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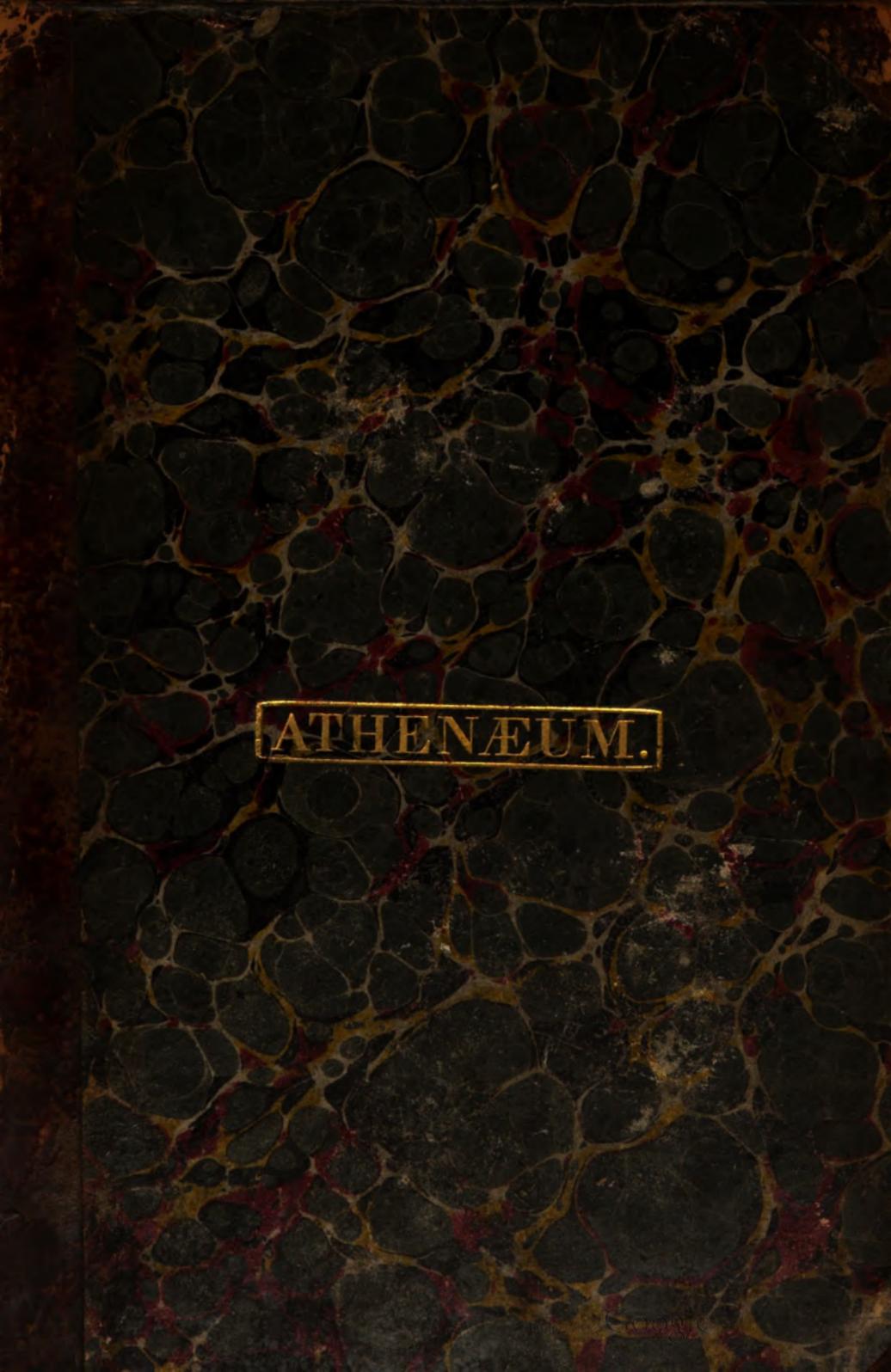
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The image shows the front cover of an antique book. The cover is decorated with a traditional marbled paper pattern, often called a 'stone' or 'shell' pattern, featuring irregular, cell-like shapes in shades of dark green, black, and brown, with thin veins of yellow and red. The marbling is set against a dark, possibly black, background. In the center of the cover, the word 'ATHENÆUM.' is printed in a gold, serif, all-caps font. The text is enclosed within a thin, rectangular gold border. The overall appearance is that of a well-used, historical volume.

ATHENÆUM.

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BELGIUM AND HOLLAND ;

WITH

A SKETCH OF THE REVOLUTION

IN THE YEAR 1830.

BY

PRYSE L. GORDON, Esq.

Author of "A Guide into Italy" and "Memoirs and Reminiscences of
Men and Manners, at Home and Abroad, during
the last Half Century."

"He's wide awake—and been among the people."

VOL. I.



LONDON :

SMITH, ELDER, & CO. CORNHILL.

MDCCCXXXIV.

ABERDEEN :
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HERALD OFFICE.



TO THE
RIGHT HONOURABLE LORD PANMURE,

&c. &c. &c.

MY LORD,

Having been honoured with your permission, I have now to present to your Lordship my "Sketches of Belgium and Holland," availing myself of this opportunity to testify my sincere respect for you, and my heartfelt gratitude for your unceasing kindness and great personal favours, continued to me during a period of forty years.

In these volumes, besides sketches of the manners, customs, and habits of the Belgians and Dutch, I have also ventured to give a short account of the memorable struggle at Brussels, in the year 1830, and of the causes which led to the integrity and independence of the former. A revolution which, I trust my readers will see, resulted from no fickle love of change in that nation, but from a pure desire to emancipate themselves from the justly odious and oppressive government of King William, and to obtain one more in unison with the principles of rational liberty.

In dedicating these Sketches to your Lordship, I feel confident that I offer them to one who has always been the stanch friend and defender of the constitutional rights and privileges of mankind, when threatened to be trampled on by arbitrary power.

That your Lordship may live long to see that constitutional liberty, which you have ever advocated, extended to those nations who, at this moment, are groaning under the evils of despotism, and who, unhappily, know little of the blessings of the glorious constitution we enjoy in this free country, is ever the prayer of,

MY LORD,

Your Lordship's much obliged and
grateful Friend and Servant,

PRYSE L. GORDON.

LONDON, *1st October*, 1834.

P R E F A C E .



THE Author of the following Sketches published, in 1828, a small Volume, entitled "A Companion for the Visitor at Brussels, with a Tour into Italy," which was so favourably received, that the first Edition was disposed of in a few months, and, when he was about to give a second, the bankruptcy of his Publishers, and his own indisposition, prevented him from fulfilling his intention.

Since that time, and during a long residence in Belgium and Holland, he has collected materials for a more enlarged Work on these countries, with some details of the Revolution in 1830, which he now offers to the Public; and, as they contain a

short view of the Society and Manners of the inhabitants, with Hints for the use of his countrymen who may be induced to visit that part of the Continent, or to economise at Brussels, he trusts that his instructions will enable them to attain their proposed aim.

The subjects are so miscellaneous, that he has found some difficulty in arranging them so as to form a connected narrative, and being written at so many different periods, some of his remarks may appear to be at variance, many circumstances having occurred in the interim, which occasioned him to change his opinions on certain subjects that more mature deliberation might have induced him afterwards to view differently. It is, at the same time, natural to suppose, that the Flemings, who had for several centuries been under the dominion of so many despotic governments, should also have undergone changes after they were formed into a kingdom, during a period of sixteen years, which these details comprehend.

The limited size of the Work does not permit him to give more than a slight sketch of the Revolution, but he trusts it will be found sufficiently copious to enable the Reader to form a just estimate of the causes which produced an event that has attracted the attention of the whole civilized world for four years.

Having also, through the kindness of a friend, procured documents from the pen of a highly-talented gentleman, one of the principal actors in the struggle, and well acquainted with its details, the Reader may be assured of their correctness and authenticity.

