

high mountain whence all the kingdoms of the earth were discovered; he shewed him, added he, France, England, and Italy; but, happily for the Son of God, Spain was hidden from his sight by the Pyrenees. Fathers of families, when at the point of death, have been known to congratulate their children on their happiness in living in Madrid, and have taught them to consider that advantage as the greatest benefit of which they could leave them in possession.

The residence in cities, especially in the capital, leaves the country deserted. A Spaniard never lives in the country; he cannot like it because he knows not what it is, and he who is obliged to reside there does not think of making improvements. The lively description of the beauties of the country, of the varied scenes of nature, which in the midst of the pleasures of the city inspire us with the desire of leaving them, the enthusiasm of Gesner, Thomson, and Lambert, are unknown in Spain.

Their ignorance is in general extremes; most of them make no distinction between other nations, and many will maintain that a Frenchman, although a Christian, is not a Catholic. Their reading is confined to comedies, and their prayers to a recital of the chapter, I beg the reader to remark, that I speak generally; for in Spain there are many men of learning to whose merit I wish I were capable of doing justice.

Their bravery in war is but momentary; and, among the troops, signs of the greatest cowardice have often succeeded the most valiant actions. Several corps which would shew abundance of courage in an attack in the day-time, shrink and are seized by a panic terror during a march by night. They are sometimes cruel in battle, which is a consequence of their phlegmatic disposition, and when once heated their rage knows no bounds. It was several times remarked in the wars of Italy, that they were in the habit of ill-treating their prisoners, and even of wounding them when they fell into their hands unhurt; they called this making sure of the prisoner, *asegurar el prisionero*.

They have often been accused of carrying the passion for vengeance too far; but in this respect the nation seems entirely changed. I do not think the Spaniards have lost their energy and vigour of character by which they were at once incited to great actions, and became a prey to the most dangerous passions; but reflection and a more just idea of honour have moderated its violence, and that vindictive spirit, which hurries them even to assassi-

nation, is confined to the lower classes of the people. The asylum afforded by churches, although at present limited to one in each city, will for a long time preserve that sure means of getting rid of an enemy.

The Spaniard is in general short, thin, and well proportioned; his complexion is olive; his manner grave; he has facility of expression, and speaks well; he has graces. Under his cloak which he wears, and handles with dexterity, he carries a long sword to defend himself. He still retains a great partiality for the large round hat; and as soon as he is in a country where this is not prohibited, he quits with pleasure the hat with three corners, or the French hat, as it is commonly called in Spain. His favourite colour in dress is black. When he quits the Spanish dress for the military habit (for this the Spaniards call the French dress) he makes choice of the most lively colours; and it is not uncommon to see a common mechanic, fifty years of age, dressed in red or sky blue silk; in this particular there is no distinction of rank. The Spaniard loves to make an appearance, and spends, without reflection or calculation, every thing he has, and afterwards lives how he can.

One of the most commendable qualities of the Spaniards is their never discharging a domestic by whom they have been well served; the son keeps those of his father with his own, and the women who served his mother, and they all die under the roof of their master. On this account, in the houses of the great, it is common to see a prodigious number of servants.

I must not forget the most interesting class of the nation, that which every where consoles us, elevates our minds, constitutes our happiness, and has no vices except such as we communicate. Nothing is more engaging than a young female Spaniard at fifteen years of age, such as I have seen many in the country part of the kingdom. A face perfectly oval, hair of a fine clear auburn; equally divided on the forehead, and only bound by a silk net; large black eyes; a mouth full of graces; an attitude always modest; a simple habit of neat black serge, exactly fitting the body and gently pressing the wrist; a little hand perfectly proportioned; in fine, every thing charms in these youthful virgins. They recall to our recollection the softness, beauty, dress and simplicity of the young Grecian females, of whom antiquity has left us such elegant models; the angels in Spanish comedy, are always represented by young girls.