



TOUR  
THROUGH PART  
OF  
THE ATLANTIC;

OR,  
RECOLLECTIONS

FROM  
MADEIRA, THE AZORES (OR WESTERN ISLES),  
AND NEWFOUNDLAND,

*(Including the Period of Discovery, Produce, Manners, and  
Customs, of each Place,  
With Memorandums from the Convents,)*

VISITED IN THE SUMMER OF 1809, IN  
H. M. S. VESTAL.

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By ROBERT STEELE,  
LIEUTENANT OF THE ROYAL MARINES.

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*With an accurate Chart of the Ship's Track.*

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TO  
COMMODORE  
SIR JOSEPH SIDNEY YORKE, M. P.

W. C. C.

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DEAR SIR,

IN the purest spirit of gratitude, I dedicate my RECOLLECTIONS to you. Next to a beloved father, you have been my Friend and my Benefactor ;—your precepts and example warmed my heart, and enlarged my understanding, when, in early years, I was called from his instruction. These are the private virtues of your heart, Sir SIDNEY, and your public character can receive no additional lustre from eulogy ; for your unwearied professional services, and unshaken loyalty in the Senate, are acknowledged by a grateful nation.

To be again under your command, and to receive your approbation, will be the happiest moment, and the brightest reward, which can, in this life, be conferred on,

DEAR SIR,

Your most obedient, most faithful,

And most humble Servant,

ROBERT STEELE.

H. M. S. VESTAL,

*Jan. 21, 1810.*

## PREFACE.

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A PERSON who ventures, uncalled, into the presence of a polished and enlightened people, is bound to make known his pretensions to their favour and indulgence, and owes them an apology, at least, for the intrusion.—Such was my answer to the invitation of some kind friends who wished me to publish the observations I had made, with the result of my inquiries, during the late summer's cruize in the *Vestal*. They assured me there was nothing written on the *Azores*; that these beautiful islands were comparatively unknown, and that my memorandums could not fail to be well received. My youthful heart listened with delight to these suggestions, and the charm of being read, nay, perhaps, admired, may have too soon obtained a conquest over my better judgment.

By the title-page it will be found that it is not my profession to be learned ; and when I add, that although I have not yet attained my twenty-second year, I have been nearly seven years in the actual service of my royal Master and beloved Country, and that the following pages were written while upon duty, many of them, in the language of my ancestor, “ during the silent watch of the night, when the mind was perfectly disengaged, and at leisure to run over the busy dream of day,” I feel that I shall not be judged by the fiery and terrible ordeal of rigid criticism. I am conscious of my absolute inability to give the sublime scenes I have witnessed, the beautiful and striking graces of an elegant description ; and the errors of juvenile composition will be too often manifest ; but my publisher would not accede to my desire that my notes should receive the polish of some professional literary character, and I have, there-

fore, endeavoured to compensate, in some measure, by fidelity, and a strict adherence to facts ; and can venture to affirm, that the different relations are in rigid conformity to such resolution. The very peculiar nature of our voyage places it within my range to give a slight sketch of our valuable settlement at Newfoundland, where, although the prospect is suddenly changed from scenes that the most romantic fancy would love to dwell upon, for the dull realities of speculative intercourse, the interest is not diminished, and the patriotic heart enjoys the contemplation of a possession that has made a rapid progress, and forms a nursery for those gallant tars, who defend, with unvaried and brilliant success, the mother-country. I shall then take my first departure from England, and only wish that the reader had a more intelligent companion. I assure him, that, if he be not highly gratified, it will not be from a want of interest in the



subject, but from the melancholy execution of the picture, and the lamented inexperience of the artist.

I propose in my narrative to measure back our track from Newfoundland to the *Azores*, thence again to Newfoundland, and to England *viâ* Lisbon; by which method the indulgent reader will, at least, derive the fruit of my labour, poor as it may be, without partaking of my anxiety for the fate of this my first essay.

Should my fellow-subjects require a peace-offering from my vanity, which thus induces me to appear before them, they will be merciful when I remind them of my readiness, in my professional character, to be a burnt-sacrifice in the service of a Country which I love, and of a Monarch whom I adore.

# A T O U R,

&c.

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Nothing could be more gratifying, to a sanguine mind, than a voyage of this nature, performed under the most agreeable and interesting circumstances, *viz.* the exercise of our profession, the increase of knowledge, and, above all, the service of our country. On the 23d of May we passed through the Needles from Spithead, and in twenty-four hours took our departure from the happy Isles, ever zealous in the sacred cause of Liberty. During a cruize in the Bay of

Biscay we spoke the Parthian sloop of war, the harbinger of glad tidings to our Sovereign and our country.—Wellesley had triumphed, and an oppressed nation began again to respire under the protection of his conquering sword. It was the birth-day of the King too, which increased the fervour of our hearts. The weather now became tempestuous, and for a few hours it blew an alarming hurricane, but gradually subsided; when each succeeding day brought new hopes of success. From the first dawn of morning, till night veiled all in darkness, every sail was eagerly descried, chased, and examined, till the 10th June, when it was necessary we should proceed on the voyage, and we steered the usual course for Madeira. The next day we fell in with His Majesty's ship Amazon; and on the 13th, in lat. 40, spoke the Emerald, called by the jack-tars one of the jewels. We carried a gentle but leading breeze till early on the morning of

the 16th, when we made the island of Porto Santo, the smallest of the Madeiras, about eighteen miles in circumference, very sterile, and abounding only in rabbits. At a distance we saw the Desertas Islands, called by the sailors, "Deserters;" and at four, P. M. anchored in the roadstead of Funchall, the capital of Madeira. The apex of this beautiful island is veiled in the clouds, a circumstance which adds a grandeur to the enchanting valley in which the city is situated. The houses are white, and agreeably diversify the picturesque graces of surrounding nature. The climate is delightful: being divided between spring and summer, vegetation is never checked, and the inhabitants breathe in the harvests of plenty. The modern discovery of this island by an Englishman, was attended by a circumstance so remarkable and affecting, that I cannot forbear inserting it. The particulars are on record in the Rev. Stanier

Clarke's "Naufragia," or Historical Memoirs of Shipwrecks : but the narrative was originally written by Alcaforados, as follows :

" It was in the glorious reign of Edward the Third of England, that Robert à Macham, a gentleman of the second degree of nobility, whose genius was only equalled by his gallantry and courage, beheld and loved the beautiful Anna D'Arfet ; their attachment was mutual, but the pleasing hope gratified and betrayed their passion ; the pride of the illustrious house of Arfet rendered them insensible to the happiness of their daughter ; they preferred the indulgence of ambition to the voice of duty and love. The feudal tyranny of the age was friendly to their cruel design, and a warrant from the King seemed to justify the vanity of a parent. The consciousness of an ingenuous mind supported Macham in confinement ;

its energy, thus compressed, sought only for redress ; nor did it yield to despondency, when, on being delivered from prison, he found the innocent cause of his persecution had been forced to marry a nobleman who had carried her to his castle near Bristol. The friends of Macham made his misfortune their own, and one of them had the address to be introduced, under the character of a groom, to the service of the afflicted Anna. The prospect of the ocean, which, during their rides, extended before them, suggested or matured the plan of escape, and the probability of a secure asylum in, was opposed to the dangers of a passage to the coast of, France. Under pretence of receiving benefit from the sea air, the victim of parental ambition was enabled, without delay, to elude suspicion, whilst Macham, in the completion of his anxious design, was insensible to the particular season of the year, or the portentous appearance of the

weather, which in calmer moments he would have duly observed. The gradual rising of a gale of wind, rendered the astonished fugitives sensible of their rashness as the tempest approached ; the thick darkness of night completed the horrors of the scene. In their confusion the intended port was missed, or could not be reached ; their vessel drove at the mercy of the winds, and in the morning they found themselves in the midst of an unknown ocean, without the skill that could determine their situation, or the experience that could direct their course. The dawn of twelve mornings returned without the sight of land ; when, at length, after a night of increased anxiety, as they watched the earliest streaks of day, an object loomed in the horizon. Continued disappointment produced a querulous despondency ; whilst they alternately believed and doubted, the thick grey haze was dispersed by the rising sun, and a general burst of

joy welcomed the certainty of land. A luxuriantcy of trees, to whose appearance they were utter strangers, was soon visible, and the beautiful plumage of unknown birds, which came in flocks from the island, gave at first the semblance of a dream to their astonishing deliverance. The boat being hoisted out to examine the coast, returned with a favourable account. Macham and his friends accompanied their trembling charge, leaving the rest to secure the vessel. The wildness of the adjacent country possessed additional beauties to men escaped from destruction ; and the rich scenery of Madeira was again beheld, after a lapse of many centuries, by the eyes of Europeans. It was not only visited by the Romans, but, probably, also by the Normans, those skilful navigators, of whose discoveries we know so little, who preceded the Portuguese, and followed the Arabians, in nautical skill. An opening in the extensive woods, that



was encircled with laurels and flowery shrubs, presented a delightful retreat ; a venerable tree, the growth of ages, offered, on an adjoining eminence, its welcome shade ; and the first moments of liberty were employed in forming a romantic residence with the abundant materials supplied by nature. Curiosity to explore their new discovery was increased by the novelty of every object they beheld. Their varied occupation continued for three days, until the survey was interrupted by an alarming hurricane, that came on during the night, and rendered them extremely anxious for their companions who were left on board. The ensuing morning destroyed every prospect of happiness ; they in vain sought the vessel, which had driven from her moorings, and was wrecked on the coast of Morocco, where, as it afterwards appeared, all on board were immediately seized for slaves, and sent to prison. The afflicted Macham

found this last trial too severe for his disconsolate companion; her tender mind, overcome by the scenes she had endured, needed the conscious sense of a strict discharge of duty to renew its strength. From the moment it was reported the vessel could not be found, she became dumb with grief, expired after a few days of silent despair, and was soon followed by her inconsolable lover. The companions of Macham forgetting their own situation, were entirely occupied in watching their emaciated friend; but all attempts to administer consolation were fruitless. On the fifth day they received his parting breath and earnest injunction—that they would place his body, in the same grave, under the venerable tree, which, amidst an agony of tears, they had made for the unfortunate victim of his temerity, and where the altar that had been raised to celebrate their deliverance, would now mark their untimely tomb. This

painful duty being performed, they fixed a large wooden cross over their grave, with the inscription Machain had composed, to record their melancholy adventures, and to request, that if any Christians should hereafter visit the spot, they would, in the same place, build a church, and dedicate it to Christ. Having thus obeyed the dictates of friendship, they fitted out the boat, which, from their first landing, had been kept on shore. Their intention was to return, if possible, to England ; but, either owing to want of skill, to the currents, or to unfavourable weather, they were driven on the same coast with their shipmates, and joined them in the Moorish prison."

Sir George Staunton says this story forms the subject of a picture in the hall of the government-house at Madeira ; I was not aware of this circumstance, or I should have ascertained the fact, and hope for a future

opportunity of doing so. The exact year of the discovery cannot be determined: the reign of Edward the Third, extending from 1327 to 1377—Galverno, on the authority of the Chronicles of Castile, says it was about 1344—Herbert places it in 1328, but the Rev. S. Clarke thinks both these dates give a longer imprisonment to Morales than is consistent with history;—however, certain it is, that in 1431, during the reign of John the First of Portugal, illustrious for his talents, his courage, and his prudence, it was conquered by the Portuguese, who called it *Madeira*, from its being covered with wood, which they burnt down, and the island was fertilized by the ashes. They planted it with vines, which produce incredible quantities of wine. The white grape is the staple commodity, from which, it is computed, 26,000 pipes are annually made, and of which a moiety is exported to different quarters of the globe, and the remainder

used by the inhabitants. The usual price of this sort, called by the English merchants, "Dry Madeira," is 48/. per pipe, but no offers will induce them to sell old wine; at their tables it is drank in the highest perfection, but three or four years is the average age for exportation, and to exceed that would be, by them, considered as a breach of faith and of the interests of the commonwealth. The other sorts are called Tinto and Bastardo, and lastly the celebrated Malmsey wine. The grape from which this last is made, being of very rare growth, not more than five hundred pipes are made at a vintage, each pipe selling for 72/. The peculiar property of these exquisite wines is, that they keep extremely well in hot countries, and actually improve from change of climate. The merchants are highly respectable, and must always be esteemed for their strict integrity and polite attention to strangers. Their houses are spacious, and

many of them elegant, and their villas in the country exceedingly beautiful. I visited, and was quite charmed with that of Mr. Page; it is situated about three miles on the acclivity, which is steep and gradual from the city, and commands the enchanting valley, the ships at the anchorage, and the Desertas Islands, together with a vast distance of the sea, whereon the eye rests wearied by the expanse of water. Nothing can rival the splendid luxuriance of the avenue leading to the chateau: the most fragrant and beautiful flowers delight the eye and perfume the refreshing breeze. In the cool orange grove you contemplate the grounds which are skilfully disposed, and in the language of the poet—

“The myrtles here in fond caresses twine;  
There rich with nectar melts the pregnant vine.”

In fact, this lovely place brought to my memory the described Eden of our first pa-

rents, nor did I want the endearing elegance of female friendship to heighten the comparison.

But we will return to the general claims of the island to our attention. It is situated in lat.  $32^{\circ} 37\frac{1}{2}'$  N. and long.  $17^{\circ} 5'$  W. and of a parallelogramic form; its length, from a geometrical survey, from W. N. W. to E. S. E. about thirty-seven miles, and breadth eleven miles. It contains thirty-seven parishes, and its inhabitants are computed to be eighty thousand.

It is pleasant to those who visit or reside here, to be assured there is not a venomous animal to be seen; neither have they ever been known in the Azores, and it is supposed, if brought to them, would soon die; but there are innumerable lizards, which are perfectly harmless and inoffensive.

The city has been very much improved of late from the exertions and good regulations of the municipal authority ; and the streams of water which run through all the streets, instead of being a receptacle for filth, are now taken advantage of to promote their cleanliness, and are a fountain of comfort to fifteen thousand inhabitants.

They have one principal mall, where the more genteel people usually take the air ; and although it is circumscribed, from being in the heart of the town, it is kept in neat order, and centinels are placed to exclude the rabble, and preserve the border, which is nicely planted. The military parade is generally attended by the first ranks, the band having many attractions, and disgracing the Portuguese troops, which are wretchedly bad, in all their appointments.



The heat is by no means oppressive. Berge's thermometer was usually at 69°, and seldom rose higher than 74 and 75, and when the snow is on the mountains, stands at about 64.

It appeared to Dr. Gillan, who was physician to the Earl of Macartney's embassy to China, and made a philosophical survey of this island, when the embassy touched at it on its way out, that "there had been several craters in the island, and that eruptions had taken place at various and distant intervals. This was particularly manifest at a place near the Brazen Head, where might easily be counted twelve different eruptions of lava from neighbouring craters." "The chain of the highest mountains of Madeira has hardly any volcanic appearance. The clouds envelope frequently their tops, and from them descend all the streams and rivulets of the island. Their antiquity is

marked by the deep chasms, or gulfs, they have formed in their descent between the ridges of the rocks, during the long lapse of time they have continued to flow. In the beds of these rivulets are found pebbles of various sizes, and large round masses of silex, such as are usually met with in the beds of many similar torrents in the Alps. The soil also of the fields and pasturage-grounds appears the same as those of the continent, where no volcanic fire has ever been suspected; but it is probable that the bay or beach of Funchall is a segment of a large crater, the exterior part of which has sunk into the sea; for, on the beach, the shining or blue stones are all of compact lava; and tempestuous weather always throws large masses of the same blue lava stone, and also a quantity of cellular lava, upon the shore; moreover, the Loo Rock and landing-place opposite to it to the westward of Funchall Bay, as well as that upon which Fort

St. Jago is constructed, are evidently perpendicular fragments of the edges of the crater, which have hitherto resisted the action of the sea, by having been better supported, or having more closely adhered together, though much worn by the violence of the surge. They bear not the least resemblance to the neighbouring rocks a little within shore. The island abounds in delicious fruits and vegetables; fish of many kinds are taken on the coast, but herrings and oysters are unknown to them, and great quantities of salted cod are imported from America.

On landing, you are forcibly struck with the peculiar costume, as well as the courtesy, of the lower orders of the people, who are, many of them, employed carrying on the brisk trade of the place. Cattle of all kinds are used to transport their merchandise,

which they do on sleds, with admirable care and celerity.