LONDON, *1st October, 1834.*

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VOL. I.

Town-House of Louvain,	Frontispiece.
Peasants,	to face page 158
Female Trader,	„ 229

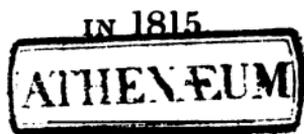
These Traders, although they have a license for hawking, are notorious smugglers. The person here represented is a dealer in linen, and is well known on the French frontiers.

VOL. II.

Cathedral of Antwerp,	Frontispiece.
Head Dress of a Young Woman of Alkmaar,	to face page 50
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SKETCH OF THE HISTORY
OF
BELGIUM AND HOLLAND,
PREVIOUS TO THEIR UNION



WHILE many other parts of Europe were groaning under an iron despotism, and in a comparative state of ignorance, Flanders was the residence of a rational liberty, and the seat of literature and the arts. The ships of Antwerp, of Bruges, and of Ghent, were the general carriers of Europe, and monopolized almost its whole commerce; and agriculture was nowhere so well understood.

The Dutch made a glorious struggle against their Spanish tyrants, and finally established

Note.—This was written during the prosperity of the country in 1827.

their independence. In Holland, the tourist will be presented with the wonderful triumph of human industry and skill over the apparently insuperable difficulties they had to overcome—of draining their marshes—and of retaining the sea within its limits. By the glorious deeds of the allied army at Waterloo, these interesting countries have been formed into a kingdom, and, it is to be hoped, established on a permanent footing.

Little is known of the Netherlands or its inhabitants previous to its conquest by the Romans; they made a long and fierce resistance to the armies of Julius Cæsar, but in vain did they oppose their *ozier* shields against the well-disciplined legions of the highly-trained bands they had to oppose; neither courage nor patriotism could resist the invaders, and the fortune of the Romans prevailed.

If this early history of Cæsar's campaigns is to be believed, out of 60,000 warriors which the *Belgæ* brought into the field, a few hundreds only survived. The *Batavi* who had not joined the confederacy, prudently held out the olive branch to Cæsar, and despatched ambassadors to offer an alliance with him. They were well received, and this tribe became the ally of the Romans without making any struggle for their liberty.

The assistance of the Batavi proved of such consequence to Cæsar in his contest with Pompey, and so soon did they rival their allies in discipline and bravery, that Augustus chose them for his body guard. On the other hand, the Hollanders were under great obligations to the Romans; Claudius Drusus, a few years previous to the Christian era, began the noble canal from Zutpen to the Yssel, which yet bears his name. It is likewise alleged that he elevated the first bank against the encroachment of the sea; and thus he may be considered as the founder of these immense dykes which are justly the pride of the Dutch, and the admiration of the world.

The earldoms of Flanders, Holland, and Hainault, were successively established as civilization advanced; under the former, the southern provinces attained a considerable degree of splendour and power. Philip the Good displayed at Bruges a magnificence which few sovereigns could rival, and a power that none dared to provoke.

The princes among whom the Low Countries were divided, were engaged in perpetual wars and feuds with their neighbouring potentates, and with each other. In these contests their personal and hereditary revenues were frequent-

ly exhausted, and they were compelled often to have recourse to the generosity of their subjects. The people, feeling their power, judiciously refused these supplies, except on certain conditions favourable to their liberty ; and they gradually extorted from their rulers so many concessions, that the provinces became a species of republics.

The supreme authority was nominally lodged in the person of the magistrate, but actually in the assembly of the representatives of the people, which met whenever it was deemed by them expedient, independent of, or even often contrary to, the pleasure of the sovereign. Without the concurrence of this assembly, no war could be undertaken, no taxes could be imposed, no new laws enacted, and no prince, although the government was hereditary, was allowed to assume the sceptre, until he had solemnly sworn to observe and to maintain the fundamental laws of the country.

In this situation the provinces of the Netherlands remained a long time ; yet, notwithstanding, they gradually increased in power, commerce, and civilization. Many ages passed before any events occurred worthy to be related in this brief sketch. At length, by intermarriages, by conquest, and by the failure of the male line in some of the reigning families, they

all fell under the dominion of the house of Burgundy about the middle of the fifteenth century.

After this event, the provinces continued to enjoy their ancient privileges, and to be governed by their own laws.

Under the administration of the Princes of Burgundy, and even long before, trade and manufactures flourished in the Netherlands more than in any European state, and no city, Venice excepted, possessed such extensive trade as Antwerp. It contained 200,000 inhabitants; Bruges nearly as many; and Ghent (or Gand) boasted a still greater population than even the French metropolis—hence the calembourg of Henry IV. that he could put Paris into his *Gand* [glove]. More than 100,000 artificers were employed there in the woollen manufacture, long before the art of weaving cloth was known in England.

It is interesting and important to inquire into the causes of this unequalled prosperity at this early period of history.

The State of the Netherlands was certainly much indebted to its situation—it lay in the centre of Europe; and, by commanding the navigation of several of the great rivers of Germany and France, she was enabled to carry her pro-

duce to all parts of the world ; their towns being intersected by these rivers, and canals, and branches of the sea, admirably fitting them for foreign and inland trade. But these advantages would have never enabled the Flemings to leave the other European nations so far behind them, if the form of their government had not been peculiarly favourable to their exertions. The greatest advantage which nature affords for improvement, either in commerce or in the arts of life, will be rendered useless by an injudicious or tyrannical exercise of the laws, if the person is insecure, or if the fruits of industry and economy may be seized by the rapacious hands of a despotic prince ; for it cannot be expected that men will apply themselves with vigour to commercial pursuits, without the protection of the government.

Happily for the inhabitants of the Low Countries, the small extent of the principalities, and the constant necessities of their princes, rendered it impolitic, and even impossible, for the sovereign to exercise any plan of tyranny against the people ; and, being aware of this, he sanctioned with a good grace those fundamental laws which, although they abridged his authority and prerogatives, yet greatly augmented his power and resources by the prosperity which a

moderate government allowed his subjects to obtain In no country in the world were the sovereigns so powerful in proportion to the extent of their territories, nor any where did the people exhibit such attachment to their prince. At the death of Charles the Bold, in 1447, the government of the Netherlands descended to his daughter, Mary, while the Duchy of Burgundy became united to the crown of France. Mary, or rather her evil counsellors (who took advantage of her youth and inexperience), showed, too evidently, a disposition to encroach on the liberties of the Flemings ; and, being detected in a correspondence with her plotting father to effect this purpose, two of her ministers were impeached by the States-general and convicted of treason against their country, and condemned to die ! In vain the Princess resorted to entreaties and threats to save them from death ; in vain she rushed on the scaffold, dissolved in tears, and supplicated their pardon ; the States were inflexible, and the executioner inflicted the fatal blow in her very presence ! In the summer of the same year, Mary was married to Maximilian, son of Frederic III. Emperor of Germany, and, by this union, the Netherlands passed under the dominion of Austria.

Many years under this new dynasty passed with the marked desire for despotic power, with frequent artful attempts at encroachment on one side, and watchful resistance on the other, until Charles V. the grandson of Maximilian, assumed the reins of government. This monarch might easily have subdued them had he been inclined to use his power ungenerously; but though an arbitrary temper had sufficiently appeared in his administration of Spain and Germany, where he had often trampled on the dearest rights of the people, yet Charles being born in the Netherlands, and having passed there the best of his days, he loved the Flemings for their manners—less reserved and stately than those of the Spaniards, they accorded better with his habits and tastes; he therefore restrained his love of despotic power within pretty moderate bounds, and permitted them to enjoy the freedom which they so highly prized. The Flemings were grateful for this kindness. They liberally assisted him in the wars in which he was almost continually engaged; and, except his atrocious conduct in punishing the *Gantois* so barbarously, for having resisted the payment of an arbitrary tax, no considerable disturbance occurred during his reign in the Netherlands; yet the blood he shed on that

occasion greatly sullied his fame, and counter-balanced his former popularity, and the splendour of many acts of his government; the only excuse that can be offered for executing such vengeance on the citizens of Ghent, is, his having been excited to its perpetration by his general and confidant, the bloody-minded Alva.

