

taken possession of by O'Reilly for Spain under a secret treaty concluded in November, 1762, but not made public until 23rd April, 1764. About three months after taking possession, O'Reilly published in the French language extracts from the whole body of the Spanish law, with references to the books in which they are contained, purporting to be intended for elementary instructions to the inhabitants of the province. This publication, followed by an uninterrupted observance of the Spanish law, was received as an introduction into Louisiana of the Spanish Code in all its parts. 4 Martin, p. 368.

The laws of Spain are contained in various Codes, the most complete of which is that known under the name of "Las Siete Partidas." The other Codes are the "Fuero Juzgo," "Fuero Viejo" and "Fuero Real"; to which may be added the laws regulating the practice of Courts, the "Royal Ordinances," and those of "Alcala;" the laws of "Toro," the "Recopilacion de Castilla," and the "Recopilacion de las Indias."

The "Fuero Juzgo" was published about the year 693. It was first published in Latin under the title of "Forum Judicium" and afterward translated into Spanish in the 13th century under Ferdinand III. It was originally called "El Fuero de los Jueces," this name was changed by corruption of words into Fuero Juzgo, and under that title it was published in the year 1600.

El "Fuero Viejo" was published in the year 992, and contains the ancient customs and usages of the Spanish nation.

Alphonso the wise, desiring to establish a uniform jurisprudence in all his dominions, published a third Code, under the name of "Fuero Real;" this was the precursor of the "Partidas," which Alphonso had ordered to be compiled, and is to the Partidas what the "Institutes" are to the "Pandects."

The "Partidas" is the most perfect system of Spanish laws; they were compiled in imitation of the "Pandects," and as a digest of the laws of Spain are worthy of the praise bestowed on them by jurists of every country.

The work was projected by Ferdinand III., but accomplished by his son and successor, Alphonso the wise, who appointed four jurists to execute it. This task was entered upon in the year 1256, and finished in seven years. Strange to say, the names of these enlightened jurists have not been preserved. All those parts of the new Code relating to religious matters, were compiled from