People of figure generally take the air in a cotton hammock, called a serpentine, carried on their slaves' shoulders, with the assistance of a bamboo twelve or fourteen feet long. These hammocks are of various colours, adorned to the taste and fortune of the owner, who is supported by cushions, and, over his head, falls a curtain, with which he conceals himself at his pleasure; but, should he be so disposed, he salutes, *en passant*, or enters into long conversations with his acquaintance. Meanwhile the slaves rest the serpentine on iron forked staffs, which they each carry in their hand, for that purpose. The principal British merchants, also, have these luxurious hammocks, in which the ladies appear particularly fond of swinging. Two slaves will go several miles in a day, with a heavy per-

son, in one of these machines, with apparent ease and astonishing celerity, nor do they require an extraordinary refreshment.

The number of persons one meets in the ecclesiastical habit reminds us of our universities, and the time and fortune of the people seem devoted to their romantic religion. The costly decorations of their churches, and the pomp and pageantry of their solemn ceremonies, are extravagant to a great degree ; yet, on entering their sacred temples, we acknowledge no sentiment of devotion, and the gaudy trappings by which we are surrounded, remove every impression of piety and prayer.

Here are but few convents, and those principally composed of aged persons. A curious ceremony was recently performed by the sisters of one monastery joining those of another ; and their gloomy walls, hallowed to

peace and penitence, were then converted to barracks for the officers of the British troops. The influence of power, or the suggestions of fancy, can scarcely be imagined to effect a more ridiculous metamorphosis than this, which was most probably produced by chance or emergency.

The Portuguese character seems to exist in an inverted order, and forms a striking contrast to the Spanish. A Castilian nobleman is a renowned instance of noble honour and unsullied virtue. The Portuguese superior, insensible to both, falls from every fine sentiment that can dignify or adorn a character, while their plebeians preserve a decorum, in their general demeanour, and amongst themselves, that is hardly credible, and not even acknowledged in the lower orders of the Spanish nation; they are also recovering from that abandoned indolence, wrapt in which, and a great coat, they

would go lolling about, while their wives and daughters were labouring for their daily bread. I wish I could say as much for their morgadas, or esquires, in whom idleness appears to have taken a fixed root, and whom nothing rouses from this abominable apathy. Even in their societies, the men generally associate together, and the ladies retire to a different apartment, which to an Englishman, who derives a peculiar charm from female friendship, is truly irreconcilable. The women are pubescent very young; and, as in other warm countries, their bloom soon goes off, and they wither into apparent age. They are generally rather low in stature, with dark complexions, but gain a lively cast from most penetrating eyes and fine teeth, which, by the way, none of them forget to beautify. However, you scarcely meet a Portuguese lady; they seldom go out, but to mass, matins, or vespers, and are then so disguised, in large

hoods, that it would require a considerable effort of the imagination to become enamoured of them. Their language may be called the eldest daughter of the Latin, but has been corrupted by their intercourse with the Moors ; it is harmonious and pleasant to the ear, and, although it has a nasal twang, it is far less displeasing than that which prevails in the French. Literature is at a very low ebb amongst them, and they seek indifferent translations with avidity. I have lately perused a most skilful and elegant retrospect of their letters in the Quarterly Review of May 1809, and am sincerely indebted to that accomplished work, for some very valuable and interesting information. I received extreme pleasure, too, from Lord Strangford's fascinating " Camoens," and was surprised and disappointed to find they have nothing like a great poem in their language. On speaking of their passion for epic poems, the Review says, " Many pas-



sages of striking beauty are to be found in these long works, and instances of extraordinary absurdity and whimsical taste are still more frequent. There is scarcely one amongst them that would not supply materials for an amusing analysis, and specimens sufficient to rescue the author from contempt, and relieve him from oblivion. The inimitable romance, ‘*Amadis of Gaul*,’ appears to have been one of their earliest productions, and perished in manuscript at the great earthquake at Lisbon ; and it is very remarkable, that this fantastic nation has nothing like a modern novel extant. The bright glory of the Spanish theatre had eclipsed the Portuguese when its shadow was completed by the Castilian usurper, whose policy encouraged Portuguese authors even to write in Spanish ; and since the Braganzan revolution, the drama has gradually declined, till, latterly, the opera has shamefully supplanted it as a fa-

shionable amusement. The horrible Inquisition, instituted 1526, by John III. (of which a History, general and secret, is about to be published by Mr. J. J. Stockdale), although disrobed of many of its terrors, is yet too fatal a censor, for the great palladium of our constitution, the liberty of the press, to be even known amongst them: and this may account for their rareness in modern travels. A tour through Great Britain, for instance, would give the visitor more liberal ideas than would pass their ordeal, and no work dare be published till it has gone through several subordinate courts, and received a license from this tribunal, who, at their whim and caprice, draw a pen through whole pages, and insist on their immediate correction, or punish the trembling offender. This authority extends, in all its rigour, to their colonies, where they keep familiars, but who have insensibly relaxed, as the power of their action lessened, and

they are in some parts withdrawn ; yet it seems but a fair tribute to the Portuguese, to say, that in national history they are hardly equalled by any country. In the zenith of their glory, men lived who could, and did, leave monuments of achievements, at that time unrivalled by any nation. A new Royal Academy has been established by their present Queen, which we may hope will, in the days of tranquillity, and when the clouds that at present hang over the capital, are dispersed, and the splendid sun of royalty shine amongst them, be of good effect to the nation, and become the fountain of a plenteous stream to enrich the world."

On the 24th Dec. 1807, General Beresford, with the 3d and 11th regiments, &c. under his orders, summoned the island to surrender to His Majesty's arms. He expected resistance, but nothing could be more conciliating than the conduct of the Governor, who gave

directions for pitching the tents, and procuring a provision of vegetables and fresh beef for our troops. The joy of the English merchants on this event can be better conceived than described, as they had reason to expect a similar summons from a French authority. The British flag was, of course, hoisted, and the General took possession of the government-house; however, the proper representations being made to our court, the Portuguese flag was graciously ordered to be re-hoisted, the Governor to resume his functions, and all the force to be withdrawn except the eleventh regiment of 1000 strong, and a detachment of Royal Artillery under the command of the Hon. Major-general Meade.

Madeira is well defended by nature and ~~art~~; all points, where a debarkation can be effected, being enfiladed with cannon; and the coast, in general, rocky, with a lashing

and destructive surge, which forms a strong barrier to invasion.

The revenue of the island is, at present, given up to defray the enormous expense of cutting a vast aqueduct to prevent a recurrence of the calamity which attended the deluge from the mountains, wherein several hundred persons were destroyed, and every thing swept before it. A large number of workmen are constantly employed, and make a fair promise of soon completing their great work.

In the roads we found His Majesty's ships *Hindustan* and *Dromedary*, going with Lieutenant-colonel Macquarie, as Governor, and the 73d regiment, to New South Wales; also the *Magicienne* frigate, and a transport with a detachment of the 21st Light Dragoons, under the orders of Captain A. Hawkes, on the passage to the

Cape of Good Hope. The following evening a grand gala was given to the British Consul, and a large party, by Captain Lucius Curtis, on board the *Magicienne*. The quarter-deck was tastefully arranged for the festive dance; olive-branches were interwoven with the royal ensigns of our country, ornamented with the most fragrant and beautiful flowers; while the native graces and animated spirits of our countrywomen, who seemed enlivened by the recollection that every thing about them was belonging and devoted to dear England, made it a very happy scene. On the 19th of June, the convoys proceeded on their voyage, and on the 21st, we reluctantly left as beautiful an island as any in the world, of which it may be justly said to be "one of those complete prospects to which no ideal beauty can be added."

The calms that so frequently occur in these mild latitudes, now fell around us, and the following morning opened to the utmost tranquillity of the elements. These, with occasional light airs, continued for six days, which, of course, much protracted our arrival at St. Michael's, whither we were bound; but the vast ocean on which we floated, in itself a world of mighty wonders, afforded us infinite amusement. We took a considerable number of fine turtle of the hawk's-bill species, which is hardly inferior to the green turtle that is so esteemed from the West Indies. An epicure might have envied our voluptuousness. Dolphins are very frequent here. They chase the flying-fish, which rise and take wing for several yards, and, in their terror, have been known to fly a quarter of a mile, like the witches of old, in the wind's eye, to avoid their beautiful destroyers, which, in their turn, become a prey to the shark, and die

more beauteous than the rainbow. It is remarkable, that if one of a shoal of these sportive creatures be so hurt as to draw blood, he is instantly devoured by the rest. An instance happened in our sight : the poor animal was struck by a javelin, when it seemed aware of its second fate, and darted from the shoal ; but being closely followed, it made a desperate spring from the water, and became their sacrifice. The voracious shark is here also of prodigious size and power. It seldom nears the ship, but, when hungry, swallows any thing that comes in its way, turning on its side when it makes its horrid bite. The method used, with almost certain success, by the Indian divers, for the destruction of this terrific monster, is curious. They dive under the fish when it turns to make the bite, and stab it in the belly, where the wound is mortal.



A sailor seems to bear an instinctive inclination to extirpate this general enemy to the creation ; but who indeed can see the destructive monster without emotion and painful remembrance of the many authenticated instances of its fatal and carnivorous appetite ? On the sixth evening, we saw a water-spout, which, although not so distinct as many have been, very much pleased me ; but I refer my reader to the second canto of Falconer's *Shipwreck*, where, as he, no doubt, bears in mind, is a most excellent and very correct description of the liquid column " which towering shoots on high."

A fair wind sprung up, and on the 1st July we made St. Michael's, but a change directly contrary, kept us till the 3d, when we anchored in the roads of the *Ponta del Gado*, the capital of this island, which is the chief of the Azores. The *Azores*, or Western Islands, extend from  $37^{\circ}$  to  $39^{\circ} 42'$  N. lat.

and from  $25^{\circ}$  to  $31^{\circ}$  W. long. and lie almost midway between Europe and America. They are said to have been discovered in the middle of the fifteenth century by Joshua Vander Berg, of Bruges, in Flanders, who, in a voyage to Lisbon, was, by stress of weather, driven to these islands, which he found destitute of inhabitants, and called them Flemish Islands. On his arrival at Lisbon, he boasted of this discovery; on which the Portuguese, in that spirit of enterprise, so strongly marked in their adventures of the day, immediately set sail and took possession of them, calling them Azores from the many hawks and falcons found among them. They are nine in number, and are named, Santa Maria, St. Miguel or Michael, Tercera, St. George, Graciosa, Fayal, Pico, Flores, and Corvo. As I purpose describing the islands in detail as we visited them (at least those most worthy notice and consideration), I shall

merely observe in the aggregate, that the importation of British manufactures (being the principal) amounts to about 30,000*l.* sterling annually ; and that from the United States they receive boards, staves, rice, fish, pitch, tar, iron, in pots and bars, and a variety of Indian goods, which are paid for, in exchange, by wines. They have occasional intercourse with Russia also. The sea-accustomed eye is sweetly relieved by the fertile appearance of St. Michael ; every point seems cultivated, and bears the charm of plenty. As the industry of its inhabitants is greater, so it surpasses in value all the other islands, and may be considered the granary of Lisbon. It is nearly one hundred miles in circumference ; contains one city, five principal towns, fifty-four parishes, and about eighty thousand inhabitants. It was twice invaded and pillaged by the English in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. The coast is very bold, and

may be approached, without fear, in almost every part. Its military strength consists of 200 troops in the most deplorable and insubordinate state, with 6000 peasantry, whose arms are the pikes with which they drive the cattle ; but over such a rabble, a handful of disciplined men would gain an immediate and decided victory. The principal fortification is the castle of St. Bray, which is close to the sea, on the west end of the Ponta del Gado. It consists of twenty-four pieces of cannon, but few of which are capable of service ; and a league to the eastward of the Ponta del Gado are two small three-gun forts, *sans* every thing in regard to efficiency ; but the island is, in *itself*, susceptible of a most rigid defence. It has many strong local holds ; and several of the hills and passes, if judiciously fortified, and the guns well served, would be absolutely impregnable.

I am the more surprised at the confidence in which the Portuguese slumber in their imaginary security, when I consider of what ineffable advantage this island would be to the French, who, from its critical situation, could so effectually annoy our *out* and *homeward* bound trade, and make it a shelter for our captured merchantmen. Many Spanish vessels took refuge here last war from our cruizers, and unloaded their cargoes till good opportunity offered of re-shipping them, for Spain, by neutrals. The inhabitants maintain an extensive commerce with England, whence they are entirely supplied with woollens, hardware, earthenware, and various other necessities, sending in exchange fifty or sixty sail of vessels annually with fruit, which is produced here in vast abundance. The sugar-cane and coffee-tree likewise flourish here. The climate is so remarkably genial, that both European and tropical plants come to

great perfection — a kindness in nature towards these islands alone. Their cattle are equal to ours, and superior to any in the world beside ; and their wine pleasant, and adapted to the climate. Corn, pulse, poultry, and vegetables, are good and very reasonable. These combined benefits render the revenue very considerable. Besides the support of the military and civil establishments, 80,000 mille rees, each the value of one dollar, are, annually, sent for the use of the State, and might be much increased under men of probity and honour.

The Ponta del Gado, or city, as they term it, like Funchall, looks exceedingly pleasant from the offing, and derives an air of dignity from the convents, which are numerous, and many of them considerable buildings ; but how lamentable is it to think they are the melancholy confinement of numberless charming, and, some of them,

very accomplished women, imprisoned from the joys of domestic happiness by the authors of their being, in whom the powerful pleadings of nature have been neglected, and the prayers of their devoted offspring disregarded.—Yes!—Avarice and vanity, that their sons may live in luxury, have operated thus powerfully on the degraded mind, and blunted the feelings of a father. How must the humane heart sympathize with these tender sisters of misfortune, in whom the gentle glow of filial gratitude and love is chilled for ever! and, alas! they are veiled from the sacred offices of a faithful wife and fond mother. How erroneous is the generally received opinion, that their seclusion is at their own wish! From what I have myself learnt of them, and the many instances given of their absolute aversion to become the victims of a delusive faith, I am convinced that two thirds, at least, are under the hard and direful necessity of obe-

dience. I cannot avoid relating a notorious instance of this fact—it lately occurred at the convent Esperanza, and was the topic of general conversation at the Ponta del Gado when we left it :—

Two young noviciates had evinced the strongest dislike and repugnance to take the veil—their inhuman father persisted in his plan—they prayed, they intreated their return to liberty, to their home, and to society ; but, when the monster found his sophistry and persuasion availed not, he had recourse to threats, and even insinuated that their lives would be endangered by their hesitating at the awful moment, when they were to pass an irrevocable sentence on themselves for ever!—The awful moment came—they were unable to support the torrent of their feelings, and sunk in woe unutterable, while the ceremony was, for the greater part, performed, though they were



insensible to all that passed. But to the sequel. The son, for whom the sacrifice was made, has proved an outlaw to every virtuous sentiment of duty and feeling: the penitence of the wretched father awakens compassion, and an involuntary tear startles at the altar of his contrition.

I had the good fortune to visit the convents with some persons well known and highly esteemed, most particularly so those of St. Andrew, St. John, and Conception. In the latter are seven sisters, all extremely interesting, and who bear a stronger affinity to our own lovely countrywomen than any I have met with. What feelings must these scenes create in a heart at all devoted to a sex full of claims to our protection and love! There is a ceremony in obtaining an audience that must be duly observed:—At one of the entrances is a box, at which you knock, and are politely

answered by one of the nuns, who take turns at this duty; you then ask the favour of seeing your friend, and should it not interfere with, or intrude on the duties of the convent, with the permission of the lady abess, you are directed to a particular porch, where you meet and converse, through an iron grate, which is the utmost limit of their indulgence, and the boundary of their social happiness. It is not unfrequent for one of these agreeable girls to have a favourite, and carry on a lively correspondence, with all the endearments a Platonic attachment can admit; endeavouring to persuade themselves there is no barrier to the completion of their wishes; but, alas! the fatal vow too often recurs, palsies the throbbing heart, and marks a dejection on the countenance, that the languid flash of a beauteous eye cannot dissipate. They evidently feel under restraint in the presence of Portuguese visitors, and as soon as they with-

draw, conversation takes a new and sprightly turn. They are refined, delicate, and graceful; and should you present them with a token of friendship, they make handsome returns of fruits, preserves, and also artificial flowers, which are made by themselves in great beauty and elegance. The officers of the Vestal were in high estimation among them; and from their having been there twice before, and paid them every polite and endearing attention, became caressed favourites. On the ship's coming to anchorage she was instantly recognised, and white handkerchiefs were thrown out at each convent in token of their joy and agreeable surprise; and on her leaving the port, every kind wish and prayer for the happiness and success of their heroes was wafted to heaven in their sighs. Many of them have a fine taste for music, and, on special occasions, they have oratorios, when their orchestra is grand and full. Each part

is filled by these fair daughters of St. Cecilia, in a manner, evidently the consequence of polite education. The Senhora Theresa Jacinta Amalia, of the convent of St. John, is mistress of the band, at their jubilee, and possesses exquisite talent. She performs on several instruments, and unites extraordinary powers of voice, with the most refined taste and moving expression, equalled by nothing I have heard, since the fascinating Italian, Catalani. Their style of composition is very fanciful; I have been perfectly ravished with a plaintive canzonet and guitar accompaniment from the elegant Theresa; in fact, there is a charm in this female not to be resisted.