Charles would gladly have transmitted to his son, Philip, the affection which he bore towards the Flemings, and the warm attachment and loyalty they had displayed towards him; for this purpose he invited him to Flanders, and, when Charles formed the extravagant and romantic resolution of retiring from the world, this constituted a prominent feature in the eloquent and pathetic exhortation he addressed to him.

But Philip could not enter into his father's views, nor love a people whose habits and manners were so different from his own; in fact, he was a tyrant in his heart, and neither example nor precept could improve it. He was the child of bigotry and superstition; for he had scarcely mounted the throne, when he revived every inhuman edict, and commanded the magistrates to carry his orders into execution. He was even heard to declare that, if executioners were wanted to give full effect to the bloody

decrees of the Inquisition, he would himself assume the office, and that he would rather be without subjects than reign over *heretics*!

Every man who taught what he considered heretical doctrines; every man who was even present at a meeting of heretics, was ordered to be put to death by the sword, and every woman buried alive! A pecurial tribunal was organized for the suppression of heresy. Persons were committed to prison on bare suspicion, and tortured on the slightest pretence. The accused were not confronted with those who denounced them, nor even made acquainted with the crimes for which they were arraigned; and, when condemned, knew not for what cause they suffered. Their estates and chattels were confiscated, and their families reduced to beggary! It is astonishing that, in a country where the people had so long enjoyed so much freedom, not a single sword "flew from its scabbard" to extirpate from the face of the earth such a monster!

The Protestant religion had lately been widely and rapidly diffused through Belgium. It had been imported by the French, and German, and English refugees, who had escaped from the persecutions carried on against them for their religious opinions in their own countries.

Charles had endeavoured to extirpate this growing heresy. He had recourse to the faggot and to the sword ; but when numbers of the most industrious and valuable of his subjects fled from his power, when he saw his noblest provinces beginning to be depopulated, and when the commerce, which was enriching other countries that distinguished his own, was daily diminishing, he wisely recalled his cruel orders, and permitted the Flemings to worship God as their consciences dictated.

Unhappily Philip did not follow this wise plan ; on the contrary, he enforced his diabolical persecutions by inundating the country with Spanish soldiers ; these lived at free quarters on the inhabitants, and committed, with impunity, every kind of outrage. The Flemings, at first, offered no resistance, but they refused to work on the dykes, saying, " That they preferred being swallowed up by the ocean, to remaining a prey to the terrors of the Inquisition and the licentiousness of the soldiery."

The States-general, at the same time, remonstrated against these oppressions ; but Philip, who was naturally haughty and unyielding, who considered the liberties claimed by the Protestants in religious matters as utterly incompatible with his thirst for despotic power,

and who had taken a solemn oath to devote his reign to the defence of the Popish faith and the extirpation of heresy, was immoveable.

Driven to absolute despair, the people rose *en masse* against their oppressors in many parts, but, being undisciplined, and but ill provided with arms, they were easily subdued. These insurrections afforded Philip new pretexts to give free licence to his bigotry and revenge.

The Duke of Alva, who delighted in blood, was despatched into the Netherlands to torture and destroy. He was an agent well suited to execute the designs of his master, and he entered on his execrable office with a demoniacal zeal. No age, sex, or condition was spared; many, who had been only once present at a Protestant assembly, even though they declared their faith in the Catholic religion to be firm and unshaken, were hanged or drowned; while those, who professed themselves Protestants, were put to the rack to force them to discover their associates! Hundreds were dragged by horses to the place of execution, their bodies committed to the flames, and their sufferings prolonged with ingenious cruelty!

Many of these noble martyrs bore unshaken testimonies to the truth in the very extremity of their sufferings. To prevent the good ex-

ample of this heroic conduct on the spectators, the tongues of some were torn out, others had them burned with a glowing iron, and many were screwed into machines contrived to produce the most horrible pain ! Wives were put to death for affording shelter to their husbands ; and, a father, in one instance, was executed for allowing his son, who had returned from banishment, to lodge *one* night under his roof ! During the administration of this monster in human shape, 18,000 persons suffered by the hands of the public executioner !

Resistance was ineffectual and seldom attempted, for the partial insurrections which took place were easily suppressed, and furnished an excuse for more aggravated cruelties. Their only safety was in flight ; and thousands of refugees carried to other countries the industry and the skill for which the Netherlands had been for many years so distinguished. It is said that more than 100,000 houses were abandoned. The population of the principal cities was evidently much diminished, while many of the smaller *communes* were almost desolate. A great proportion of these emigrants sought refuge in England, where they were kindly received by Elizabeth. That Princess was well rewarded for the asylum she wisely

afforded to these unfortunate persons, by the introduction into her kingdom of many branches of manufacture with which her subjects had been before unacquainted. From this period we may date the origin of English manufactures (in many branches) in the kingdom.

Many of these exiles could not, however, forget the land that gave them birth, and which was endeared to them by a thousand ties and recollections. Under the Prince of Orange, and assisted by some auxiliary troops from the German Protestant princes, they determined to make one noble effort to deliver their country; but, unhappily, they were soon defeated and dispersed by the arch-fiend, the Duke of Alva.

The cause of freedom and humanity now seemed desperate, all attempts at insurrection had ceased. They who were best capable of defending their country's liberties had either perished on the scaffold, or submitted to voluntary banishment; those who remained brooded over their miseries in silent despair, when Alva, adding absurdity and folly to tyranny and oppression, roused the dormant spirit of resistance, and excited a universal rebellion, which gave employment to the armies of Spain for half a century, exhausted the vigour, ruined the repu-

tation of that monarchy, and terminated in the glory, freedom, and independence of the united provinces.

The Flemings had never been accustomed to be taxed by their princes, the power of taxation having belonged to the Assembly of the States ; and, when the prince had occasion for money, he petitioned for a supply, which they either granted or refused at their pleasure. But, Alva, without any previous application to the Assembly, and of his own simple authority, now proceeded to levy taxes more oppressive than the people could have borne in their most flourishing condition, and he enforced the payment with a rigour hitherto unexampled. This increased the general discontent, and spirited remonstrances being ineffectual, a general insurrection took place.

It may appear surprising, that the imposition of taxes, however burdensome, should have wrought more powerfully on the minds of the Flemings, and excited them to open rebellion, rather than the cruel persecutions which had been exercised with such unrelenting fury on account of religion ; but this feeling may be accounted for from the innate love of money which the Dutch and Flemings have always been characterized as possessing ; and, besides, the per-

secution had extended only to a certain number of individuals, whereas the taxes spared no one.

Our limits do not permit us to enter into a detail of the sanguinary and ferocious war which now commenced.

The Flemings called to their assistance William, Prince of Orange, the representative of the ancient and illustrious House of Nassau, who inherited large possessions in the Netherlands. Never was any man better qualified for the arduous task of delivering an injured people from the yoke of oppression. To vigilance, application, and sagacity, he united a singular tact, in conciliating the affections of men. He proved himself what the Hollanders of the present day fondly call him, "The father of his country, and the guardian of its liberties and laws." He generously sacrificed his interest, his ease, and his safety, to the public good; and, after an arduous contest, in which he experienced alternate reverses and successes, in which he did more than had ever been before accomplished, he fixed on a firm foundation the independence of Holland.*

In 1579, he brought about the treaty of

* How different has been the conduct of his successor, King William! 1833.

Utrecht, by which the seven united provinces entered into a solemn confederacy to support each other in the assertion of their civil and religious ceremonies. Brabant and Flanders, overrun by Spanish troops, torn by religious feuds, and weakened by inveterate bigotry, again submitted to wear their chains. The northern provinces, however, bravely maintained the struggle, and, in 1609, compelled the Spaniards to acknowledge their independence.

