

from the rest of the straights. This neck of land, which is semicircular, is strongly fortified, by the citadel and four small forts, placed to the best advantage.

A number of galleys and galliots ride in this delightful harbour. These vessels frequently cruise round the island, to protect it from the Moors, whose visits are often troublesome. The slaves who row them are chained to their oars, and sleep every night on the bare benches without the slightest covering. Every stroke of their oars seems to be an exertion of their utmost strength; and in fact the misery they endure, appears in every respect to be extreme.

After taking a general view of this city, the English deputy consul carried them to several convents, where they were received by the nuns with great politeness and affability. They conversed with them through the grate for some hours, and found them not deficient in knowledge or sprightliness. All pretended to be happy and contented, and declared they would not change their convents for the most brilliant situations in life. However, some of them had a soft melancholy in their countenances; and our tourist is of opinion, that could they have been brought to a confidential tête-à-tête, which was impossible, they would have told quite a different tale. Some of them were extremely handsome, or at least appeared so, from their simple and modest attire.

After amusing themselves at the convent, they observed a vast concourse of people on the top of a high hill, at some distance from the city. They were told it was the celebration of a great festival in honour of St. Francis, and worth seeing. Accordingly they arrived just as the saint made his appearance.