The manners and customs of the convents do not much differ, at least in regard to their outward forms and appearance, which is all I can speak to, their interior regulations being mentioned with the utmost pre-

caution and delicacy. Their dress is a black habit, the hair cut close, and a sort of mob cap : the holy veil, which their trembling lips have kissed, falling back on their shoulders. Their superior, or lady abbess, is elected for a limited period, usually three years, and is then succeeded by another of the sisterhood. Great friendship and harmony seem to exist among them ; they are acquainted with every proceeding in the neighbourhood, and some of them are *even* conversant with the politics of Europe. But, even in these gloomy walls where they are confined like malefactors in a dungeon, they derive at least one of the greatest benefits of the world, *an education* ; and which, were they *in* the world, they would not receive ; for, strange as it may seem, even the daughters of the people of entailed property and independence, are, many of them, ignorant of their letters,—yes !—of their A B C :

Nor can it longer be a matter of surprise that their *belles lettres* should be so uncultivated, and that they should scarcely have a polite writer of their language.

To be attached to the country we are born in, is as instinctive as the love we bear to our parents; but how does this honourable predilection increase, when, in a distant region, you feel its superiority! Thus, when I was informed and convinced of the foregoing circumstance, the wit, beauty, and accomplishments of my unrivalled countrywomen, could not but press upon my grateful remembrance.

There are two frieries in the city, of the Franciscan and Dominican orders. The costume of the former is a black habit, with a monstrous, white, broad-brimmed hat, a girdle and cross, and the hair shaved from the top of the skull. The Dominican is a

white habit, with some distinction, that I could not ascertain, having seen but one of the order, which is very much reduced in number. However, we visited the Franciscans, who are numerous; they received us very kindly, led us through their apartment, offered us wine, and shewed us their chapel, which is gaudy, but has an extremely good organ. Several of them accompanied us on board the frigate, and entered, with great glee and humour, into the merits of our wine, with an apt partiality, forgetful of their monkish tenets, for those of the most powerful quality. Under the influence of their own spirit they are very slothful, and have none of that lively interest in the manners of the day, that so strongly marks the character of the sisterhood. In short, a sensation of disgust is inevitable at these torpid instances of ignorance and superstition; and whose ethics,

moral principles, and habits of life, are, by no means, honourable.

There is no manifest difference, in this place, from Funchall, but it is deficient in the salutary regulations of it, from the neglect of the civil authorities to keep the streets clean and clear of pigs and cattle, which are a great nuisance, especially in the heat of the day. But what can be expected, when we know, that, from the governor and judge, to the very mule-drivers, exist corruption and filth? It can hardly be credited, that an officer of rank in our navy went, on a point of service, to the wretched Governor, who is a major of horse in their army; and, after waiting some minutes, he was informed by a slovenly uncouth fellow, who it seems was his aid-de-camp, that "the Governor had got the itch, was bathing for the cure of it, and therefore could not be seen!" Thus unblushing, but absolute fact, would



not satisfy the British officer, who insisted on the itchy Governor's appearance.

Religion of course enthrals the lower orders in particular, who are kept in utter ignorance, that they may be the more easily deluded ; and, of consequence, their places of public worship, and religious ceremonies, are all alike extravagant and idolatrous. I was present at the funeral of a woman of the middling class ; she was carried on a bier, followed by her relations, chanting passages from Scripture. The body, on being placed in the middle of the church, was uncovered, and surrounded with wax flambeaux. After an extremely long service, part of which was in Latin, they deposited the body, without a coffin, which they never use, in the grave, throwing in lime to hasten decay ; though it lies there but a short time ; for, in turn, this same little allotment is formed to the

same purpose, and the half-mouldered body is thrown into a place set apart in each church, than which to contemplate, nothing can be more distressing:—they have no burial-ground attached to their churches—I looked into one of these horrid cemeteries: it contained the shattered skeletons of several hundred bodies, in the various stages of natural decay! These are the moments when the decent and respectful manners of the Protestant church appear in a beauteous modesty, that the gaudy magnificence of Catholic splendour can never attain! Here we pause to bless the God who has placed us beyond the deceit of infatuating bigotry, and taught us meekness and humble prayer. I have witnessed the habits of a people that dishonour the finest works of Nature, and exist insensible of the favours she heaps upon them.

Severely should we have experienced the want of an interpreter and guide, had we not found these qualities in W. H. Read, Esq. the British Consul, who added to them an intelligence and hospitality rarely united in one man. Many years' service in the Navy inculcated the generous sentiment that ever after lives in those who can feel a pleasure in pleasing ; and among the first of such happily disposed men is Mr. Read. Anxious that we should witness the most interesting part of the island during our limited visit at his house, he proposed we should survey the Fournas, or Hot Waters, situated in a vale so called, 30 miles from the city, and about seven leagues by the sea, which is within seven miles of the vale. The heat of the weather, and other considerations, induced us to prefer going in our own boat ; accordingly, at dawn the next day, after laying in a good stock of grog, we

started from the pier of Ponta del Gado, and commenced our aquatic excursion.

On our approach to the small bay immediately round Ponta de Abufeira, we saw many of the inhabitants of the little huts, which were scattered on the neighbouring mountains, coming down the beach, each driving before him an ass. They launched one of the boats with considerable dexterity, and landed us without inconvenience from the surge. They were happy to engage in our service, and, it appeared, came down for the purpose. After hauling our cutter on the strand, we each mounted our beast, and, with those appointed to carry our provision, proceeded up one of the vast precipices with which the island abounds. The animals, we were told, were well acquainted with the safest track, and that disaster would be occasioned by our interference with them; we were therefore without bridle or

halter, and our lives depended on the strength and wisdom of an ass ! As we ascended, however, we lost all thought of danger, and our senses were only alive to the stupendous efforts of Nature. Awfully grand, magnificent, and sublime, were the works she presented to us, in endless variety, as we gained the higher part. It is scarcely possible to exhibit to the mind so grand a panorama :—the picturesque, sublime, and beautiful, formed a *coup d'œil*, that no words can paint, no imagination can conceive. We occasionally halted to contemplate the scene. The falling water, from the mountain, rung with a mighty crash in the extensive cavity, and was answered again in the cultivated valley, through which the pellucid stream ran gently murmuring. The wild myrtle and flourishing vine embraced the stubborn rock ; the varied foliage, and cinder-sided height, excited the feelings to wonder and

admiration. Providence, ever thoughtful of the necessities of her creatures, here compensates and relieves the hardships of the peasant in climbing the mountains, by the numbers of asses, whose strength seems to increase in proportion to the difficulty; and they are so numerous, that the poorest cottager owns two or three. Our guides, nevertheless, followed us on foot, hallooing joyously at their good fortune in being so well employed, and paid us great attention, though quite insensible to the romantic charms by which they were surrounded. When we had ascended about a quarter of a mile, we saw a thick steam issuing from the side of the mountain which we were climbing: it produced a dampness at the aperture, too hot to bear your hand near it: even this, either from custom or stupidity, and, perhaps, from both, they carelessly passed, without pointing it out as worthy notice. On gaining the summit, the change

of climate was very considerable, and we felt the effect as we journeyed on the flat for about two miles, and on which we passed a beautiful lake, situated between two mountains, and abounding in fish of many species, particularly of the gold and silver kind. An instance of the infallible instinct of the ass here occurred to me: I was riding at the best pace along the widest road, when he suddenly turned off, and crossed into a less trodden path; this he persisted in, though, by beating him on the other side of the head, he found I wished him to continue where he was, as the slightest tap in general guides them, and is the method the peasants use in directing them on ordinary occasions; but, on rising higher up, I was surprised to find, that, had he continued a few yards further below, we must both have been precipitated into a vast and dreadful abyss, which the peculiar nature of the ground absolutely

concealed from the sight, till on the very brink. We were informed that this part of the road had fallen in very recently, and, if we may judge from appearances, a few years will make this place very dangerous, if not absolutely impassable.

A beautiful vale now opened upon us, in which the Fournas are situated, and the village so called. The cottages have a sweet effect, being neatly whitewashed ; and with the church, trees, &c. form a striking contrast to the vast amphitheatre of mountains, by which they are encircled. The descent to the village is very abrupt for about three quarters of a mile. On entering it, we agreed with some of the peasants for the use of their huts, which they gladly gave up for a trifling present, and attended with much civility, contenting themselves, during the night, with a slight shelter under a neighbouring tree. Naturally anxious to witness



the extraordinary phenomenon, for which we had come some leagues by water, and crossed the dangerous mountains, we hastened to the Fournas, a name which is derived from the Latin Fornacula, a furnace. Vast columns of steam marked the spot, and impregnated the air with sulphur. After crossing some hot springs, we came to the large basin of boiling water ; the whole of which was in violent agitation, and, in the middle, was thrown up several feet. We boiled an egg in two minutes, and one of our men boiled some ship pease, to the no small amusement of his comrades, who made some of those quaint remarks on this "devil of place," as they termed it, that could originate only in such eccentric characters. It was many yards in circumference ; the heat it emitted was excessive, and in some positions, from a neighbouring cause, absolutely suffocating. On crossing a high bank, we found that this was

occasioned from another crater, concealed in a vast cavern, infinitely more powerful, with a mighty roar throwing up vast quantities of mud and water visibly boiling. It is impossible to contemplate this extraordinary appearance without emotion, and a fearful admiration of that great Being who calmly forms these miracles to operate on the minds and conduct of his creatures. There can be no doubt of the powerful effect of these waters as a medicine, if their properties were well understood, and their peculiar qualities adapted to the nature of the disease ; but, alas ! from want of skill and the prevalence of superstition, they have been alternately esteemed and neglected, without any careful observance of their physical superiority by analysis or experience. I rejoice, however, to be able to add, that an intelligent countryman, Doctor Stanton, has just taken up a temporary residence there, avowedly to decompose them, and will,

without doubt, present the world with much valuable information on the subject of these inestimable restoratives, and bring them to the general knowledge and unbounded welfare of mankind.

The baths close by are as hot as you can possibly require, and we found them very refreshing after our exertions, which had much wearied us. We could not but lament the miserable state in which they are kept; they have a mere covering, or shed, without the least attention to convenience or comfort; added to this, they are frequented by persons of the meanest condition who, though labouring under diseases of the most offensive and contagious nature, are not excluded from them: we should certainly have refrained our gratification, had we then been conscious of this abuse; it may, however, in no material way affect the intrinsic advantages of the place, to those who visit it for health; labour being cheap, materials

abundant, and ground to build on, with a current of hot spring, to be had for a slight compensation.

About a quarter of a mile distant, are the iron springs which, from their strong mineral qualities, claim the peculiar attention of the physician, chymist, and philosopher; and, to the invalid, also, they seem to offer much hope. From their taste and colour, the meanest understanding will discover how much they partake the substance of iron, but the same absurd inconsistencies and superstitions have caused them, like the hotter waters, to be neglected. At present, however, many native invalids are trying their effect; but without consulting the manner of use or application, as the nature of their case may require. Indeed, the most extravagant anecdotes are given of their infatuation: a convalescent has been known to use the hot baths twenty and thirty times a day,

which has reduced him to an incredible state of relaxation and weakness, and brought on premature dissolution.

I cannot omit to notice the number of compliments we received from the natives, who were there for the waters; many of them sent servants to request we would consider their cottages, &c. at our service and disposal. The Corregidor, or Chief Justice, shewed us remarkable attention; and, on our calling the next morning to acknowledge his politeness, produced a sideboard of the richest wines and best fruits of the season. Still a reflecting mind could not but acknowledge the superior customs of Old England. An air of refined elegance and solid comfort prevails in the house of an English gentleman, that you look for, in vain, amongst that large branch of society abroad. How grateful are these sensations, and how do they dilate the fond heart, that languishes

for the charms of its endeared and native home !

The circumstances of our visit being of an imperious nature, we were under the hard necessity of leaving the vale without considering it with the careful eye of minute observation. It must, therefore, be the pleasing task of those who may have the advantage of a lengthened residence, to describe the internal economy of a place hitherto little known, though replete with claims for general study. Our return was not attended by any new incident. The same sublime scenes renewed those exquisite sensations with which we had before contemplated them.

On our gaining the first acclivity, I observed a similar appearance to that which distinguished the ~~R~~ournas, in a distant direction, and ascertained it to proceed from

the same cause accompanied by a more peculiar circumstance ; but which our confined time would not permit us to witness, viz. the hot and cold springs running parallel, and so close to each other, that you may put a hand in both at the same time. It is thought by the inhabitants, that eruptions would be more frequent here, were it not for the vast quantities of water which moderate the burning fury of the combustible matter. Indeed the shore and interior roads are covered with pumice-stone ; but as this embraces a point of deep philosophy, I shall dismiss it without presuming to venture a comment.

Here we paused to take a last survey of the beautiful vale, whither a man with his family might emigrate, and, on a very small income, live in the sweet state of Arcadian ease and happiness ; and then continued our journey, highly gratified by our

visit to the vale of Fournas. We found our descent on the beach productive of more nervous agitation than can easily be conceived; the turns are so sudden, and the giddy precipice gaping, as it were, to receive you, caused the blood to ebb and flow with more than ordinary quickness. I took the precaution to ride sideways, with my back to the gulf; that, if the poor creature should stumble, I might fall the right way. The humble animal, however, to which I had committed my safety, honest to his trust, bore me without an accident to the bottom. The streamer floated on the wave, and the generous gale brought us quickly to the Ponta del Gado.

The town which now ranks next to the Ponta del Gado, in this island, is called Reberia Grande. It is situated on the north side; is large and populous; but having no anchorage, and the harbour being filled



with dangerous shoals, it is dependent on the south side for its commercial supplies. At the distance of a league to the eastward, is a small bay, or basin, called Ponto Formoso, into which a line of battle ship might run in case of extreme distress, and lie moored in safety ; but the appearance of the land is so dreadful as to render a good pilot indispensable.

The town of Villa Franca, on the south side, distant from Ponta del Gado a few miles, is said to have once been the capital of the island, but was reduced by an earthquake, from the shock of which it never recovered, owing, perhaps, to the inferiority of its anchorage, which can only receive small vessels. The Consul, who has devoted much of his time to ascertaining the advantages that may be derived for his country, has drawn an admirable chart of the island, which he liberally presents to

His Majesty's officers who visit the anchorage, and must thereby much benefit the service; the dangers being correctly marked down, and the safest anchoring-ground exhibited. Mr. Read has also drawn a plan for deepening and enlarging the mole, to receive vessels of a considerable draught of water; and remarks, "that the mole having a sandy bottom, a canal may be cut into the square of St. Francis, which would receive a large number of vessels, and thus, at a small expense, produce the greatest and most beneficial effect to the island, and to its commercial relations."

The Portuguese government have examined and much approved Mr. Read's proposition, but have neither spirit nor inclination to do a national service. They keep their subjects in trammels, without consulting their interest or happiness. A government almost, if not absolutely, despotic;

supported by military on the one hand, and an arbitrary religion on the other, acts alone from its whim and caprice. What, for instance, would be the feelings of an Englishman, tremblingly alive to the most refined sentiments of civil liberty, at reading the preamble of every new law published by the Prince Regent, and which runs thus : “ I, the King, in virtue of my own certain knowledge, of my own royal will and pleasure, and of my full, supreme, and arbitrary power, which I hold only of God, and for which I am accountable to no man on earth, do in consequence order and command,” &c. &c. &c.