From this time the country was known by the two grand divisions of Belgium (or the Netherlands) and Holland. The former remained under the dominion of Spain; and pitiable, indeed, was the situation of these ill-fated provinces. By emigration, by the hand of the executioner, and by the sword, a great part had been depopulated; and only a few of those who had remained had the means of cultivating the soil to afford them bread. Innumerable multitudes actually died of want, and pestilential diseases (which famine and unwholesome food produced) completed this picture of misery. In Antwerp, Brussels, and other towns, many persons of the better classes, after selling their furniture and personal effects, were reduced to beggary. In Brabant and Flanders, several

villages were entirely deserted ; and, from the solitude and desolation which prevailed, wolves and other beasts of prey so rapidly multiplied, that more than 100 persons were devoured by these ferocious animals within two miles of Ghent, the most cultivated district of the Netherlands at that period.

The ten provinces, under the milder administration that succeeded, gradually recruited their population and their wealth ; but the principal part of their trade was irrecoverably lost. Amsterdam monopolized all the commerce of Antwerp and Bruges ; and, although these places are still interesting to the traveller, and the former rapidly regaining its previous consideration, they are but the shadow of what they were.

The Netherlands remained under the government of Spain, until the memorable battle of Ramillies, in 1706, when Brussels, and a great part of the provinces, acknowledged Charles VI. afterwards Emperor of Germany, for their Sovereign. The House of Austria retained possession of them for forty years, when the Emperor, in 1788, assumed prerogatives beyond what the Flemings were inclined to allow him, and a rebellion was the result.

The rigorous measures which Joseph had

adopted in order to quell this insurrection exasperated the most moderate. The whole provinces flew to arms, and, before the close of the year, the *Patriots*, as they called themselves, were in possession of every town in Belgium except Antwerp.

Had the Emperor lived a few months longer, the Low Countries would have been for ever lost to the House of Austria; but events were preparing which, in a short time, would at any rate have wrested them from their old masters. At this critical period he died, and Leopold, whose disposition was known to be mild and benevolent, succeeding, and, by judiciously commencing his reign with gentle and conciliating measures,* the Flemings were again induced to submit to the Austrian government at the close of the year 1790.

The events of the French Revolution are so well known, that we abstain from entering into any detail of their effects on the Netherlands, except to state, that on the 24th May, 1806, Holland was declared a separate kingdom, and bestowed by Napoleon on his brother Louis. He proved, however, but the symbol of royalty,

* It is to be hoped that King Leopold will follow this example. 1830.

without any of its privileges, and merely the slave of the Emperor. It is said, however, that had he been permitted to exercise the functions of a king, he was desirous to promote the happiness and prosperity of the people over whom he was sent to govern; but he shortly found that mild and conciliatory measures would be inconsistent with Napoleon's views, who wished him to sanction a system of tyranny that the nature of Louis's mind abhorred, as it would impoverish and finally ruin the nation he had sworn to protect; he, therefore, resigned his empty honours on the 30th June, 1810, but whether this was altogether a voluntary act, or that he was *dismissed* by the tyrant of France, has not been well ascertained. Holland was now once more incorporated with France, and the Dutch experienced their full share of oppression and injury; their trade completely annihilated, and their coffers emptied by robbery, under the denomination of contribution. It was, therefore, with joy that they hailed the overthrow of the scourge of Europe.

The cry of "*Orange Boven*" was enthusiastically spread from town to town with one simultaneous voice and movement. On the 13th November, 1813, they every where expelled the oppressors of their country, while, with a

dignity worthy of freemen, they disdained to wreak their vengeance on a fallen foe. The Stadtholder was invited, by the Holy Alliance, to resume his former government, and Holland again looked forward to prosperity and happiness, of which she has now the fairest prospect. Succeeding events placed the whole of Belgium at the disposal of the allies, who, in the Congress of Vienna, determined to annex it to Holland, and thus form a barrier against the power of France on that frontier.

The 66th article of the Act of the Congress of Vienna declares that, "The old united provinces, together with the Duchy of Luxemburg, shall form, under the Prince of Orange, Nassau, the kingdom of the Netherlands." The inauguration took place at Brussels in July, 1815, shortly after the battle of Waterloo.

The Belgians, who were at first reported to be unfriendly to the union, jealous of the Dutch, and disaffected to a Protestant king, have shown, by the noble share they bore in the memorable fields of Quatre Bras and Waterloo, that they valued the privileges conferred on them, whilst the heir-apparent has proved himself worthy of reigning (should he at some future day be called to the throne), by shedding his blood in their defence.

The Belgians had, no doubt, great cause of displeasure at their union with Holland, in being saddled with so large a share of public debts which they did not contract, and they naturally grumbled at first on the great addition to their taxes, but they shortly discovered that it was better to pay for a mild government, and the enjoyment of their civil and religious rights, than a continuance of the miseries they had endured during the despotic military tyranny of their French rulers ; and that a small standing army of militia and a guard *Burgeois* was less oppressive than arbitrary contributions and conscriptions, which impoverished and deprived them, at the caprice of a tyrant, of the hopes of their families. There is no longer the necessity of burning the manufactures of England for the purpose of ruining their ancient allies ; they can now rival them in various branches, and, at this moment (1829), the *Gantois* can boast of having 35,000 cotton spinners and weavers in constant employment, while, at Seraing, on the Meuse, there is an iron foundry on a greater scale than, perhaps, any other similar establishment in Europe, where steam engines, and every kind of machine for the fabrication of wool, cotton, and flax, are manufactured, as well as in England, by Messrs.

Cockerill—4000 hands being in constant employment. New canals are opening to facilitate internal commerce, and a superb *chemin ferrée* traverses the Pays de Luxemburg from the Meuse to the Moselle. In short, no country in Europe is in a more prosperous state than the Netherlands

The King, shortly after, began to substitute his own *ordonnances* in lieu of the laws he had sworn to, with various other acts of despotism.*

SKETCH OF THE CONSTITUTION AND LAWS PREVIOUS TO THE REVOLUTION.

THE kingdom of the Netherlands contains the former Belgian provinces, the old united provinces (Holland), with the grand Duchy of Luxemburg. It is bounded on the south by France (from the frontier of which it is distant about 40 miles), on the north, by the North Sea and the German Ocean, and on the east, by Prussia and the dominions of Hanover.

* Written in 1827.

Its extreme length is 280 miles, and 180 in breadth ; the population of Holland is calculated at 275 to a square mile, and of Flanders, 252 ; the Pays de Luxemburg has not yet been accurately ascertained, but the population of the whole kingdom by the last census in 1822, was 5,500,000. Perhaps no country in Europe produces so much food for "man and beast" as the Netherlands, in proportion to its size. In this observation we do not include Holland, as it is not a corn country. Except on the banks of the Meuse, the Pays de Liege, and Luxemburg, it is a champaign country, and from Brussels to Flushing a dead flat.

We have already stated that the Netherlands continued under the dominion of Spain till the battle of Ramillies.

In 1792, Dumourier, after his victory at Genappes, took possession of the Netherlands in the name of the French republic, but, the following year, the Austrians again made themselves masters of almost the whole of it, though they were forced to abandon it to France, when it was incorporated into that republic, forming a part of the "*Grand Nation*." It was once more, and we hope for ever, separated in 1813, from its rapacious neighbours, although, from

its situation and fertility, it will always remain a bone of contention in new wars.

In Holland, the tenets of Calvin prevail, and, in Belgium, the Catholic religion; but this is not the cause of any dissension. The Dutch have always been celebrated for their liberality, and truly Christian charity, in religious opinions; a quarrel, or even an unpleasant feeling on subjects of religious controversy, was unknown, every kind of worship being permitted, provided it did not interfere with the laws.

“We are citizens of Holland, let us *agree to differ* without anger,” was the unanswerable argument. The good effects of this accord were found even under the cruelties of Philip. Protestants and Catholics fought side by side, and endured together the calamities of that frightful period.

