

terest in receiving these goods at third or fourth hand, and at an advance of 35 per cent., from traders who make it a religious duty to cheat the infidels; but the merchants find, probably, an extreme convenience in having one port where they can make up a complete assortment of Mediterranean goods. The exports from Italy consist almost entirely of the articles of raw produce already enumerated, of which the leading articles are raw and thrown silk, and olive oil; to which may be added Parmesan cheese; marble; almonds, and raisins, from Sicily and Lipari; Bologna hemp, barilla, sulphur, liquorice, paste, straw hats, and a great quantity of rags. The staple import is salt-fish for the use of the devotees during the fasts of the church. It is chiefly cod-fish from Newfoundland, called here *bacello*, and pilchards from Cornwall. All kinds of colonial produce and spices find a market; also iron, lead, hardware, silks, woollen, and, still more, cottons from France and Britain. Leghorn also imports wheat from Odessa, beans from Egypt; the fruits, cotton, and drugs of the Levant; but more for the accommodation of Britain and the other northern nations than for the use of the country.

Fishing is a pursuit for which the extensive coasts of Italy, as well as its lakes and rivers, furnish ample scope, as they abound with fish of the most excellent quality. It is carried on with sufficient diligence for immediate consumption, but not so as either to furnish objects of trade, or to dispense with a large importation. Anchovies, however, are shipped in large quantities from Sicily for Leghorn; and it seems to be from some defect in the mode of cure that they do not equal the Gorgona anchovies. On the western coast of the same island is a considerable coral fishery. Amber, as a marine production, may also be mentioned as found more abundantly on the Sicilian than on any other coast. The tunny fishery of Sardinia is the most extensive in the Mediterranean.

The canals, constructed during the period of the glory of Italy, are very numerous and valuable. The plain of Lombardy is intersected by twelve on a large scale, connected by innumerable minor channels. But though many of these are navigable, their primary object has been to communicate to the country on both banks of the Po its unrivalled fertility. This is still more decidedly the case in the Florentine canals, which are merely broad ditches cut along the terraced sides of the mountains. The only canals of the south appear to be those which have been formed at different times with a view to the draining of the Pontine marshes. Commercial canals do not seem to have yet entered into the system of Italian economy.

The roads of Italy were carried to the highest perfection under the ancient Roman empire and republic. From Rome, as a centre, five great ways branched off to the different frontiers. All obstacles were removed, rocks levelled, hollows arched over, in order to form routes the most direct, level, and commodious. They were constructed in a peculiar manner with large blocks of stone wedged together so as almost to resemble a flat surface of rock; and such is the durability thus produced, that several large portions remain, after the lapse of two thousand years, in as entire a state as at their first formation. The lines of these great roads still continue, and are kept by the existing governments in very tolerable condition; so that travelling in Italy is obstructed only by the occasional inundations of the rivers, and the still more perilous assaults of banditti, who occupy many of the Apennine recesses.

SECT. VI.—Civil and Social State.

The national character and the state of society in Italy are marked by prominent and striking features. The people, in some respects, are perhaps the most polished and refined of any in the world. While the German and many English nobles placed their enjoyment in hunting and the pleasures of the table, music, painting, poetry, and assemblies for conversation, formed the delight of the Italians. The one spends much of his fortune in keeping a splendid table, stud, and pack of hounds; the other in building palaces, and adorning them with masterpieces of painting and sculpture. The French are, perhaps, still more gay and social; but their gaiety is more of a noisy, empty, and animal kind; while the Italian derives his delight from objects of taste, and feels them with deeper sensibility. The nobles of this country were from the first civic; and all their habits have continued to be those of a city. What they call the chase, has no resemblance to the bold adventurous field-sports of England, but consists merely in driving a number of animals into an enclosed place, and shooting them at their ease. No pains are bestowed on the improvement of their estates, which are managed according to a mechanical routine, under the care of stewards, who often embezzle a great part of the produce. Being excluded also from all concern in public affairs, and from the administration of the state, they have become estranged from habits of manly and energetic exertion. They pass their lives in a listless and lounging apathy, making it their sole object to while away the hour in the most easy and agreeable manner. Their day is spent in a regular routine of attendance on mass, on their lady, on the theatre, the Casino, and the Corso. As the title and rank of a noble descend to all his posterity, the great increase in their number, by reducing them to a miserable and proud poverty, tends still more to degrade them in the public eye. Ostentatious magnificence is combined