We here see the infinite justice and wisdom of the Almighty, who disposes the portion of man. Abundance is given to these people, and they drink of the cup of plenty ; but he wills that they suffer other privations, and curtails their lot of liberty.

The island of St. Mary is almost always visible from St. Michael's, being only sixty miles distant. It is subject to its civil jurisdiction, and is much frequented by Spanish vessels from South America and Cadiz, which advances its consideration as one of the smaller islands.

On Monday the 10th, we weighed and steered to the N. W. ; but the breeze gradually lessening, we enjoyed the soft climate in perfection. The horizon, in the evening, glowing with the rays of the setting sun, exhibited a sweetness and majesty peculiar to these latitudes. Here the most exquisite natural colouring is blended with a climate the most serenely beautiful, and which could not fail of equally exalting and gratifying the reflecting mind ; but the very short twilight lessens the fleeting impression, and the swiftly-advancing shades of night suddenly close the heavenly evanes-

cent scene from our longing, lingering sight. Shortly after succeeds the unexplained but beauteous phenomenon, the luminous appearance of the sea, at night, which exhibits a most magnificent spectacle. The water seems to emit a lively light, which is sometimes of a pale red colour, resembling sparks; at other times, exhibiting the appearance of a regular stream of fire in the ship's wake. It is, occasionally, to be observed during fresh winds, but in light airs, or in a calm, it is contemplated in all its majesty. I have seen a shoal of bonettas come alongside at such periods, and the effulgent rays from them, in the water, dazzled my eyes; for although fish may not be the primary cause, they certainly add to the bright lustre of this extraordinary phenomenon.

How uncertain are moments of tranquillity!—The following afternoon a fresh

breëze sprung up, and, in the course of an hour, changed from the favourable point, and much increased.

On the 13th, we made the island of Pico ; but as it blew too hard to run to the adjacent anchorage in Fayal, we tacked and kept the offing. As we stood in again the following day, we had a grand view of the peak of this vast mountain, the height of which is exceeded by few known to mariners. The sun had dissipated the higher clouds, and the lofty apex, from which smoke issued, seemed to tower above the heavens. The declining orb progressively cleared the horizon, and opened the whole mountain to the astonished sight.

It is thirty-seven miles in circumference ; the middle, lower parts, and base, are covered with vines, which annually produce from 16,000 to 24,000 pipes of wine of a

nature resembling Rhenish; it has of late years been much improved, and may yet be brought nearer to perfection. It becomes quite mellow in three years, and in less time if sent a few months voyage. Of late, the principal export has been to the West Indies, for the use of the British navy and army, and experience proves it a good preventive to the pestilential diseases of that climate.

The island grows little besides the vine, and they get their principal supplies from Fayal, which is separated from Pico by a narrow strait of ten miles. The vineyards of Pico belonging to the principal people at Fayal, the grapes are taken across, the wine is made at Fayal, and takes the name of that island, which accounts for our never hearing of Pico wine.

On the 17th, the wind coming quite fair for Newfoundland, Captain Gra-

ham determined not to lose a moment. We bore up, and, early the next day, ran between the small islands of Corvo and Flores, the most northern of the Azores. The latter takes its name from the many beautiful flowers found in it; and Corvo from many crows having been found in it on its discovery. It abounds, too, in a small breed of cows. The *Vestal* touched at it in the last year, and the Captain bought a nice little cow and calf for seven dollars, 1*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.* sterling, and brought them safe home; the cow giving a fair quantity of milk even on dry food.

This night we were surprised by a tremendous and alarming storm of thunder and lightning from the west quarter, fortunately attended with a deluge of rain. The oldest and most experienced sailors on board had scarcely witnessed any thing more awful. The storm seemed passing over our heads;



the nitrous and destructive fluid fell all around, and emblazoned the heavens, for many seconds, with little intervals, which were a "darkness visible." The rolling peals of thunder warned us of approaching danger ; but every precaution was taken to secure us from accident or mishap, and, under the blessing of Heaven, we weathered the storm without misfortune, whilst the returning sun, " with healing on its wings," soothed, with its benign influence, the previously agitated bosom of the deep.

We had now little novelty ; occasional changes of wind, with a few hours calm, kept us till the 28th, when we reached the Great Bank of Newfoundland, situated in lat.  $41^{\circ}$  to  $50^{\circ}$  N. and long.  $49^{\circ}$  to  $53^{\circ} 30'$  W. about eighty miles from the island ; one hundred and eighty leagues in extreme length, and from sixty to seventy leagues across in the broadest part. It is almost al-

ways covered with an exceedingly thick fog, which extends for many leagues round it, and has, at a vast distance, the appearance of land looming in the horizon. The fish on it will be noticed in my memoranda from the island, but their quantity surpasses all belief. This Bank, from being well known, gives good soundings, and is of great service as a departure; it enables the mariner to make the land with confidence and security, which would otherwise, from the heavy fog, be a work of dangerous uncertainty.

Early on the morning of Sunday 30th July, we made the land, and, at noon, anchored in the snug harbour of St. John.

Newfoundland is situated in North America, between  $52^{\circ}$  and  $58^{\circ}$  W. long. and between  $47^{\circ}$  and  $52^{\circ}$  N. lat. The strait of Belle Isle divides it from Esquimaux, and it

is about forty miles N. E. of Cape Breton. The length is three hundred and fifty miles from north to south, and two hundred miles across in the widest part.

The first knowledge we appear to have had of Newfoundland was in the reign of Henry VIII. in 1536, when a cosmographer persuaded some friends to accompany him on a voyage of discovery to the north-west part of America. After many hardships, they made this island, and called it “New founde lande.” Their difficulties increased; hunger preyed amongst them, and their sufferings were dreadful. Fear of wild beasts and the savages of the island, kept them from seeking food in the interior; and one man horridly murdered his shipmate, who was stooping to pick up a stick.

On the following day, one of the crew, coming on shore, smelt broiled meat, and accused the other of living for himself alone, while his poor friends were vainly starving : he burst into tears, and said it was part of the buttock of him whom he had killed for food. After a long catalogue of misfortunes, a few of these unhappy sufferers reached the western coast of England, and could give but an imperfect account of their discovery.

Nothing seems to have been again considered of this, at present, valuable possession, till 1583, when Sir Humphrey Gilbert, Knight, ventured to explore the northern part of America, and received a charter from Her Majesty Elizabeth, to inhabit, at his discretion, all lands he might discover, not under the government and in the possession of a Christian Prince. Many men of character joined in an enterprise that

seemed to hold out fair promises of gain and distinction.

He set sail from Plymouth on the 11th June 1583, with several vessels under his direction; but so unlearned were they in the naval science at that period, that they were hardly decided in the course or direction they should steer. After encountering what were then considered dangers, difficulties, and trials, they passed the Great Bank, and arrived at St. John's harbour on the 3d of August. They there found vessels of all nations on the fishing trade; and the following appears to have been the manner of its being taken possession for Her Majesty the Queen :

“ Monday following, August the 5th, the General had his tent set up; who, being accompanied with his own followers, summoned the marchants and masters, both

English and strangers, to be present at his taking possession of those countries. Before whom openly was read, and interpreted vnto the strangers, his commission, by virtue whereof, he tooke possession in the same harbour of St. John, and two hundred leagues every way, invested the Queen's Maiestie with the title and dignitie thereof; had delivered vnto him, after the custome of England, a rod and a turffe of the same soile, entering possession for him, his heires, and assignees for ever."

We cannot but lament the sudden fate of this enterprising character, who, after a few arrangements for the welfare of his new acquisition, anxiously continued his voyage of discovery, and was lost in a storm. With him the interests of the infant possession seem to have paused till the reign of King William, when we find the Legislature sensible of the advantages that would arise from

a cultivation of the Newfoundland fisheries ; and a direct communication was opened with His Majesty's liege subjects. They also formed salutary laws and regulations, and offered considerable advantages to those, who should arrive first at the fishing season, which is from spring to autumn. Its rapid progress, however, soon rendered it necessary to establish tribunals for the cognizance of crimes, which were before only punishable in England ; and by the recommendation of persons, selected by His Majesty, to consider and report for the interests of the settlement, it was decided by royal pleasure, that the Captains of the convoy ships should have power to regulate abuses at Newfoundland, and that, for the preservation of good order and the dignity of the church, chaplains should be appointed to the said convoy ships.

In 1708, from particular motives, it was determined that the senior naval officer should command such troops as were doing duty on the island, and the necessary commissions were made out. It was shortly after in contemplation to appoint commissioners of the customs, to prevent illicit trade; but the firm hold and ascendancy the French had obtained, rendered measures of defence the first and prevailing object of consideration.

During the year 1710, strong representations were made on the part of the merchants, beseeching that Newfoundland should in any treaty of peace be wholly reserved to the English: consequently, at the peace of Utrecht, the French were required, and did cede all their settlements here to us, they retaining nothing more than a license to come and go during the fishing season. This gave a new spirit to the government



and merchants, and promised high remuneration to their diligence. Captain Osborne seems to have been the first civil governor appointed with authority to administer oaths, and to appoint justices of the peace, and other officers to regulate abuses, and preserve the tranquillity of the island. He accordingly made the best and most salutary arrangements for effecting the good purpose of the Crown ; but he had many prejudices and difficulties to encounter, in bringing people of low habits and manners, and dissolute principles, to a sense of order and an inclination to honesty and fair dealing. This required every precaution and address, and could alone be the work of time, patience, and unshaken perseverance. After considerable opposition on the part of the merchants, and a ferment that has not subsided to this day ; in 1764, a custom-house was built, officers were appointed, and fees established ; which contributed, in the most essen-

tial way, to the full establishment of the civil authority of the place.

From this period, Newfoundland seems to have risen rapidly, and the succession of years has produced the most interesting and almost incredible improvement in the settlement.

In 1789, from the wise and cogent suggestion of Mr. Graham, who was Secretary to Admiral Milbanke during his government here, at that period, a Court of Common Pleas was instituted, to proceed, *by a jury*, in the form and manner of a Court of Common Law in England, which, strange as it may seem, was, for a time, much complained of. However, it is pleasing to recollect that this mild and impartial arrangement came from the heart of a gentleman, who now fills a distinguished seat in the judicature of the mother-country. About

the same time, surrogates were deputed by the Governor to assist him in his arduous duties ; and they are now always sent into the out-harbours, to hear causes, and adjust differences, which they do according to the principles of the established laws ; and make reports for the sanction of His Excellency.

For the last twenty years, officers of high rank and distinguished merit have, successively, held the commission of Governor, Captain-general, and Commander in Chief, &c. &c. of Newfoundland and its dependencies. Under their influence, not only the general interests of the settlement have continued to increase and ripen, but its revenues to the Crown have become a matter of valuable consideration. Newfoundland is also of the very first importance to Great Britain, from the nursery formed, by its fisheries, for the navy ; and it assists the ma-

nufactories by employing many persons, who are thereby enabled to consume the produce, and is of considerable moment in point of trade and commerce.

Several hundred sail of vessels are usually laden here during the fishing season, when it is computed, that ten thousand persons assemble from various parts of the globe, many of whom are prevented staying the winter from the extreme severity of the climate, the snow being on the ground for months without a change. The last winter is said to have been very trying; money could not procure the necessaries of life, and the lower class of people were in a state of starvation. The snow was frequently over the roofs of the cottages, and the inhabitants were absolutely dug out, to save them from suffocation. During these heavy drifts, the slays, or sledges, which they have, drawn by horses, were useless, and

persons were confined in each other's houses, as chance threw them together..

How striking is the contrast here with the gardens of plenty we had so recently left! In the one place, Nature appears in all her charms, shedding her riches around, and you recline in the lap of luxury ; while, in the other, cheerless winter cramps her bounteous heart, and, with dreadful severity, forbids her kind benevolence to man.

There are, however, many places which, during the summer season, are extremely pleasant ; and every year produces new plantations, and a fresh display of the taste and industry of the owners. Foremost among these, ranks the estate of Colonel Skinner, many years Commandant of the island. The habitation is in the cottage style ; the avenues and general plan of the grounds have heightened the work of nature to an

effect, in picturesque beauty and sweetness of landscape, hardly to be surpassed in any clime or country.

At a happy distance below the lawn, is a clear and beautiful lake, two miles in circumference, of an oval form, abounding with excellent fish. In this mirror you may often see reflected the striking scenery of the opposite shore. A sublime range of mountainous land closes round, through the outlets of which you glance on the extent of ocean, and contemplate numerous vessels engaged in the trade and interests of the settlement.

The sportsman with his gun, has also space and covert here for his amusement. The black game is peculiarly fine, and the snipe is, perhaps, in greater perfection than in any other part. They are frequently killed from seven and a half to eight ounces

in weight, and they have been shot as heavy as nine.

Government have always been anxious, though hitherto without success, to establish a friendly intercourse with the native Indians; and it is to be feared that the unauthorized system of terror exercised towards them by our first settlers here, and which drove them into the very heart of the country, amidst almost impervious woods, has for ever cut off the hope of an understanding between us; for whenever a party of them have been surprised or seen, they have precipitately fled, and hidden themselves in the mazes of a neighbouring forest. Some few years since, four or five of them were discovered in a wigwam, by persons who were on the search for them, from an out-port; the alarm was suddenly given, and they all escaped but one elderly woman, in whose withered limbs the brisk blood of activity

had long ceased to flow, and she became their gloomy, sullen prisoner. She was almost naked; of a reddish complexion, short stature, harsh features, and straight, long, black hair. Her language is represented to have been incoherent, and unlike any human tone; no articulation could be ascertained, nor distinct sound remembered; yet on her being brought round to St. John's, she soon discovered a preference for persons. She would go out and meet those who had been kind to her, clap her hands, look pleased, and mumble a something which was naturally supposed to intend welcome. On being brought into a ball-room, she seemed, for a few moments, petrified; first the music, and then the dancing and dresses, engaged her delighted attention, when, by every sign and token, she demonstrated her joy and surprise. The greatest kindness and feeling was shewn the poor savage, who, at last, became, appa-



rently, reconciled and contented. The government, supposing that it would be good policy to send her back in this temper, loaded her with presents of beads and ornaments of her own choosing, and for which she evinced a strong predilection, and, by signs, endeavoured to tell her all her friends, and, in short, all their tribe, would be equally caressed, and experience the same civility, if they would place confidence, and come amongst the Europeans. Their trouble was, however, unavailing; the poor creature died on board the vessel that was conveying her to the harbour nearest the spot whence she had been taken, and all endeavours to obtain another have hitherto been unsuccessful. Her absence, perhaps, increased their dread and apprehensions of our barbarity and hatred towards them: indeed they have too much reason to dread the very sight of a stranger. A man belonging to a fishing-vessel employed in an

out-harbour, was, the other day, brought before the magistrates at St. John's, accused of having fired at a party of these poor Indians, with an intent to destroy them; to which this far greater savage than they, said, "Yes, I have done so; they ran away on seeing me, and I thought there was no harm in shooting a wild savage." He was, of course, reprimanded and admonished, and exhibited signs of fear and trembling on being assured, that, had he been unfortunate enough to have killed any one of them, his own life would most certainly have been forfeited to the murder. The necessary directions have, of course, been given to prevent the recurrence of a practice so disgraceful to human nature, as well as a conduct so contrary to the views and intentions of Government.

Measures are, and have been taken, to render the harbour more defensible, in the

absence of the squadron, which usually weighs on the 25th October, or as soon after as the wind will permit, for England, during the winter. In the interim of the absence of the Admiral, who always goes out, and returns with his squadron, the power and authority devolves on Major-general Moore, who commands the military on the island, viz. the Nova Scotia Regiment of Fencibles, with detachments of the Royal Artillery, Engineers, and Artificers of Great Britain.

There is, perhaps, no other country, that, in so short a space of time, experiences, in an equal degree, the extremes of heat and cold : a difference of forty degrees in the thermometer has been often observed in the course of a few hours. Nothing is more common, at the summer season, than, in the morning, to be oppressed with sultry heat, and gladly seek the “ mid-wood

shade," and in the keen evening of the same day to feel the necessity of artificial warmth. These sudden changes, however, do not appear at all to affect the health of the settlers, who are remarkably robust and hearty.