Protestant chapels are now established in many of the Belgian towns, and a complete toleration, with the exercise of every religion, freely permitted.

The government of the different provinces had been for many centuries thus favourable to civil and religious liberty. The Belgians, jealous of their rights and privileges, strenuously maintained them amidst all their vicissitudes, and against the most powerful monarchs. The

leading principles of the government then introduced are still retained.

Since it has been formed into a kingdom, it has been ruled in a great measure by the code of Napoleon, but there is now before the States-general projects of a new code, which will be shortly promulgated. In the mean time, we shall give a slight sketch of such parts of it as have transpired, and add a short account of the laws and constitution sufficient for the settler or tourist to know.

The name, alone, of the chief magistrate has been changed. The Stadtholder is no longer known ; but the King, with nearly the same prerogatives, now sways the sceptre.

The Englishman will observe a great similarity between the constitution of the Netherlands and that of England, and though it is not, in many cases, so liberal to the subject, it may be considered the best of any State on the continent.

The northern provinces retain their former names, and the southern are divided into the several districts by which they were anciently known, with the addition of the Pays de Luxemburg.

The *Etats Generaux*, or Houses of Parliament, consist of two chambers, Lords and Commons.

No new law can emanate from the former, it can only deliberate on the project (*projet*) of laws which have been presented to it by the King or the Council of State; but it possesses the power of petitioning the Council to propose any new law. With the second chamber also resides the right of levying all taxes. All the members are not elected at once as in England, but *one-third* is renewed every year. The whole number is 110, which is considered sufficient for the population of the kingdom,* and, as the government has but little influence or patronage on the annual elections, they may be supposed independent. There are no rotten boroughs nor great Lords to sway the votes of election!

The House of Peers (*Pairs*) stands between the sovereign and the people, and professes to restrain the encroachments of either. No new law can emanate from it, and it has simply the power of rejecting or approving the *projet* submitted to its consideration.

The right of petition is judiciously established, as in all other States who boast of a constitutional freedom.

The members of each chamber are distinguished by the title of "Noble" and "Puissant

* This, however, is not admitted by the Liberaux.

Seigneurs.” The regular sitting of each chamber commences on the third Monday in October, and is held alternately at Brussels and the Hague ; but the King is empowered to call an extraordinary meeting when he thinks this expedient, a prerogative of which he seldom avails himself.

With the King resides the power of making war or peace, appointing ministers, ambassadors, and judges ; convoking, proroguing or dissolving the Parliament, approving or rejecting the projects of laws, and every executive function.

The person of the monarch is inviolable, and his ministers are responsible for every act of maladministration. Yet it appears that the ministers are only responsible to the King, if a declaration of one of them can be considered authority.

Every arbitrary arrest of the person is illegal. If, on urgent occasions, the government causes an individual to be arrested, he must, within three days, be brought before the judge to whom the law assigns him. This is equivalent to the act of *habeas corpus* in England, and is of great importance to justice and to suppress tyranny.

The unjust penalty of confiscation is abolished. The judges are independent, and appoint-

ed for life by the King, on the presentation of the provincial States-general.

All judicial sentences must be pronounced in public, with the reasons on which they are founded. The trial by jury, however, is abolished even in criminal cases.

The abode of every citizen is inviolable.

No classes are exempt from the taxes except the royal family, who only pay the land-tax.

Every subject of the King is eligible to all employments, without distinction of birth or religious belief.

All individuals residing on the territory of the kingdom, whether natural or stranger, enjoy the protection which the laws afford to persons and to property.

None may be member of the States-general, or chief of any ministerial office, councillor of State, king's attorney, or member of the High Court of Justice, but those born in the kingdom or its colonies.

The *naturals* of the kingdom, or those who, by the law, are naturalized, are admissible to all other functions.

The King has the direction of foreign affairs, appoints and revokes the ministers and consuls. Though the King declares war, and makes peace, he submits to the chambers all documents ne-

cessary for the security of the kingdom. He has the right to conclude and ratify all treaties and public transactions. He disposes of all military employments, appoints the officers, and dismisses them at his pleasure.

The supreme direction of the colonies appertains to the King. He has the supreme direction of the finances, settles the salaries of all the public functionaries ; but that of the judges is settled by law.

The King confers nobility, and those who receive titles present the diplomas of their estates (military officers excepted), and enjoy all the privileges.

The King may mitigate the sentences of courts martial and the other courts of justice, and may grant free pardons with the advice of the high court.

All new laws are presented by his majesty to the States-general.

There is for the kingdom only one code of laws, whether civil, criminal, or commercial.

Each individual is guaranteed the peaceful possession and enjoyment of his property, and none can be deprived of it except for the public good, pursuant to law.

The first duty of every citizen is that of taking arms for maintaining the independence of the territory.

No troops can be introduced into the kingdom, or into the service of it, without the consent of Parliament.

Besides the standing army, there is a national militia, of which one-fifth is dismissed every year. In no case can the militia be called to serve in the colonies, nor pass the frontiers of the kingdom, except in cases of imminent danger, and with the consent of the States.

The liberty of the press has no other restraint than the responsibility of him who writes, prints, or distributes.*

The most precious of all rights, liberty of conscience, is guaranteed in the most formal manner, and every religion is permitted and equally protected by the law. No imprisonment for debt is allowed except on bills of exchange or promissory notes, and the creditors are then compelled to afford the debtor a comfortable subsistence while in prison, but attachments against the property of a debtor are easily procured, and promptly executed.

There seems to be some doubt whether, by the existing law, a foreigner can be arrested on a bill of exchange drawn in England or else-

* A new law, however, is said to be projected for inflicting fine and imprisonment on libellers.

where out of the kingdom, and endorsed to a Belgian during the currency of the bill.

There is one exception to arrest of the person, in which humanity is the object. No person, after he has entered into his 70th year, can be imprisoned for debt or other offence, felony excepted.

The king, William I. was born August 24, 1772, and married, October 1792, to Frederica Wilhelmina Louisa, born Nov. 8, 1774.

From this union sprung William Frederic George Louis, hereditary Prince of Orange, born December 6, 1792; married in 1816 to the grand Duchess Anna Paulowna, sister to the Emperor of Russia, born Jan. 18, 1795. Of this marriage are—William Alexander, &c. born Aug. 2, 1817; William Alexander Paul, &c. born Aug. 2, 1818; William Frederic Henry, born 3d June, 1820; Wilhelmina Marie Sophia Louisa, born 8th April, 1824.

William Charles Frederic, born Feb. 24, 1797, and Wilhelmina Frederica Louisa Charlotte Marianne, born May 9, 1810.

The civil list of the Netherlands is two millions of gilders.

The Prince of Orange has about £45,000; and the king has large possessions. It is sup-

posed that he is the richest sovereign in Europe.*

The taxes have been greatly augmented, especially that on horses, which is now 60 francs per horse; but carriages are not taxed. Each window and hearth in dwelling-houses pays 1 florin; men-servants, 10 florins; women-servants, 7 florins. This appears a very unwise tax, and in no other country in the civilized world are females taxed for their labour. The late William Pitt attempted to introduce a similar tax in England, but was obliged to abandon so unpopular a measure.

It does not come into the plan of this volume to say much of the commerce of the Netherlands; it would be presumptuous to conjecture what may be the result of the opening of the navigation of the Scheldt; but we learn that Antwerp is rapidly advancing in commerce, and no doubt will shortly rival the Dutch ports. In July 1828 seventy-two foreign ships entered the river. With France the trade has greatly decreased; lately, however, we understand that some of the linen cloth of Ghent is imported into it, but a great jealousy exists between the

* It is, however, more than probable, that the enormous expenses of a three years' war has emptied his hoards:—1833.

two countries, and the troublesome visitations of the baggage of travellers crossing the frontiers are extremely irksome, and occasion considerable delay. It is to be lamented that a better understanding does not exist between the Douanes, and that the triple line of barriers should not be removed. Nothing can be more absurd and impolitic than such contemptible regulations, which serve no purpose except to encourage smuggling, and to put the money that ought to go into the public revenue into the hands of a gang of ruffians who live by fraud and perjury.

