.

After a view of every thing in the arsenal, the company were invited on board some boats, prepared for their reception. They were then rowed to that part of the lake which commands the most advantageous prospect of Venice, accompanied by music. In fine, the amusements of this day had all the advantage of novelty to strangers, and every additional charm which attention and politeness could give.

Though this was not the season of any of the public solemnities, which draw strangers to Venice, yet the presence of the archduke and duchess attracted numbers of the nobility to Venice, and gave our travellers an opportunity of seeing several things to the best advantage.

They next visited the isle of Murano, about a mile from Venice. This was once a very flourishing place, and still boasts some palaces, which bear the marks of their former magnificence.

The great manufactories of glass, however, are the only inducement which strangers have to visit this place. They saw a very fine plate for a mirror blown in their presence; and were astonished at the dexterity of the workmen, and the success of their practice.

This manufactory formerly served all Europe with looking-glasses; and the quantity made here is still very considerable, though the French and English have become powerful rivals, and withdrawn much of the original trade in this article from the Venetians.