From the first discovery of the island, the most fragrant and beautiful wild roses have been observed here; as, likewise, a remarkable production called the pitcher-plant, which I believe to be peculiar to the island. Its leaves are formed in the shape of a cup, and are always full of water; its flower is of a pretty and delicate yellow, of the texture of fibrous silk. Immense quantities of red berries, called cranberries, are found in the woods here; they make delicious tarts, and are much esteemed in England: they are here purchasable at thirteen pence halfpenny per gallon, but pay a certain duty per gal-

lon to the customs at home, and require care and trouble to preserve them for the voyage.

The town of St. John's has little to commend it; in consequence of being situated on the water's edge, it is extremely dirty. The houses are all built of wood, with which the island abounds; they are low and inconvenient, and, from the narrowness of the streets, and the annoyance of rats, barely habitable. Children of all ages are dragging fish about the streets; and another nuisance is the continual yelping of dogs, with which the place swarms: their owners having no use for them, except in the winter, they drive them from their home the other part of the year, and they live about the streets upon the offals of fish.

The town forms one line, a mile in length, in which the smell of fish, and the

stink of seal oil, is inconceivably disgusting. A little higher, on the site of a hill, are some pleasant houses which command the harbour and shipping, and breathe a purer air, though occasionally tainted when the breeze crosses the stages on which are laid tens of thousands of fish, to dry for exportation. These, however, are evils, or rather inconveniences, of necessity, to which, when we contrast the intrinsic value of the place, and the service it renders our beloved country, we easily submit, overcome the little prejudices of situation, and are reconciled to the disadvantages of climate.

The scarcity and extravagant price, as also the indifferent quality of the meat at St. John's, determined Admiral Holloway to send the *Vestal* on a cruize to the Western Islands, whence she could bring back bullocks and vegetables for the ships under his orders, and at once contribute to the health

and comfort of their crews. Accordingly, on Wednesday the 9th of August, we left St. John's, with the charm of a fine leading wind, and very soon lost sight of land. The fog was extremely heavy, and, as usual, when westerly winds are prevalent, we carried it a vast distance, upwards of three hundred miles! Nothing could equal our rate of running. A moderate breeze and a flowing sail, took us, at periods, thirteen knots, or miles, an hour, and we crossed the almost immeasurable waters of the Atlantic, without reducing a sail, or experiencing any of those casualties that are incidental to a voyage.

On the sixth day we made the island of Corvo, and early the following morning, the 16th, we anchored in Fayal Roads, having averaged seven knots and a half each hour since our departure from North Ame-

rica—a passage seldom to be seen on the records of navigation.

As I landed at Fayal, a new region and climate ; a contrasted people, in language, costume, manners, and religion ; a barren shore changed for the rich harvests of plenty ; vegetation flourishing ; the luxuries of the torrid zone without its oppressive heat ; in fact, one grand epitome of nature, all effected in so short a time, without any sacrifice or inconvenience, had the semblance of enchantment. It struck instantly to my heart, and subdued resistance.

When the abundance, beauty, and richness of these islands are considered, how natural is it to lament, they are not in the occupation of a people more calculated to improve and enjoy them ! But idleness and corruption are in their heart's core, and what can be hoped from them ? It is too



clearly visible in all their ranks, and in all their dealings ; even those who come off to sell their little stock on board, endeavour, by every method, to cheat and impose ; and these wretches, who would not scruple to practise any trick for gain, will not take their smallest coin, which is less than our farthing, if it have not a cross on it ; not from any prohibition of authority to this effect ; but from the intensity of their conscience in religion. The Consul told us, we had no idea, how much they raised the price of every thing on a ship's arrival, which seemed incredible to us, when we could get a hundred fine cucumbers for a pisturine, which is no more than one shilling sterling ; a large basket of fine apricots, and a heap of eggs, for the same sum ; poultry at the rate of nineteen pence a couple, and vegetables of all kinds for a mere trifle.

This island grows a considerable quantity of corn, and supplies the necessities of its neighbour Pico, whence, as I have before stated, they receive almost all the grapes, from which they make their wine. Their Passado, or Fayal Malmsey, is very rich and pleasant, and is made in the following manner: they cull the choicest grapes of the vineyard; placing them in the sun, on lava-stones, turning them every twelve hours for a fortnight. When they are pressed, the juice is extremely rich and glutinous, and is fined by the best French brandy, which gives it so fine a goût, that a connoisseur has mistaken it for the best Madeira Malmsey: there is, however, a difference, in the price, of 11*l.* 5*s.* in the quarter-cask, the Passado being only thirty dollars a quarter-cask.

In the evening, we walked half a mile from the town to see a valley of remarkable

beauty. It is the finest prospect, in miniature, imaginable. The slopes are covered with the varied shades of vegetation; the vine, the orange, lemon, and coffee tree; the banana and tobacco plant springing out in wild abundance. From a dark cleft on the western side, is a pleasing fall of water, which much increases in the rainy season, when it rushes down the valley, and discharges itself into the wide bosom of the Atlantic, which lies open on the eastern side.

As we passed along, we saw the poor peasants employed in making baskets and mats, for which the island is famous; vast quantities are exported, but, although of peculiar beauty and excellence, they are so cheap, that it affords them but a precarious subsistence. A large, handsome mat, resembling the India kind, measuring twenty feet by fifteen, was purchased by an

officer on board, for thirty-two shillings, which is at least one third more than they would have charged a native; indeed, the value of money in all the Azores is matter of surprise and astonishment to every Englishman that visits them.

There is no manifest difference in the town, which is also called Fayal, from the Ponta del Gado. It contains several convents, as indeed do all the places of any consideration in these islands; but we found the fair sisterhood of much lower rank and manners, and wanting in those refinements, that so elegantly characterized the conduct of our secluded friends of St. Michael's. At one convent here, they were not allowed even to see any company, owing, as we understood, to an elopement which had very recently taken place. A dashing son of Neptune, commanding a British sloop of war, that touched at the island for re-

freshments, saw, with a compassion, alas! too tender, the lovely Senhora. The enamoured hero, by a seductive sympathy in her welfare and happiness, secured a heart, till now, perhaps, a stranger to the noble sentiment of gratitude, and soon persuaded her that almighty love was sufficient intercession in heaven, for violating her oaths and promises of vestal purity and everlasting faith. Her willing ear gained, he soon secured his conquest; a daring leap from her window quickly brought her to his opened arms, and they reached their boat, and afterwards the ship, without interruption or impediment. The next morning the whole convent was in confusion; formal representations were made to the church; this unfortunate victim to the errors of education, was excommunicated and anathematized by those, who, perhaps, were, in some measure, instrumental to her becoming the slave of passion, and who ought rather to have

atoned for the offence, and implored her salvation.

The unhappy predilection for intrigue, which existed in this convent, was, however, yet more strongly to be proved. A few weeks afterwards, on the morning of our arrival, a holy monk had been caught in the embraces of a nun, by the enraged abbess, and it appeared the guilty intercourse had been carried on for some time. He was immediately arrested and thrown into prison, to wait the decree of the Bishop of Tercera, and it was supposed the frail fair one would be shut out from every intercourse, and consigned to everlasting solitude. The Bishop has, most probably, disgraced the convent, while the life of the fallen priest is at the mercy of his absolute will. These accounts could have but one effect on all unprejudiced minds; and when we understood every stranger, and especially officers, were

now to be watched with the jealous eye of suspicion, we felt little inclination, from the shortness of our intended stay, to overcome their scruples, and court their confidence.

On the beach, and fronting the sea, is a fine building, formerly a college for Jesuits, whose name it, to this day, bears. This numerous and formidable body prevailed very much in these islands, and had many public seminaries previous to the memorable conspiracy in 1758, when they were banished the Portuguese dominions, for the active and interested part they took in the politics of that time.

This island is famous, as the refuge of many shipwrecked persons ; amongst others, I believe, Inglefield was saved here : and a few days previous to our arrival, the wrecked crew of an American vessel had

first made this shore. Every occasion of this sort is, of course, seized by the church, and used to fan the superstitious flame of its deluded votaries.

This is, I am told, the only island of the Azores that has not a crater now burning on it, though it bears irrefragable marks of the ravages that have thus been made. From this was first observed the volcano at St. George's island, distant about ten leagues. The eruption happened on the 1st of May 1808. It appears, by the account of a person who witnessed it, to have been attended with horrid noises, and vast columns of dense smoke. The unhappy, panic-struck inhabitants fell on their trembling knees, and poured forth earnest prayers for their deliverance. It soon broke into the fertile pastures, and formed a crater twenty-four acres in circumference, covering the earth four feet deep in cinders, and dan-



gerous of approach; it continued to increase, and a smaller crater broke out in another part. The distance of these craters from the sea was about four miles, at an elevation of three thousand five hundred feet. The lava bursting out, inundated and swept away the town of Ursulina, destroyed houses and cattle, and blasted the whole face of vegetation for miles round about. It, as usual, gave timely notice of its awful approach, and the people fled; but some of them, in endeavouring to save part of their effects, delayed too long, and were dreadfully scalded, their skin and flesh being torn off, without injury to their apparel, and it was supposed that sixty unhappy persons suffered in this melancholy way, with numerous cattle, flocks, &c.—How transient are the possessions, as well as the life of man! This island, a few hours before, was rich and fruitful, and yielded abundance to those who dwelt on it; but, by a

terrible convulsion of Nature, it is suddenly laid waste, and becomes the picture of mournful desolation ! The poor inhabitants were, yesterday, in possession of a cot, a garden, and, at least, the comforts, if not what they might consider the luxuries, of life ; but now, with their wives, and children too, reduced to beggary and despair ; some of whom are, perchance, amongst those, who, in the vain attempt to save a little from the general wreck, to support the few remaining years of an aged parent, paid the dear forfeit of their lives ; while the unhappy family, driven from their little paradise, are doomed to drink the bitter cup of misery ; and many, who had from their childhood lived in affluence, were now destined to earn their daily bread by the sweat of their brow. The poor creatures hurried to Fayal, and entreated laborious employment for subsistence.—O happy, happy Britain ! If thou art not surrounded with

the voluptuous produce of warmer climes, thou art no less a stranger to their attendant calamities, and standest, alone, the favoured Isle. While the jarring interests of the world are disputing for the palm of superiority, thy peasant lives in his peaceful cottage, where neither the ravages of war, nor the dread shock of contending nature, intrudes to embitter his healthful draught of life !

In the evening of the next day, the 17th, we weighed, with a favouring breeze, and passed along the shore of majestic Pico, commanding a view, at the same time, of five of the islands, to Tercera, and, after a night of sweet and refreshing sleep, anchored in the port of Angra, the capital town. This island is equal, in square miles, to St. Michael's, and forms a beautiful picture, but bears no comparison in other respects ; yet, from its being chosen as the residence of the Governor and Cap-

tain-general, and being also the see of the Bishop, it seems to have formerly ranked as the most important of the Azores. The port is well sheltered from most winds, excepting those from south to east and by north; but, when blowing hard from these points, you cannot put to sea. A heavy swell, which occasions considerable risk in anchoring there, is very frequent. These disadvantages, and the extreme jealousy of the government towards strangers, whom they will detain on the slightest pretence, and lay an embargo on their vessels during pleasure; dishearten the merchant; prejudice the trade, and, by retarding the intercourse, that for the welfare of both should be unreserved, materially injure the interests of the island, and the revenue.—How wretched is this system of polity! In our flourishing kingdom, the law encourages commerce and protects the merchant; but here, their jealous and suspicious nature sa-

crifices every public and private interest, to arbitrary will, or unfounded apprehension.

The town of Angra, as are all the houses of the Azores, is built of lava-stone, which is of a slate colour, and has a handsome effect; and it is but fair to add, that every thing wears a much better appearance in it, than in any other of the Portuguese towns we had visited; and the order of authority appears to be carried on with something like precision and propriety. The streets are wide and clean; the inhabitants look more healthy; and the troops, although principally composed of the vagabonds from the other islands, by the lash of severity, and the terror of punishment, are kept one remove from rabble. This is the utmost that I can, faithfully, say in their favour. It is sincerely to be hoped that their countrymen, who compose Marshal Beresford's army in

Portugal, are very much more effective, and that the trouble he is reported to have taken, with his persevering labours and skilful regulations, have inculcated those noble principles of British discipline, which form the basis of success, and can alone be opposed to the consummate talent and brilliant achievements of Bonaparte and his armies.

I accompanied Captain Graham to the head quarters of the Captain and Governor-general, a member of the Court, and a Privy Counsellor, an elegant, polite, and well-bred man, possessing an infinity of compliment without meaning, and assurances of friendship without sincerity. His palace, his suite, his whole appearance, had an air of dignity and fashion. An irresistible pleasure was excited by his manner of offering his heart and his house, although fully aware that it was merely their "*maniere de parler*," and in no way intended for

acceptance. As it was settled that we should sail the same evening for St. Michael's, I could not possibly spare an hour to visit the cathedral; neither did I meet any person that could supply interesting particulars concerning it. I understood it to be decorated in their usual style, which gave it, in common with their other churches, the appearance of an opera-house, or of any thing but a place of worship. Each man plays his part, and, by a system of pomp and pageantry, the vulgar mind is kept in idolatry and obedience.—What eminent advantages must result from a reformation! How fair would then become the aspect of the nation! By shaking off the trammels of the Popish church, the acknowledged genius and talent of these people would be left to the free exercise of its own powers. The bright star of literature would again shine amongst them; their history would be continued; their

travels prosecuted ; their scene of action enlarged, and their native spirit improved ; in fine, it would be the first grand step to the enviable rank of an independent nation.

As the sun sank into the glowing bosom of the west, our sails were filled with a sweet and gentle breeze, which wafted the proud vessel o'er the willing deep. But when Nature slept, the young Zephyrus stole to the fond embraces of his love, and lay enamoured in her beauteous arms, till the blushing Morn came to chide his lethargy ; then, rising from his rosy bed, he fanned the silent deep, and spread our wanton sails, which carried us by the evening in sight of the intended port, and, early the next day, the 20th, we again cast anchor in the roadstead of the Ponta del Gado. After our visits to two strange islands, we here seemed to recognize every striking point. White flags were thrown out in



kind token of our welcome to the convents ; and our hospitable friend the Consul, Mr. Reid, was early afloat, anxious, as he always is, to promote the welfare of the service, and, at the same time, contribute to the comfort and happiness of those engaged in it.

As soon as we landed, we hastened to offer the incense of our constancy and friendship at the convents, and gave the inquiring minds and hearts of our favourites, the narration of our voyage, into all the circumstances of which they entered with a sympathy and kindness that could alone emanate from a feeling mind. They were particularly pleased to learn how prosperously we had returned to the island ; for it proved, they said, that their prayers had been accepted as they wished, by the great Disposer of events, in heaven. That we should have been to another part of the

habitable world so many, many leagues distant, through such vast and immeasurable waters, and be so soon returned, filled them with sensations of wonder; and they looked at each other in mute surprise. There is something peculiarly interesting in many of these ladies; their dignity of manner and modesty of deportment, impose unfeigned respect in their presence; and this is softened by the gentleness of their disposition, and the mild tenderness manifested in all their inquiries. Several of them were presented with a “*petit gage d’amitié*, from America,” in token of their living in the remembrance at any distance of time or place: no touch of art could reach the thankful smile that adorned the fine countenance, which then became the faithful mirror of a heart melting with gratitude.

The Lady Abbess of the convent of St. Andrew received us herself, which is a dis-

tinguished compliment, to congratulate us on our pleasant voyage, and welcome our return; adding, with benevolent politeness, the pleasure and estimation the visits of the officers of the Vestal would be held in by herself, and the other ladies of the convent. Fruits and sweetmeats of their own peculiar care, were given us at the grate. They said it was the happiest day they had known for a long time; and, on our taking leave, mutual promises were given of frequent visits during our stay, and solemn assurances of never-fading friendship.