Nothing disconcerts the tourist so much as the frequent examinations of his portmanteau, except the insolence of "the jacks in office;" and, although there are no similar interruptions in travelling through the interior of England, yet nowhere are there more annoyances than at the custom-houses of our own sea-ports.

SKETCHES
OF
BELGIUM AND HOLLAND.

CHAPTER I.

OSTEND—BRUGES—GHENT.

THE author having stated, in the short Preface, his intentions in the arrangement of the following Sketches, he will not detain the reader by further explanations, but proceed to carry him along with him to the capital, by the usual route.

The proximity of Ostend to the British shores has, since the invention of steam, induced many English travellers visiting the continent to enter it by that port. Being a bar-harbour, sailing vessels are frequently compelled, in certain winds, to anchor or lay to in the bay

a whole night; but as the passage by steam can be calculated, there is no delay from that cause or for want of water. It is commonly made, in moderate weather, in seven or eight hours; and, as a boat is ready to convey passengers by a canal to Bruges and Ghent, they may reach Brussels in thirty hours,* at an expense of three guineas. It is only the apprehension of a voyage of twenty-four leagues, and the horrors of sea-sickness, that deter John Bull from taking this trip as readily as to Cheltenham or the Isle of Wight.

Before entering upon any details respecting Brussels, it may be as well to give a brief account of the most usual route by which the English arrive at that city.

At Ostend there is considerable bustle, and trade is daily improving. The sums which have been expended in augmenting its fortifications must have been enormous. It is the first of the line for the defence of the frontier.

Ostend is a strong fortified place, and boasts of considerable antiquity. In 1798, the English landed with a view of destroying the sluices of the Bruges and Slykens canals—a

* The average time may be calculated at thirty-six hours from London.

pitiful mode of warfare, which, however, did not succeed, and a more disgraceful and ill-planned expedition England was never engaged in. The wind shifting before the invaders could re-embark, they were obliged to surrender.

By means of the steamers, the canals, with their commodious yachts, and the diligences to Ghent, Brussels, Antwerp, Dunkirk, and Calais, Ostend is one of the most bustling sea-ports on the continent.

The present port was erected by Joseph II. who also constructed the basin and sluices of Slykens. The entry of the former is difficult, and vessels cannot pass within its narrow jetties (the steamers excepted) with a foul wind. At low water the harbour is nearly dry. A flag is hoisted on the first battery to indicate the depth, when ships may enter; and there is a light-house.

Ostend is celebrated in history by the siege the Dutch withstood in it, and their gallant defence against the Arch-duke Albert; it continued three years and three months. The Infante Isabelle, his spouse, visited it during the siege, equipped in a cuirass, and exposing her person with great *sang froid* to the fire from the batteries. It surrendered to General

Spinola, in 1604, by capitulation, but not until the besieged were reduced to the last extremity, and the works had become a heap of ruins. The Dutch lost, by fire, and sword, and disease, 50,000 men, and the siege cost the assailants above 80,000. It was calculated that they fired against the town 250,000 cannon balls, the ammunition being of heavy calibre of 50 or 60 lbs.

Napoleon's absurd *blocus continental* ruined Ostend; many of the merchants having quitted it to establish themselves elsewhere, its port was deserted, and its streets turned into a hay field; but it is again in a state of comparative prosperity.

You may proceed to Bruges in the barge, by a canal of sufficient magnitude to allow the passage of vessels of 500 tons burthen. This city is about five leagues from Ostend, and situated in a large plain, about ten miles from the sea. It takes its name from the great number of bridges (*brugs* in Flemish) which traverse its canals. Baudouin, surnamed iron arm (*bras de fer*), constructed a castle called Burghum, which had a subterraneous passage for the seigneurs, at half a league from the city (during the popular tumults), communicating with that of Louis de Male.

Under the reigns of the illustrious house of

Burgundy, Bruges was the greatest depôt of merchandise in Europe, and the centre of communication between the Italian merchants and the Anseatic towns, who had all bureaux and consuls in it.

The art of making carpets was introduced by the Flemings, after their return from the holy wars. A manufacturer named Jans went to Paris, in the time of Henry IV. and fabricated the first tapestry, known afterwards as *gobelins*. In the centre of the Grand Place are large halls, under which are butchers' shops, and extremely commodious. The galleries are used for the fairs twice a year. It is intended to restore the tower of this building to the same state it was before the fire in 1767 destroyed it.

The Hotel de Ville is gothic, surcharged with ornaments and statues of the Counts of Flanders. The immense building, which was formerly used for shops and the manufacture of cloth, is now converted into apartments for the society of literature, and two cafés. *Vis a Vis* are two ancient hotels, one of which was the residence of Charles V. and the other of Charles II. of England. This last monarch, during his sojourn at Bruges, was elected by the Bourgeois "king of the archers." By their insti-

tution they engaged to defend their sovereign's person and to follow him in war.

The church of Notre Dame is a splendid temple, and once contained the mausoleum of Charles the Bold, killed at the siege of Nanci in 1477. His corpse was found in a morass, attached to the ice. This tomb, which also contained the ashes of his daughter, Mary of Burgundy, was in touchstone (*pierre de touche*) and copper-gilt, and the ornaments in enamel and silver. The gilding alone is said to have cost 40,000 Brabant crowns. These monuments were taken away by Mary.

The church of Jerusalem was built by a rich merchant, who having visited the holy city, vowed he would erect, on his return to his native place, a temple on the model of Jerusalem. The Prinsen-hof, the ancient residence of the Counts of Flanders, and where Philip le Bel, father of Charles V. was born, was afterwards converted into a convent of English nuns, and now serves as a public office.

On the site of the old cathedral is a public promenade. The *Voyageur des Pays Bas* (a very interesting and well written work lately published), in describing Bruges, says, " This city possesses a botanic garden, an academy of architecture, of sculpture, and of painting ;

a society of arts, sciences, and literature; and a pretty theatre. It has given birth to many eminent physicians, lawyers, men of letters, mathematicians, and botanists (and he might have added painters). It is the cradle of music, Philip le Bon having brought to it, from Italy, the best musicians of the time—this prince being a great admirer of that divine art.”

It was at Bruges where the first balance-clocks were made, and where sun-dials were perfected.

Unfortunately, the city has neither springs nor fountains, and the water which supplies it is brought from the Scheldt and the Lys. The streets, though generally narrow, are kept clean. The powerful commercial league of the Hanse Towns did not assume its name until the middle of the 13th century, when its influence was increased by the association of Bruges and some other cities—*Hanse*, in old German, signifying association. The population is reduced from 100,000 to 25,000.

Bruges was the birth-place and also the place of burial of John Van Eyck, better known as “John of Bruges,” who, in the 15th century, is said to have invented the art of oil painting,

though this has been justly disputed. Some of his works are preserved in the cathedral.

The visitor to this town cannot fail to observe the superior personal appearance of the females. Their features generally bear a considerable resemblance to those of the Jewish race, from whom they are, however, distinguished by the mild lustre of their black eyes.

From Bruges to Ghent, a distance of thirty miles, you are transported by a second and more splendid barge, which will be found an agreeable mode of conveyance. The *table d'hôte* might satisfy any city alderman, or even *gourmet* from the west-end; but, being served at one o'clock, it would only be considered as a *déjeuné à la fourchette* to an Englishman. An anecdote is told of a certain John Bull who was so delighted with the good cheer and agreeable company he met with in this finely gilded barge (a present from Bonaparte to the city of Ghent) that, instead of proceeding on his travels, he agreed with the skipper to remain on board until his funds were expended; returning to Tooley Street—his head crammed with broken French, and his stomach with Schiedam—an all-accomplished traveller!

The Poste-house, and many other good hotels, afford excellent and cheap accommodation, and

house-rent being extremely moderate, many English families, whose finances do not permit them to settle in the capital, have taken up their residences in Bruges. We must, however, caution our countrymen that this city, in autumn, is frequently affected with fevers and agues from malaria.

Ghent or Gand, in the time of Charles V. was a city of such magnitude, that this monarch observed, "*Je mettrais tout Paris dans mon Gand.*" The *jeu de mot* does not apply to its Flemish name. It has long been in a decaying state, although still a handsome, spacious, and airy town.

The prison is well worthy of inspection. The prisoners are chiefly employed in the various departments of the linen manufacture, and in converting the linen into clothing for themselves and for the army. A share of the produce of their industry belongs to the prisoners : one part is accumulated till their liberation, the other is paid to them, and they are at liberty to purchase, at fixed prices, any of the articles printed in a long tariff posted on the walls. Spirits are amongst the number ; but pens and paper cannot be obtained without a special application to the governor.

The new university is a handsome building.

The circular amphitheatre, for the delivery of lectures and distribution of prizes, is particularly elegant, but, for the former purpose, somewhat too much ornamented.

Ghent contains several valuable private collections of paintings ; that of Mr. Scamp, many of whose pictures have been in the family of the present proprietor for several generations, is well worthy of the traveller's attention. One of these heir-looms, a sportive imitation of Teniers by Rubens, is extremely curious.

The ride from Ghent to Brussels, about twelve leagues, is as fine as the union of a rich soil with high cultivation can make it. The fields, though open, are dressed like a garden ; and neither weeds nor barren spots are to be seen.

Some historians pretend that Ghent was founded by Julius Cæsar, and that he named it *Chaia* or *Gaia*, while others say that it owes its origin to the Vandals in the fifth century, calling the settlement *Vanda* or *Ganda* ; we will leave this point to be settled by the antiquarians.

There is a popular tradition that it was besieged in 960, by the three kings (not the magi) of France, England, and Scotland, but, being bravely defended by the Gantois, commanded by Thiery, Lord of Dixmunde, all their

attacks for many months were repelled. This unexpected failure so exasperated their majesties, that they summoned the town to surrender within twenty-four hours, swearing, "that if this was not complied with, they would raze it to the foundation, and sow corn on its ruins"!

This threat inspired the citizens with fresh courage, and the besiegers were at length compelled to abandon the enterprise; but the English monarch (whose name is not recorded), in order to fulfil a part of his vow, and thereby save his conscience, humbly begged permission of the governor, as an act of piety, to throw a grain of wheat on the market-place; this modest request was accorded, and, that his majesty might enter *solus*, a small opening was made in the wall of the city. From this ridiculous circumstance (which, however, is probably a fable), the name of Engeland-Gat was given to the street conducting from Bestroom Poorte (the gate of assault) to St. Michael, which it retains to this day.

In 1174, a great fire destroyed two-thirds of the city. Under the government of Louis de Male, the prosperity of Ghent was so great, that it was considered the most opulent in Europe. It is said that the magistrates having been invited to a great feast by King John,

cushions were forgotten to be placed on the chairs. The guests threw their richly embroidered cloaks on them, and retired when the feast was ended without putting them on. When reminded of this, the chief magistrate replied, "The Flemings are not accustomed to carry their cushions with them." The luxuries of this time increased to extreme licentiousness. Not only the Grandees, but the Bourgeois, were "covered with purple and fine linen." The public baths (*stooven*) frequented by both sexes, became the rendezvous of the most shameful description, and such was the state of vice and disorder, that, in one year, 14,000 murders were committed in the gaming houses and receptacles of debauch.

Notwithstanding the troubles which agitated this city during the fourteenth century, it had lost nothing of its splendour and prosperity; there were 40,000 artisans who worked in the manufacture of linen and cloth, in constant employment.

The notorious Olivier le Daim, called "*le Diable*," first minister to Louis XI. after having been his barber, came to Ghent, under the title of Count de Melan, in order to bring about a revolution in favour of his cunning master; but his intrigues were discovered, and the *ci-devant*

peruquier narrowly escaped with his life, the populace having threatened to throw him into the Scheldt. He made a precipitate retreat, and afterwards fulfilled the proverb, "that he who is born to be hanged cannot be drowned," for the successor of Louis, Charles VIII. ordered him to be hanged.—Vide *Quentin Durward* for the adventures of this worthy. Oliviere, having remitted his credentials to the Princess Mary of Burgundy (the only daughter of Charles, and the governante of the Netherlands) in presence of her council and the magistrates of Ghent, added, that his mission required "he should have a private interview with her without witnesses." The council, astounded by such an audacious and indecorous demand, peremptorily refused it, especially as she was so young, and already betrothed. The barber insisted, and the magistrates again threatened to throw the impudent rascal into the river, when he contrived to make his escape, after having been pelted by the populace.

In 1537, there were so many persons affected with leprosy, that the hospitals could not contain them, and permission was granted them to beg in the streets; for which purpose, a hat, a tub, a pike, an iron box, and a bell, were given to each mendicant, but they were forbidden to

enter into any dwelling-house, to prevent infection, and dormitories were provided for these unfortunate beings in an insulated part of the city. This dreadful malady did not disappear till 1622.

In 1539, the Gantois refused to pay an arbitrary contribution levied on them by Charles V. under pretence of supplies to carry on the war against France. This mark of disloyalty was highly resented by the Emperor and his sister, Mary, and their punishment was not delayed. Twenty-six of the principal citizens were publicly decapitated in the fish market, and many imprisoned and banished.

The magistrates, with thirty of the most respectable and distinguished inhabitants, and the deacons of the trades, equipped in black, their heads bare and their feet naked, with cords about their necks, were dragged to the market-place, and, after being thus exposed to their fellow-citizens, they were compelled to ask pardon on their knees for the disobedience of their colleagues; besides this degradation, the magistrates were condemned to continue to wear the cords about their necks during the exercise of their public functions. Yet this monster, Charles, was dignified with the title of "Great," and considered the father of his people! The

disgrace inflicted on these innocent men was but of short duration, and the hemp was converted into a rich cord of gold and silk, which they carried as a scarf. This custom continued till the Revolution of 1792. An old poet alludes to it in the following distich, where he passes, in review, the six principal cities of Belgium :—

“Nobilibus Bruxella viris, Antwerpia nummis,
Gandavum laqueis, formosa Bruga puellis,
Lovanium doctis, gaudet Mechlinia stultis.”

Charles, not contented with this vengeance on individuals, ordered the fortifications to be demolished, although Ghent was his native place. He also confiscated, to his own use, all the revenues of the city, arms, and artillery ; and even the bells, which had played too gay a part during the insurrection, were melted. A curious manuscript exists, stating the amount of these confiscations—a very large sum in those days.

When Charles had, by these vigorous and despotic acts of tyranny, allayed the tumults, he made a triumphal entry into the city on the anniversary of his birth-day, but he did not show that attachment which is generally felt towards the *natale solum*, for he had hardly entered the gates, when he convoked the knights

of the order of the golden fleece and his councillors, being yet undetermined how he should further punish his refractory subjects. On this occasion, the ferocious Duke of Alva exhibited, for the first time (for he had just arrived), that sanguinary disposition for which he was afterwards so infamously conspicuous. This monster recommended his master to raze the town to its foundation. Charles mounted the belfry of the tower to look at the immense extent of it, and, on descending, asked his general, "How many Spanish skins he thought it would require to make a *gant* (glove) of the size of the city?" To this *jeu de môt* the Duke made no reply, seeing that the Prince had been shocked at the inhumanity of his advice.