Our obliging friend, the Consul, had prepared a large cavalcade of horses, mules, and asses, to carry a party of us to his beautiful country-seat, which is situated on a fine eminence about three miles from the town. It would require a comic talent to describe our set-out, which made the most grotesque and ludicrous appearance. The

youngsters, in high spirits and fun, were riding their jacks in every figure and form, some falling off, others falling on and over, and others again with their faces towards the tail, altogether producing the most ridiculous, motley group, to the infinite amusement of the natives, who came running to their doors and windows to see the frolick. This happiness was general ; the indulgence of Captain G. to all, and the lowest ranks of his people, is proverbial wherever his ship has been ; and you saw the sailor, who, an hour before, was “ rocking on the high and giddy mast,” now rolling under the mule ; that, to use his own term, “ he could not keep aboard of.”

“ Relax’d from toil, the sailors range the shore,  
Where famine, war, and storm are felt no more.”

On our arrival at the villa, called Bona Vista from the extreme beauty of the view, we were surrounded by the choicest boun-

ties of nature. We walked in the vineyards of plenty; the rich fruit weighed down the tender branches of the vine; the varied melon seemed to tempt the appetite; while the mind contemplated the magnificent scenery before it.

The distant towers of the Ponta del Gado rose in noble grandeur at the extremity of the valley, the face of which was heightened by the diversity and richness of its foliage. The neat cottage and pleasant village produced a happiness of effect, that the dullest imagination must enjoy. If the harmony of such a scene could be increased, it was by the prospect of our element, and our triumphant frigate at anchor. Her gay streamer floated on the wave; she looked the model of accomplished art, and bore a competition with the imagery that delighted us. Some of the most agreeable hours of my life were passed at this beautiful place,

where we received the honest welcome of English hospitality ; every wish was anticipated, every desire gratified ; “ we wandered in gardens of fragrance, and slept in the fortress of security.”

We were happy to find Doctor Stanton returned from his researches at the vale of Fournas, and that he had succeeded to his utmost wishes in analyzing its waters, which had confirmed him in the opinion he had formed of their medicinal efficacy, and that they only required to be selected with skill, and applied with prudence, to be unrivalled in their healing powers, and efficient in the most desperate cases. He is making curious selections, and has now in his possession some beautiful specimens of sulphur, iron, &c. &c. with the rarest production of the coral-tree, that I ever recollect to have heard of. I cannot forbear expressing my thanks to this gentleman for his liberal

communications, and also for his politeness and hospitality to several of my shipmates, as well as to myself, which received a double value from the fascinating and enlightened society of his family.

Two or three days after our arrival, we had a good incident and an admirable love-scene. An Englishman of forty-five chose to be desperately enamoured with a young Portuguese of twenty-two. The lady politely and fondly returned his passion, but there arose a terrible obstacle—their religion. In the golden moments of mutual love, how often we see, as in this instance, the heart running away with the head, and the cup of happiness dashed from the lips at the very moment of possession. John Bull was firm to his protest; and even the soothing, soft, and persuasive eloquence of love, had not the power to betray him to apostacy. The fair one, however, conquered her preju-

dices, "blotted out each bright idea of the skies," quitted the priest for the heretic, and resolved to confess to him alone. Their happiness seemed now complete; the day fixed, and approaching, when they found there was no clergyman of the Protestant faith in the island.—O propitious Venus! The frigate came timeful in, with a Chaplain on board; their joy burst forth, and their intentions came to the ears of the Popish priests, who resolved, if possible, to avert, what they termed such a disgrace on their holy religion; but intercession was made to Captain G. who ordered them a boat: they went off in triumph, and were married on board, in defiance of the impotent menaces of a host of indignant bigots.

Our little excursions into the interior were very pleasant. No country can be more sublime, beautiful, or agreeable. On the one hand is a noble range of mountain,



bearing the awful cast of a late convulsion; on the other, highly cultivated hills, rich pastures, and valleys covered with fruitful and flourishing vines. To contemplate such scenes affords a rich repast to a mind at all disposed to feel their force, and consider them as a great testimony of the infinite goodness of our Creator.

Some of my messmates, who were frequently engaged in shooting parties, and consequently traversed the greater part of the island, informed me of their having determined to ascend a mountain of remarkable appearance, but which presented difficulties and dangers, that required perseverance, strongly urged by curiosity, to surmount. They describe the ascent to have been desperate, and only to be gained by a narrow winding path, the turnings of which were frequent and abrupt, and required to be traversed with caution, as a false step might

probably have occasioned their destruction ; but, as they proceeded, their desire to reach the top increased. Their way was covered with small ashes, which became deeper and deeper, and increased the labour of the undertaking, which, however difficult, a persevering spirit enabled them to accomplish, when, to their surprise, they found themselves on the edge of a dreadful precipice, the side of which had been entirely consumed by fire, or rather hollowed out by a volcano, that, for want of alible matter, had subsided. On throwing a stone of some pounds weight, it seemed to strike about two thirds down, and was ten seconds in falling.—What an example is this of the dreadful ravages of the burning element which consumes its way through such deep impediments ! and how is it possible to reflect on the few recorded instances of its fatal effects, without feeling and acknowledging the infinite mercies of that

great King of all kings, who, with so terrible an engine of punishment in his hand, forgives his rebellious and disobedient people !

What may be termed the base of this precipice was a considerable height above the rocks that were ranged at its foot, and were the boundary of the ocean. It was covered with vineyards, and the white cottage sweetly thrown in, as if by art, to relieve the foliage, and by Nature to rest her wearied limbs. Thousands of wild pigeons roosted in the hollow of the rocks.

Our visits at the convents every time increased in interest, and scarcely a day passed, without our seeing the nuns. They said, that, in such good and kind company, they felt unusual pleasure ; and always repeated our welcome. No one could see such worth and beauty, and be insensible to their

power, or to the influence of courteous conduct on the heart. But so innocent and dignified were their manners and behaviour, that if ever Plato's divine sentiment were found united with sensibility, it lived and breathed in the tender friendship these amiable creatures inspired us with. The immoral or corrupt thought would be instantly corrected by the virtue that was marked in their expressive countenance; still it was not the ~~frowning~~ inflexibility of prudery, but the conscious sense of what modesty should always feel and manifest. That I may not be supposed to have overdrawn the picture of chastity they presented to me, I relate the following naïve and interesting circumstance, which gives a lively instance of the power of virtue, over what are too often considered the ungovernable passions.

An Officer of rank and address, for two years that he had frequented the island,

had been constant in his visits at the convent of St. Andrew. He admired, and was particular in his attentions to the interesting Donna. Their acquaintance ripened into friendship, and their letters breathed the purest spirit of esteem. Nature, however, hardly acknowledges the restraint, and his kindness insensibly gained ascendancy over her mind, and entwined itself round her devoted heart. I have frequently observed this charming woman ; if she saw him engaged in conversation, she seemed to regard him with peculiar interest, and dwelt with tenderness on his person ; but if she met his ardent look, she turned her modest face, and blushed : if he were absent, she inquired for him with emotion ; and once, on being told he was unwell, an unbidden tear fell on her pale cheek. That he regarded and esteemed her, could not be doubted ; but discretion forbade a more tender tie on the one hand, while honour rejected it on the

other ; and this Officer was moral and discreet. It was, however, very evident he had found a way to a heart that religion had vainly attempted to seal for ever. Pity could not resist the tear ; it was an eloquent appeal to her feelings, and she resolved, at a proper time, to acquaint the unconscious friend of what she had witnessed. She did so, and he instantly felt a conviction of the necessity of being more the friend, than the lover, of the affectionate Donna. In his next letter, after thanking her for her kind solicitude for his health, he took occasion to observe, that he hoped that the endearing friendship, which had so long existed between them, and had promised to be a source of pleasing reflection to both, could not be embittered by the possibility of its occasioning her sorrow at the prohibition she was under, and a consequent repentance of the sacred vows she had made ; that such a misfortune would be the greatest affliction

to him, and would cast a dreadful gloom on the years, he hoped she would yet pass in peace and happiness in the convent. She nobly replied, that so far were the vows she had made, or her confinement to the convent, a cause of regret or uneasiness to her, that since her friendship with him, and attachment to his person, she had contemplated them in a soothing spirit, before unknown to her; for that she considered them as the bond and security of her fidelity to him, inasmuch as they put it out of her power to be inconstant in the esteem and tenderness she bore him.

Our equipage, at the nocturnal return from Bona Vista, exhibited a most ludicrous appearance, each mounted on his ambling jack, and attended by the driver, in the comical costume of the peasantry, carrying a torch, which, as we passed through some narrow roads, enclosed by walls of lava-

stone, and their repeated whistles to give notice of approach, called to our remembrance Santerre's description of banditti, and never failed to afford amusement.

One very still, dark night, as we jogged along, we were told nearly as follows : " It was the custom for the anniversary of St. Sebastian to be observed by the Catholics with every respect and decorum. A grand procession took place, and a religieux, armed cap-à-pee, as St. George, and mounted on a fiery steed, gave a peculiar dignity to the solemn scene ; but at the last festival, the holy representative of St. George having sacrificed with too much zeal at the shrine of the rosy god, and being wrapt in Bacchanalian ecstasy, was unequal to shed lustre on the return from the church, whither they went to pray for grace, to be kept in continence and sobriety ; for, on crossing a kennel in the street, the gay



charger, by an unlucky display of effect, threw the unwary priest with his face in the gutter, where, like the ass in the fable, he shewed his ears, and opened the eyes of the procession to the folly of such affectation."

We passed nearly a fortnight in this island of plenty, to which any lover of the beauties of nature may retire and live on a moderate fortune, in every luxury, while, with the same income, in almost any other place, he could hardly procure the necessities of life, as may be seen by the following price current :

	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	
Beef . . .	0	2	per pound.
A turkey . .	3	0	
A goose . .	3	0	
A fowl . .	0	6	
A duck . .	0	10	

Fruit and vegetables grow in abundance in the garden attached to a house at a moderate rental.

Our ship received several very fine oxen, with a large supply of fruit and vegetables; and being perfectly prepared for sea, on the evening of the first of September, we went to say adieu, and *au revoir*, to our fair favourites at the convents. It was a scene that placed the goodness of heart, sincerity, and gratitude of these amiable creatures, in a striking and convincing light: but I will not dwell here; Good bye, has a spell in it, and I am sure there is not a generous heart beating, that has not acknowledged its influence. Having assured them of our lasting remembrance and friendship, and the hope we had of seeing them next year, we thanked our kind Consul for his hospitality; and, having taken leave of his and Dr. Stanton's family,

went on board, and early next morning, the 2d, we weighed, and stood for the northern part of America ; but it was not so early but the white flag of peace and prosperity was flying at the convent.

We passed in sight of several of the Azores ; and our return was pleasant, although attended with adverse winds and some strong breezes, which formed a contrast to the quickness of our passage the other way.

On the 11th, being in lat.  $43^{\circ} 26'$ , and having experienced a very considerable change of climate, we were surprised to see a turtle floating along, which on our taking on board, and weighing, we found upwards of seventy-six pounds, and in high health. The sea was now for many hours covered with sea-weed, drifted from the Gulf of Florida ; and on taking a portion of it

out of the water, it presented some beautiful specimens.

Nothing material or remarkable occurred till Saturday, the 16th, when, being in lat.  $46^{\circ} 50'$ , and having sounded on the Great Bank of Newfoundland, we saw three large islands of ice floating towards us. The largest drifted very near the ship, and exhibited a surprising appearance. It was of considerable circumference, of an oval form, and rose at each extreme in the form of a turret, which was white as alabaster, and sparkled with the utmost brilliancy, from the faint influence of the evening sun. The sea beat over the solid base on which these turrets were raised, and once striking desperately against the elevation nearest the ship, knocked off its summit, which fell with awful aspect into the ocean. We fired a cannon-shot against the lower part, and though very close, the ball fell into the water, hardly leaving an impression of the blow.

We regarded this magnificent structure of nature with double interest, as it brought to memory the many instances on record, of their having been the salvation of several of our shipwrecked fellow-sailors, and by impulse, carefully observed it with a glass, to ascertain if any traces of man were to be seen there. It is almost unnecessary to say, that, as it passed to windward, we felt the coldness of the air intense while it was abreast of us, and that, as it became distant, the climate moderated very sensibly.

On the morning of the 19th, we spoke the Sibylle and Quebec frigates outside the harbour of St. John's, bound to Portugal and England with convoys from Newfoundland ; and in the evening of the same day we anchored in the harbour, having been absent forty days.

Notwithstanding our passage back was rather longer than we expected, the oxen

were well-conditioned ; and the fruit, which we had carefully packed in bran, as also our eggs, were in excellent preservation. We found every body round their fires, which indeed are necessary here at almost all periods of the year ; whereas, at the Azores, they never think of making a chimney, even in any room in the house, except the kitchen. It was the busy part of the fall ; and as the time approached for the convoys to sail, all was bustle and activity in the trade. To visit the large warehouses entirely stored with fish and oil ; to see the numerous vessels, loading with these commodities for all quarters of the globe, and, at the same time, to recollect that such a vast bulk of dried food had, a few days before, been animated, active, and formed a million beautiful creatures, each seeking its sustenance, and obeying the instinct of nature, was a subject of interesting contemplation. These fish, when dried for exportation, sell here for

fourteen shillings a quintal, or hundred weight, and the merchant receives a premium on their importation in England. Business is done here to a very considerable extent, and many large fortunes have been rapidly made by persons, or rather speculators, that have ventured out here, and, by perseverance and a strict attention, have succeeded beyond belief, and realized a prodigious capital. There is also a very considerable benefit derived in a Newfoundland residence, there being no taxes nor rates of any sort, which press so heavily on the man of moderate income in other countries. Moreover, the Governor is invested with authority, from the King, to make certain grants of land, for well and correctly disposed persons to build on and improve, which becomes their individual property, and that of their heirs and successors, according to the nature or limitation of the grant.

A considerable number of beavers are to be found in the interior of the island; and several officers hearing of a nest of them at a particular place, took a severe walk through woods and marshes, to witness, what I should certainly have been pleased with, could it have been effected with less toil—I mean the peculiar and curious ingenuity of their houses. From the accounts given, it seems the teeth of these little animals are their principal tools for work, and, from their length and sharpness, they are enabled to gnaw through the toughest wood as large as the human arm. These they place in compact order, and roof in with mud, clay, &c. the snugest dwellings. From their amphibious nature, they usually build them in marshes. I have been frequently assured they are excellent eating, Admiral Holloway ate of one shot by Colonel Murray, and I heard him assert, it was equal in flavour to a leveret. Never-



theless, much as may be said for the scarceness and novelty of the dish, from its apparent coarseness and strength, I could not be persuaded to overcome my prejudice, and I would as readily feast on one of the bears that are natives in the island. The silver-skinned fox abounds here, but the more esteemed black fur is very rarely to be met with, and sells for a high price. I had been told that the fine breed of dogs, for which Newfoundland is so eminent, had very much degenerated, and that none of the best blood were to be procured ; but we found that, although this was, in some instances, the case, there are yet many of the best of this fine species of animal to be had, at a moderate sum. This station has ever been esteemed by the officers of the navy and marines, on account of the extreme kindness and hospitality of the inhabitants. They are continually forming pleasant parties, to make the time of a gloomy and

uncomfortable climate pass easily along, and they certainly succeed. I never yet heard any one speak of their manifold attentions, but in terms of sincere thankfulness; and those who were not under the influence and magnetic powers of a fond wife, have left it with regret; for accustomed as is the sailor's mind to change, variety, and new characters, his feeling heart soon imbibes attachment for those who, by their obliging attentions, soften the hardships of his profession. Thus passed our days pleasantly along, and every preparation was making for the voyage of the men of war and their convoys to their destinations.

About the 19th of October, His Majesty's ship the Jamaica returned from a cruize, and her officers corroborated the reports we had heard from merchant-vessels, that successively arrived, of the vast and unusual quantities of ice on these parts of the ocean;

she having, a few leagues from the mouth of the harbour, passed a large body of it, extending, as near as they could calculate, thirty miles from east to west, which increased our apprehensions, that our voyage would be impeded by these formidable obstructions. Nevertheless, on Sunday, the 22d, His Excellency the Governor, having received the complimentary address of a deputation of the civil authority, and the salute of the troops under the command of Major-general Moore, embarked in his barge, attended by his suite. On his passing the squadron, he was received as Admiral and Commander in Chief, by manning the yards of the several ships of war, and his arrival on board his own ship was announced by a general discharge of cannon. The following morning, convoy signals were hoisted, and every thing was bustle and activity in the merchant's house, the 25th being settled for sailing. This being

the day of jubilee to all His Majesty's subjects, the royal standard was hoisted on board the fleet, and royal salutes were fired by the shore batteries and ships. From adverse wind, however, it was the morning of the 26th, when the convoy weighed; the flag-ship, and her convoy, steering the course for Great Britain, and the Vestal and her convoy for Portugal. We had not been at sea many hours, before it came to blow very strong, and the bad progress of the convoy compelled us to have every sail furled. The gradual increase of the gale, with a heavy sea running, rendered it impossible for us to keep them together; and, off Portugal, the only one that had been in sight for the last two days, also separated from us. Having passed fourteen or fifteen days in this severe weather, a sudden change was the more pleasant, and we sensibly felt the warmer latitude of the Portuguese coast. We had chased many vessels,

in all the eager expectation of making a capture, and were as often disappointed, till the morning of the 15th of November, when we recaptured the brig *Bellona*, laden with fish-oil and seal-skin, from Newfoundland, and, at noon, a fine ship, the *Fortitude*, laden with cotton and hides from Brasil. Such double success, two prizes in one day, after so many disappointments, seemed to presage future good, and as if the star of our better fortune was becoming lord of the ascendant. Confidence succeeded to hope, and sanguine expectation to despondency. The horizon was nicely and repeatedly observed, and every strange sail presented itself to the warm imagination as a prize; but under all these circumstances of *qui vive*, we were astonished at the dawn of Sunday, the 19th, being in lat.  $45^{\circ} 40'$ , long.  $10^{\circ} 50'$ , to find ourselves two miles to leeward of a French squadron, consisting of two heavy frigates, two corvettes, and

an armed brig, deeply laden, going, as we supposed, to the relief of Guadaloupe. They passed within gun-shot of us, we with English colours flying, without firing. We closely reconnoitred, and kept company with them for two hours. Captain Graham, in the mean time, wrote to the Commanding Officers at the Tagus and Cadiz, dispatched our prizes with his letters to them, and made all sail for England, hoping, to use his own words, "to meet a force that would enable him to bring them to action." Although our wishes, on this great point, were not realized, and each individual lamented their superiority of force, and consequent unmolested progress, our spirits were again revived by the capture of L'Intrepide French privateer, at twelve o'clock the same night. She proved to be a remarkably handsome vessel, pierced for twenty guns, mounting fourteen nine-pounders and four cohorns, quite new,

well found, and a few days from Bayonne. The prisoners were, of course, taken out, and efficient persons sent on board of her. It is impossible to describe the contrasted feelings on such occasions: one man is flushed with joy and success; the other, a captive, desponding and miserable; yet the impression on the Frenchman is, rightly, considered of a powerful but transient nature. The first half-hour, he laments in all the bitterness of grief, the hardness of his fate, the loss of his fortune, his wife, his children; he describes their charms, their virtues, and their melancholy despair for his absence; he sheds tears of sorrow, and begs you to sympathize in his woe. He suddenly exclaims, "*La fortune de la guerre;*" sighs, laughs, talks politics, is bien content in such good company, and no longer remembers his privations or difficulties.

Among the captures which this privateer-brig had made, was one extremely valuable, being laden with Spanish wool, and she, at dusk, was but three miles from the privateer. We felt every possible hope, that, at daylight, we should have been in sight of her, and the most judicious arrangement was made to accomplish our expectation; but morning dawned to our disappointment, and our calculation of success faded quite away; but it gave Captain Graham an opportunity of manifesting his zeal for the service, by not pursuing a wild search, but keeping his anxious course towards England, with intelligence of the enemy's movements, and proved how readily he could sacrifice his private interest to the public good.

Our intention was to have touched at Lisbon in our homeward passage, but the tempestuousness of the weather disappointed



my expectations in this respect. Perhaps my reader may not be entirely satisfied with such an excuse. I have, therefore, transcribed, with the most willing permission on the part of my publisher, the account of that city from the Travels of the ci-devant Duc de Chatelet, in Portugal. The translation has been elegantly made with more than usual accuracy, by the publisher himself, who has transfused into his labours the full spirit of the original.

Nothing can be more beautiful or majestic than the view of this port, of which a fine engraving is prefixed to the second volume of these Travels. It is defended by Fort Bugio, situated on an island at the mouth of the Tagus. The city, rising like an amphitheatre, on the right bank of the river, exhibits a truly magnificent prospect. At the foot of the walls, the Tagus forms a bay, three leagues in width, which is an

excellent roadstead for vessels of every description. The entrance to the harbour does not, however, correspond with the beauty of the bay : the bar which is formed there renders the passage difficult for pilots not thoroughly acquainted with its shoals. Accordingly, all English ships are forbidden to enter the port unless they have on board native pilots, who come to meet them and take charge of the helm. The pilot is paid by the captain, who must not refuse his services upon pain of fine. Several accidents which befel ships attempting to enter without the assistance of these harbour pilots induced the British government to enact this law.

At the period of my arrival, Lisbon was in an agitation which I am incapable of describing. It was the eve of the celebration of the Queen's coronation. The people were running to and fro, singing

and dancing the *follia*, a national dance, which is performed in couples to the sound of a guitar or any other instrument—a dance so licentious, that modesty must blush to witness, and dare not attempt to depict it. I passed through the crowd, and took lodgings in the English hotel, situated at Buenos Ayres, one of the seven hills of Lisbon; an agreeable spot, free from the stench which infects the city in summer, and the rain which inundates it in the winter.

The square of Commerce \* was chosen as the place best adapted to the ceremony of the coronation. It is large, and situated

\* This is also called the square of the *Terreiro do Paço*, or Ground of the Palace. It is six hundred and fifteen feet in length, and five hundred and fifty in breadth. Three of its sides are lined with buildings, and the fourth by the Tagus. These edifices are uniform, but of mean architecture.—*Editor*.

on the banks of the Tagus. The streets which run from it are broad and handsome, and have pavements, like those of London, for foot-passengers. On reaching the side facing the river, you enter this square by passing under a triumphal arch of the Doric order, but of heavy architecture. Below the buildings which form the sides of the square runs a gallery, which would be very handsome if it were less ruinous. In the middle of the square is erected an equestrian statue of King Joseph I. with the face toward the river. At the foot of this statue the Marquis de Pombal had placed a bronze medallion of himself; the day preceding the coronation, it was removed by his enemies, to make room for the arms of the city. At the time of the inauguration of this monument, designed to commemorate the rebuilding of Lisbon, the King, under whose auspices it was erected, and, above all, the omnipotent minister who reigned

in his stead, a medal was struck (in 1775) representing, on one side, the equestrian statue of Joseph I. with this inscription : *Magnanimo Restauratori*—and on the other, the city of Lisbon under the figure of a crowned female, surrounded by architects and warriors. Round this medallion are these words : *Post fata resurgens*. But both the monument and the medal convey but a very unfavourable idea of the state of the fine arts in Portugal.

The coronation of the Queen took place with great magnificence, amid the discharge of artillery and the acclamations of an immense concourse of people assembled, from all quarters, to witness the ceremony. The Queen alone seemed to take no share in the general joy. She was painfully affected. The principal nobles of the court had resolved to instigate the people to demand of her the head of the Marquis de Pombal.

The Queen was informed of their intention, she was apprehensive of danger from refusal ; but though she disliked the statesman, she respected the friend of her father.

I was likewise acquainted with these machinations, and resolved to be a near spectator of the agitation which they were likely to occasion. I ran through the streets with a Frenchman, conversant in the Portuguese language, and mingled with the crowd. Nothing was heard in every quarter but the name of Pombal ; the minds of the multitude began to be inflamed, a tumult was about to commence, when all at once appeared a patrol of horse headed by an officer, who, addressing the mob, forbade them, upon pain of the severest punishment, to mention the name of M. de Pombal. The crowd soon dispersed ; the streets were in an instant filled with horse and foot soldiers, and they were so attentive to the dis-

persion of all assemblages of people, the moment they began to form, that the populace were obliged to relinquish their intention.

All the *fidalgos* \* manifested the utmost astonishment and agitation. They were seen running to and fro, sending messages from the gallery where they were stationed, and darting, on the people, looks expressive of anger and impatience. Recourse had been prudently had to the precaution of dividing the populace, by means of barriers erected at intervals, so that the crowd was separated, and, in some measure, imprisoned without perceiving it. A kind of mur-

\* By *fidalgos* are, in general, understood the untitled nobility. These *fidalgos* have a pension assigned them by the King from a capital of forty thousand crusades set apart for that purpose. A crusade is equal to three livres four sous French (2s. 10d. English).  
—*Note by the Author.*

mur was nevertheless heard, and seven or eight voices cried: "Pombal, Pombal!" but they were instantly drowned by shouts of "Long live the Queen!" raised by the partizans of the Marquis. A great number of spectators had forced their way through the guards into the gallery; the Queen ordered them not to be disturbed. As it was impossible for carriages to approach, she was herself obliged to go through the crowd to reach hers. This was the most delightful moment of her life. Some threw themselves at her feet, others kissed the skirts of her robe, and she was affected even to tears.

The illuminations were brilliant; the ceremony was performed with equal tranquillity and pomp. At night the English nation gave a magnificent ball to the principal inhabitants of this city, no doubt, in testimony of its gratitude for it was that



nation, the real sovereign of Portugal, which had been crowned in the person of the Queen. Next day the people resumed the mourning which they had thrown off on the preceding day. Amidst the general joy occasioned by the fall of Pombal, an air of sadness universally prevailed, and the company, on quitting the ball, hastened to the churches.

The greatest calamity that desolates this country is the earthquakes to which it is subject. The Tagus is frequently seen covered with bituminous substances which issue from its bed, as well as from the hills of the city and its environs : which shews that the soil, below the bed of the river, and the interior of those hills, contain a vast assemblage of sulphureous and saline particles, whose continual fermentation produces explosions more or less considerable,

in proportion as these inflammable substances are more or less abundant. The earthquake, which, in 1755, destroyed the whole city of Lisbon, and the frightful traces of which are still to be seen, has excited the curiosity of the most celebrated philosophers. The result of their observations is an inexhaustible source of alarm for the unfortunate inhabitants. It seems to have been demonstrated, from the ravages produced by that calamity, particularly on the spot where the city is built, that the focus of the fermentation is situated exactly beneath its site. For near a thousand years its inhabitants have, from age to age, experienced periodical earthquakes which have ruined and destroyed their city ; and in building it again, they may actually be considered to say : “ Our children and grand-children shall be buried under the ruins of the edifices which we are erecting

upon the shattered relics of those which overwhelmed our fathers \*."

Notwithstanding the salubrity of the climate, the plague has often made dreadful havoc in Portugal. The two kings John I. and Edward I. died of it, one in 1433 and the other in 1437. The funeral oration delivered on the death of the former monarch is the first of which Portuguese history makes mention.

In winter the cold is sensibly felt in Portugal; nevertheless, in this country there are no fire-places except in the

\* The earthquakes are commonly felt at Lisbon in the month of November. On this subject we have the following interesting observation: When October and the beginning of November are dry, earthquakes are certain and almost always violent; when the rains are copious and set in early, there is either no earthquake, or the shock is but very slight.—*Editor*.

kitchens\*. I have been assured that, for twenty-three years, the heat at Lisbon has not been so intense as that which I felt in the month of July 1777: it was indeed so powerful as almost to deprive me of the faculty of breathing. I waited with impatience for the return of night, to enjoy the pleasing coolness of the air, which would be still more agreeable and refreshing if the dirtiness of its inhabitants did not diminish its purity. As soon as it is dark, the streets are filled with filth, dead animals,

\* The inhabitants of Lisbon never warm themselves. Latterly a few persons have had fire-places made, but there are not more than, perhaps, thirty in the whole city. You do not even find, in apartments, those coal-pans, or *copas*, that are commonly used in Spain. Both men and women keep at home, wrapped up in large cloaks of woollen stuff, which they wear abroad, at the theatre, in the churches, and in company. They have this extraordinary prejudice, that the artificial heat of fire is dangerous to health; as if cold and humidity were not still more pernicious.—*Editor.*

and especially dogs, thousands of whose carcases strew the streets of Lisbon : but by eight in the morning, the power of the sun has consumed all those disgusting objects, which otherwise would infect the city, and indubitably generate the plague.

On the first of November 1755, the atmosphere was pure and serene, with every appearance of a fine day, when, about half past nine in the morning, a terrible noise was heard, and was immediately succeeded by a dreadful shock. The palaces, the churches, the houses, were reduced in a moment to a heap of ruins. It was calculated, but only by guess, that about thirty thousand persons perished on that fatal day, for the government had not yet taken a census of the inhabitants of Lisbon. Had the earthquake happened on a working day, and an hour later, the destruction would have been much greater. The climate of

Lisbon presenting a perpetual spring, all the people make a practice of going into the country on holydays. The other days of the week, they are seen, at ten in the morning, repairing in crowds to the churches. Most of the persons, who perished, were crushed by the roofs of those sacred edifices, to which they had fled, some from devotion, and others from fear. The flames, bursting from beneath the ruins, completed the destruction of almost every thing that had escaped the tremendous concussion \*. Property, to an immense

\* It is certain, that the earthquake itself made less havoc than the conflagration and the robbers, who appeared in great numbers during this horrid catastrophe. All those, however, were hung that were found with gold, which exhibited any marks of fire, in their pockets. Not only the person who picked it up, but also the receiver, was suspended within a quarter of an hour before his own door or window. This extremely rigorous measure, it is true, cost many innocent people their lives, but it preserved the city from pillage.—*Note by the Author.*

amount, was consumed ; the sea rose to an extraordinary height, the vessels were dashed against each other, and the wind, which blew with great fury, increased the conflagration. The old men, women, children, the sick, who were still in bed, were smothered, without the possibility of any effort being made for their relief : some perished in the flames, and others were crushed by the fall of the floors, walls, and roofs. The robbers, mingling among the people, plundered, murdered, and heightened the terror of, the inhabitants, who fled in all directions, invoking the assistance of Heaven, and totally at a loss which way to go for safety. The streets, strewed with the dead, blocked up with fallen edifices, or impassable, on account of the flames, intercepted the fugitives.

All the inhabitants, who were, at length, so fortunate as to escape, quitted

the city, and repaired to the mountain.—Let us now follow M. de Pombal amidst this dreadful catastrophe, the most brilliant epoch of his life. Flying to all quarters of the city, he here afforded relief, and there imparted consolation. Wherever he appeared, his presence restored tranquillity, and dispelled fear. His activity succeeded in repairing those evils, for which there yet remained a remedy ; his severity restrained the excesses, which impunity would have encouraged.

In the space of a week, his fertile mind produced two hundred and thirty ordinances: all the robbers, and disturbers of public order, who were taken in the fact, were immediately hanged. Through his indefatigable exertions, the dead bodies were very soon interred, and many were thrown into the sea in lime-sacks. Supplies of provisions were procured, without



loss of time, from the contiguous provinces. In a word, by his courage, his perseverance, and his firmness, he prevented the people from abandoning a city, which exhibited nothing but ruins, and the image of despair. He spared no efforts to remove, as speedily as possible, the vestiges of so many calamities. He opened streets through the midst of the ruins. Every one looked upon him as the saviour of the citizens who had escaped this disaster. His carriage was, for several days, his cabinet, his bed, his only abode. Forty-eight hours elapsed, without his taking any nourishment, except a basin of broth, which his wife carried to him herself.

Not a single individual of the royal family was hurt. The court that very day chanced to go to Belem\*, and was on the

\* Belem is a large monastery, situated on the banks of the Tagus, at the western extremity of the city

way thither, at the moment of the shock. Had it not been for this fortunate accident, all the Princes, the King, Queen, and their retinue, would have perished beneath the ruins of the palace, which was totally demolished. Madame de Pombal had not risen; the wall at the head of her bed fell

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formerly contained one hundred and fifty monks; their number at present is but forty, and it possesses a revenue of forty thousand crusades. At the time of the earthquake, only some parts of the choir were shaken and demolished: the nave sustained no injury. To the right of the choir, as you enter, is the tomb of the King Don Sebastian, who died in Africa, where he was making war upon the Moors. The Portuguese, who are simple and superstitious, assert, that it is not the body of that King which it contains, since he is not dead, and will some day return. Every one knows what numbers of impostors have attempted to pass themselves off for King Sebastian. As the Marquis de Pombal was not less powerful than the King, and his name was Sebastian, the Portuguese took occasion to say that their silly tradition was accomplished.

—*Note by the Author.*

down behind the tapestry. Half dead with fright, she hastily rose ; and, notwithstanding her terror, retained sufficient presence of mind to place herself under the door-case of her chamber. Though every thing fell around her, she remained unhurt. She ran in quest of her children ; that part of the house in which they were, had received no damage, and she had the good fortune to save them all. She now began to be greatly alarmed on account of her husband, who had gone abroad early ; and was soon informed that he was, already, engaged in affording relief to the unhappy sufferers ; she resolved to go to him, to share his exertions and his dangers ; but her mules had been crushed to death, and her carriages broken in pieces.

The court, being now without a habitation, lived for eight days in tents. It must be admitted that, on this occasion, the royal

family set the people an example of fortitude and benevolence. The Queen appropriated a portion of her small allowance of provisions to the relief of the most distressed objects. All the activity, and all the vigilance, of the minister, were not sufficient to prevent excesses during the first days. Enormities of every kind were committed. The convents of all the orders, and of both sexes, had been burned; the monks and the nuns, following the populace, who fled to the mountains, had escaped. The soldiers, the nuns, the monks, had also taken refuge there, and passed the two first nights, intermingled, in the greatest confusion. This gave rise to scandalous scenes and crimes. Finding themselves all equally destitute of an asylum, they insulted the Supreme Being, who had spared their lives.

The riches, consumed by the flames, were immense. The King's palace, full of costly articles, was utterly destroyed, scarcely one stone being left upon another. All the jewels, treasures, and furniture, were engulfed, with the palace, in the bosom of the earth. This loss, alone, was estimated at fifteen millions of livres. But the total value of all that was destroyed, or irrecoverably lost, in private houses, furniture, money, precious stones, jewels, church-plate, ornaments, pictures, &c. amounted to the prodigious sum of two thousand two hundred and eighty-four millions.

The Marquis de Pombal, however, caused search to be made, and bullion to a considerable amount was found, and restored to the owners of the houses. This tremendous event established, still more firmly, the authority of the minister. His excellent conduct, and extraordinary courage, gained

him the entire confidence of his master, who, first, conferred on him the title of Count d'Oyeras, and afterwards that of Marquis de Pombal. The numbers of his enemies increased in the same proportion as his influence. Invested, in some measure, with the whole sovereign power, he made use of it to strike important blows. He was seen, at one and the same time, attacking the abuses in the naval department, in commerce, in the army, and among the nobility; issuing new ordinances; and severely chastising those who neglected their duty. He devoted his attention to the rebuilding of the capital, procured architects from all parts, built houses, erected palaces, retrieved the finances, and exerted himself, with success, to infuse vigour into the government. Scarcely had he begun to enjoy the fruit of his labours, when he had to encounter the horrid plot, formed by the Portuguese nobility, against the life of the

Sovereign. The ringleaders in this conspiracy were the first personages of the kingdom. At its head was the Duke of Aveiro; the Marquis de Tavora, his two sons, and the Counts d'Atonguia, d'Almeidas, and Poriza, were the chief conspirators among the grandees. The King's amorous intrigue with the Marchioness de Tavora, with whom he regularly spent his evenings, was one of their principal grievances, or, at least, one of their principal pretexts. The family of Tavora, resenting this disgrace, seemed but to wait for an occasion to revenge it; but their ambition was a still more powerful motive. The Tavoras, as well as the other grandees of the kingdom, were indignant at the implicit confidence, reposed by the King in the Marquis de Pombal, and they formed the plan of hurling him from the throne, and placing the eldest of their family upon it, in his stead.

The conspirators, who exceeded two hundred and fifty in number, fixed upon the moment when the King was repairing to his mistress, for putting their detestable project in execution. They posted themselves, in companies, along the road which he was to pass. He was in a chariot, drawn by two mules, driven by a postilion, and had his valet-de-chambre beside him. The conspirators did not fire till the carriage was in the midst of them. A shower of musket-balls was then discharged, and wounded the King in three places. His valet-de-chambre had the presence of mind to desire him to drop down in the bottom of the carriage, and to cover him with his body. The Duke of Aveiro himself attempted to shoot the postilion, but his carabine missed fire. The postilion, with equal courage and fidelity, suddenly turned the mules, and drove back in full speed to the palace, by a different way from what he had come.



The most dangerous of the King's wounds was in the shoulder, from which balls and other matters were extracted. Carvalho, who was just about to leave the palace, saw the King return, and was soon informed of what had happened. Ever firm, and calm in the most critical junctures, the first thing he did was to enjoin the postilion to keep the affair a profound secret. Notwithstanding this precaution, a report, that the King had been assassinated, instantly spread over the whole city ; and it is said to have been propagated by the conspirators themselves. The people, who were attached to their sovereign, hastened, in alarm, to the palace, whither great numbers of the nobility also repaired. The King shewed himself at the balcony ; the people were pacified with being told, that it was only the carriage which had been overturned, and that the King had received but a slight contusion. The Duke of Aveiro offered to arm himself,

in pursuit of the assassins, and bring them to the King. Carvalho exhorted him to be tranquil. Pretending to give credit to the sincerity of his zeal, he imparted false particulars, to him in confidence ; and, above all things, he recommended discretion. The Duke of Aveiro now considered himself out of all danger of suspicion. He was much detested at court, possessed great wealth, and belonged to the house of Bragança. Deformed both in body and mind, cruel, inhuman, restless, a professed enemy of Carvalho and the King, he was capable of any thing ; and the recesses of his soul had not escaped the penetration of the Marquis de Pombal.

The King soon recovered, and all seemed forgotten. Six months passed in the most profound silence respecting this event ; the nobility and the people had almost dismissed the circumstance from their thoughts ; but

Carvalho was privately collecting information, to detect the real perpetrators of the crime. He obtained the strongest proofs of their guilt ; but the more he was convinced that Aveiro and Tavora were implicated, with the greater distinction and favour he treated them. For one he procured the permission, which he solicited, to spend three months at his country-seat ; for the other, he obtained a commandery, for which he had applied, previous to the King's accident. The conspirators themselves were astonished at the conduct of the minister ; they all made themselves perfectly easy, and conceived that they had, now, nothing to fear. The way in which Carvalho came to the knowledge of the whole plot was as follows : A servant, who was in love with a female domestic, of the house of Tavora, was in the garden of that nobleman, waiting for his mistress, who had promised to meet him there, when the

conspirators, who met in the same place, arrived, and after reasoning on what had happened, formed another plot, from which they promised themselves better success. The servant, who had prudently kept himself concealed during this extraordinary conversation, instantly repaired to Carvalho, whom he apprized of all that he had seen and heard. The minister, to prevent the execution of this new conspiracy, determined, without loss of time, to inflict on the culprits the punishment which they had deserved.

To accomplish this design, without exciting any suspicion, he seized the opportunity afforded by the marriage of one of his daughters with the Count de Zampayo. The King signed the marriage-contract, and provided the entertainment given on the occasion. All the gentlemen belonging to the court were invited, and came from their

country-houses to be present at it. On the day appointed for the celebration of the nuptials, when both the court and the city were to be engaged in balls and diversions, the Marquis ordered ten battalions of infantry, and a great number of cavalry, to enter Lisbon. There were two grand balls: one at the palace of Belem, the other in a building, erected for such amusements by the English. Here all the most distinguished persons in the city were assembled, and here all the conspirators were apprehended at the same hour. They were immediately brought to trial, and eight days afterwards, ten of the principal were executed in front of the palace of Belem, along the Tagus. The Duke of Aveiro was quartered; the others were beheaded, or burned. The old Marchioness de Tavora, a violent and imperious woman, died with heroic courage, as well as her second son, only ten years of age. She herself, after tying a handkerchief over

her eyes, gave the executioner the signal to strike the fatal blow. The Duke of Aveiro, on the contrary, met death like a coward. Their bodies were burned, and their ashes thrown into the sea. The two families of Aveiro and Tavora were entirely destroyed. The palace of the former was demolished; the ground upon which it stood was sprinkled with salt, in order, as it was said, to prevent it from producing any thing. In the centre of this spot was afterwards erected a pillar, with an inscription, commemorating the crime, and the punishment of that nobleman. The greater part of the nobility were immured in prisons, from which they were not released, till the death of Joseph I. ; that is to say, after a confinement of nineteen years. Some few escaped. The young Marchioness de Tavora was shut up in a convent, where she still remains. The Jesuits, as I have already observed, being suspected of having a hand in this horrid

plot, were all expelled the kingdom, except about twenty Germans, who were thrown into confinement. Some, it is said, were, privately, executed in the prisons; as, for instance, Malos, a Portuguese, and Alexander, an Irishman. As to Father Malagrida, he was put to death by the sentence of the Inquisition, and not for the assassination of the King; for no proofs could be discovered sufficiently convincing to comprehend him in the list of the conspirators. He was burned as a heretic; and, among the charges preferred against him by the tribunal, he was accused of the crime of having written that, *the Virgin Mary spoke Latin in the womb of St. Anne*. The destruction of this man, who, as may easily be supposed, had given greater cause of offence than that which was made a pretext for his execution, had been predetermined. It is asserted, that he was not even asked any questions relative to the King's assassi-

nation, though he had been accused of having chiefly contributed to involve the Marchioness de Tavora in the conspiracy, by heightening her resentment against the court, where she was treated with the greatest contempt. It was easy for the fanatical Jesuit to avail himself of the twofold ascendancy, which devotion and wounded pride gave him over her mind, in order to lead her to the commission of a crime. At the moment when she was going to the scaffold, her husband, who was on the point of sharing the same fate, reproached her for having implicated her family in such an execrable project. In reply, she merely desired him to support his misfortune with the same courage as she did, and not to reproach her with it. The eldest son of the Duke of Aveiro is still living in a convent, in which he was confined, though innocent. Justice could no more sanction his



death, than policy suffer him to enjoy his liberty.

The city of Lisbon, including the suburbs, is nearly three leagues in length, and one in breadth. It lies in  $8^{\circ} 30'$  west long. and  $38^{\circ} 45'$  north lat. and contains upwards of one hundred thousand inhabitants. Respecting its origin, opinions widely differ. According to some, it was built by a grandson of Noah, named Eliza, in the year of the world 1935. According to another story, not quite so absurd, Ulysses, after the destruction of Troy, having passed the straits of Gibraltar, erected a town on the left bank of the Tagus, opposite to the present city, and gave it the name of Ulysopolis, which the Arabs changed to Lisbon. It afterwards became a Roman colony, and a municipal city under Julius Cæsar, who called it Felicitas Julia, to express, we are told, the pleasure which

he enjoyed during his residence there with a female of the name of Julia.

John I. after he was declared king, was desirous of testifying his gratitude to the city of Lisbon, by the grant of certain prerogatives. In 1385, he honoured it with the title of the capital, and made it the ordinary residence of the sovereign. In this manner he rewarded it for the zeal which it had shewn to elect him king, when he was only regent. He likewise resolved that the first *relação*, or court of justice, of his kingdom, should meet there, that he might be enabled to execute, with the greater promptitude, such *declarations* as it might pass for the good of the state and of his subjects. This court is composed of a president, a chancellor, and ten *dezembargadores*, or judges. Almost all causes are referred to this tribunal. In the *casa de supplicar*, all matters brought before it, by

appeal, are, finally, and, peremptorily, determined.

Instructors in the arts of drawing, dancing, and fencing, are very few in Lisbon. They have some, however, for these several attainments, at the college of the nobles, whence they go and give lessons in the city. The science of music is much cultivated in the capital. Concerts are the principal amusements of the Portuguese, and they have some amateurs who would do no discredit to any musical society. They also excel in horsemanship, and sit the animal with firmness and grace, especially at Lisbon.

The Portuguese, naturally reserved, are more so in Lisbon than elsewhere. They associate mostly together. The embellishments, the conveniences, the enjoyments of life, are, almost exclusively, centred

in their dwellings. Their taste for the country, and for all that it affords, has, however, contributed to enliven the suburbs of Lisbon. The outskirts are well cultivated. Gardens and country-seats are sprinkled about in profusion; and on whichever side that city is approached, whether by land or sea, every thing combines to bespeak a most delightful town—on entering the city, the illusion vanishes.

For the commerce of the capital and kingdom of Portugal, I must be content to refer to the excellent Travels of the noble author from whom I have already made so copious extracts, not doubting that the information they contain on that and on every subject connected with the country, will be far from unsatisfactory.

The two succeeding days, our progress, from the adverse winds, was little towards

the port we were so anxious to gain; and our only resource, in this trial of patience, was a constant attention to the appearance of any strange sail, that might become a prize, and of which our success had made us the more sanguine; but the dawn of Wednesday, the 22d, opened to a calm that was soon succeeded by a favouring breeze, which wafted us along at a great rate. The following morning, we found ourselves in soundings of the British Channel. About ten in the forenoon, a strange man of war was seen, from the mast-head, on our weather bow, which, on an exchange of numbers (men of war have a distinguishing number, expressed by signal, on first coming in sight, to denote the name, rate, &c.), proved to be our gallant Admiral's ship the *Antelope*, thus far on her passage from Newfoundland. On our communicating by Sir Home Popham's ingenious and useful code of telegraph signals, that

we had, on Sunday morning last, in lat.  $45^{\circ} 40'$ , long.  $10^{\circ} 50'$ , seen an enemy's squadron, &c. and on that evening captured a fine French privateer, then a few miles astern of us, she having hauled off to examine a strange sail, the Admiral backed his main-topsail, and desired us to pass within hail, and communicate particulars.

We now stood on, in the intention to make the land, and as evening began to close in, saw the Scilly Isles, famous for their dangers to the sailor, being surrounded, for a considerable distance, by rocks and breakers. Here you receive an impression of the superiority of our navigation, and the care taken to prevent, as much as possible, the terrors of the wreck; for as Scilly is considerably more dangerous, from the many sunken rocks, &c. than any other point, in approaching or going up Channel,

so it is wisely marked by a beacon peculiar to itself, formed by a revolving flame, which gives light every instant, and leaves no hesitation to the pilot in respect to a knowledge of the dangers he is approaching.

We now seemed quite happy ; a favouring gale carried us past the western circuit with astonishing quickness : the next morning we saw the Isle of Wight, and, in the afternoon, cast our anchor at St. Helen's.

I know not a more gratifying sensation than the return to our beloved country from a foreign clime ; and here she presents a scene that would vie with any picture the world could produce. On the right is seen the majestic spire of Chichester ; and, on the left, the beautiful island of Wight, that forms so complete a shelter to our navy, and places the roadstead of Spithead beyond competition. The vast range of ships that

extend far as the eye can reach, impresses the beholder with the extent of our commerce ; and the large arsenal of Portsmouth, with a conviction of our being lords of the mighty main, while the science displayed in the fortifications of that town, is calculated to establish a competition with the most complete masters of that branch of the art of war.

The next morning was one of the most serenely beautiful I ever saw ; and as we weighed to work up to Spithead, from which a large convoy of ships was standing out, with a fair breeze ; every tack brought us nearer and nearer to the anchorage, whence we had, six months before, taken our departure.

I cannot imagine a greater treat to a physiognomist than to contemplate the various expression of countenance of a number of



persons of different rank, connexions, and interests, but generally governed by the same honourable sentiments of attachment to their native land, and the beloved objects it contains, and which is no where to be found so strongly marked as in the features of the officers and crew, just coming to a well-known port, after a long and successful cruize. The kind husband, the indulgent father, the affectionate son, and the anxious lover, are seen in their variety of feeling and character, all actuated by a different sentiment, but emanating from the same noble source—a good and brave heart.

At two o'clock on this day, November 25th, the Vestal anchored at Spithead. It would be a seeming ingratitude not to express the comfort and happiness, I venture to say, we all experienced during our tour through the Atlantic.

Every person who has seen the nature of public service, is fully aware of the influence and power vested in the commanding officer. Captain Graham has the peculiar manner of commanding the hearts as well as the actions of his people; and, by his general indulgence and conciliatory manners, commands the respect and ready obedience of his officers: thus it was impossible, with the general correctness, experience, and gentlemanly manners, of my messmates, that I should not look forward to the prospect of a future voyage, with a firm expectation of enjoying all the advantages I have hitherto done in so eminent a degree, and of the anticipation of results advantageous to my own, and glorious to my country's, interests.

THE END.