The Emperor, shortly after he had thus tarnished his glory, began to find his health impaired, and, being chagrined at the reverses he had met with, and especially at the siege of Metz, and the immense losses his army had sustained, his spirits flagged, when, one day, he said to one of his confidants, "I perceive, my friend, that fortune is a woman, and that she, in common with her sex, prefers young men to old." He had long adopted for his motto—"plus ultra," but now he added to it—"non, non, plus ultra." Every day he became

more disgusted with the vanities and grandeurs of the world, and resolved to abdicate. For this purpose he convoked the States-general of the Pays Bas, and shortly after resigned his throne at Brussels.

Although his conduct towards the Gantois, on the occasion we have related, was unworthy of the mind of such a man as Charles, he greatly improved Ghent, and, among other useful institutions, he established a school or hospital for the children of the poor ; they were clothed in blue, and on this account called *de schoole van blauwe jongens*. It is probable that the blue-coat school in London was copied from this.

In 1584, in the short space of three months, three great personages died who had played the principal figures in the tragedies of their times ; the Duke of Anjou, who fell a sacrifice to his debaucheries ; the Prince of Orange, murdered by a fanatic ; and Ryhove, the friend of the prince, and his companion in arms, died of a disorder which terminated in frenzy.

The Duke of Parma, after having brought the whole of Flanders under his submission, excepting the city of Ghent, resolved to reduce it by famine. The citizens, after suffering every privation, and reduced to the necessity

of eating horse flesh, dogs, and cats, were obliged to submit, and the treaty of Beveren, in 1584, put an end to twenty years of a bloody war; yet still the country became the dominion of the more bloody Spaniards. This slight sketch of the ancient history of Ghent is sufficient for our purpose, and we proceed to record a few events of more modern times.

In 1781, Joseph II. decreed that sons born of a Catholic father and a Protestant mother should be educated in the religion of the former, and *vice versa* with the daughters, should the mother be a Protestant. This liberal edict gave great offence to the priests.

The following year, the barbarous custom of dragging the bodies of suicides through the streets on a sledge was abolished, Maria Louisa having, a few years previous, put an end to the horrible practice of torture.

In 1783, an edict was passed at Ghent by the Emperor, to suppress certain convents, which thus commenced:—"Considering that many religious orders lead indolent and lazy lives, thereby becoming useless members of society, and doing no good to their fellow-creatures, besides being a burden to the State," &c. "I therefore feel obliged to abolish," &c. In virtue of this wise measure, sixteen convents of lazy vermin were abolished in Ghent.

On the 27th February, 1792, the statue of Charles V. was thrown down by a mob of *sans culottes*, headed by a fanatic carpenter, De Vos, who planted in its place a tree of liberty! In December following, the famous decree of the French Convention abolished all the convents, hereditary titles, &c. and, on the 3d of January, 1793, General Dumourier forced down the throats of the Belgians a national assembly.

In February, the same year, this precious assembly voted the union of Belgium with France. This, however, was quite ephemeral, for, a few days after, the French army was completely defeated by the Austrians at Nerwinden, and obliged to retreat on Lille.

The following month the States of Flanders voted to the Emperor Frances the sum of 2,000,000 of francs, to defend their country against a new invasion.

On the 18th of January, 1794, the Duke of York gave a grand fête at the Hotel de Ville, in Ghent, to celebrate the birth-day of his mother, the Queen of England.

In the mean time, the republican army, which had been compelled to evacuate Condé, Valenciennes, and Quesnoi, by capitulation, had penetrated into Flanders by Courtrai and

Ypres, and gained the important victory of Fleurus, which decided the fate of all Belgium.

A short time afterwards, the French army, under the orders of General Pechegru, overran the whole country. General Clairfait, having in vain attempted to defend it, had only the glory of making a clever retreat on Ghent, which he evacuated in July, 1794, and every part of the Austrian Netherlands fell into the hands of the republic. Thus terminated the government of the illustrious House of Austria in the Pays Bas, which it had acquired by the marriage of Mary of Burgundy with the Archduke Maximilian in 1477.

The walls of the principal towns were speedily covered with the decrees "Liberty and Death," "War to the Castles," "Peace to the Cottages," and such clap-traps.

These placards were stuck up by order of the *sans culottes*, representatives of the people who had followed the republican armies. These ruffians gave the Gantois a good specimen of liberty and equality, by levying a contribution on them of 7,000,000 francs, and on all the other towns large sums were exacted according to their supposed wealth. The clergy and nobles, designated under the name of Aristocrats, were loaded and ruined with impositions,

the abbeys of St. Peter and Baudeloo were taxed each with 1,000,000, and the Bourgeois, in default of *l'argent comptant*, were compelled to surrender their plate. The public bells were melted to be converted into cannon. The pictures, and every object of art, books, manuscripts, &c. belonging to the churches and libraries were sent to Paris, and the same game was played in the capital and all the towns in the Pays Bas.

The vessels and silver of the churches were not spared ; the requisitions in grain, horses, and merchandise, were paid for in assignats, which, in a short time, became blank paper.

The Flemish churches have been so often described by tourists, that we forbear to enter into any details of objects which must be seen to give a notion of their splendour ; but the cathedral of St. Buvon cannot be passed by without some notice. It is justly considered one of the finest specimens of Gothic architecture on the continent.

The pavement is of black and white marble, contrasting admirably with the pillars of Carrara and the highly-wrought ancient tombs.

The altar is also singularly rich in tasteful ornament, and the pulpit exquisitely carved in wood by the celebrated Flemish artists of the

seventeenth century, is well worthy of examination.

The fine church of St. Michael is also highly worthy of inspection. During the French Revolution, it was transformed into "*Le Temple de la Loi.*" In it the marriages were celebrated, the Pagan fêtes to the Supreme Being, the capture of the Bastile, and other mummeries.

Every citizen was compelled to suspend from his window a *tri-color* flag ; altars were erected, and incense burned before the statues of liberty and force, with the chaunting of hymns.

The city was divided into six sections, viz. :—
" Union, liberty, equality, fraternity," &c. &c.

On the 18th June (afterwards a memorable day to Napoleon) appeared the decree by which Belgium was united to France.

The events of the late Revolution we pass over, and shall only mention the patriotism of the Gantois, in their warm and enthusiastic reception of the First Consul, for in no part of the Pays Bas were so many honours done to him ; but, to do them justice, when this great man had finished his career, the citizens of Ghent received, with equal loyalty, Louis XVIII. when he took an asylum with them in 1815.

On the 14th July, 1803, Napoleon, accompanied by his spouse, Josephine, and surround-

ed by Generals Moncey, Balliard, and Beauharnois, with the prefect of the city, made a solemn entry into it, at six o'clock in the evening, passing under a triumphal arch, on which was portrayed the great victories of the hero of Italy. The procession was closed by several regiments of cavalry and infantry, and a multitude of citizens shouting "*Vivas!*" A brilliant illumination testifying the general joy on the occasion.

The following day, the First Consul and his staff were entertained at the Hotel de Ville with a most sumptuous fête. The grand hall was ornamented with laurels and military trophies, where was exposed the productions of the various manufactures of the city, the entrance having an Egyptian portico, but, unhappily, the artists could find no emblems appropriate to adorn it. The chamber of commerce gave another and still more splendid entertainment to their guests, in the Place d'Armes, which was converted into an immense tent. In an arcade where the musicians were placed, an obelisk had been raised, and on it appeared, in large transparent letters a yard in length, a classical quotation from Telemachus—

"La Ville de Tyre est hereusement située pour le commerce."

But, alas ! at this time Ghent could only boast of situation, for of commerce it had none.

It might be reckoned invidious to dwell further on the absurd honours which the sycophants in power heaped on their new ruler during his sojourn in Ghent. In 1810, he returned an Emperor, and conducting a new wife, the daughter of another. On this occasion the prefect met the *cortege* at Alost, which at noon entered the city, amidst the noise of artillery, the ringing of bells, and the acclamations of thousands.

The following year, on the night of the 21st of March, the birth of the king of Rome was announced by discharges of cannon and a general illumination ; and, on the 9th of June, public fêtes were given to celebrate the baptism of the illustrious infant. But how uncertain is human foresight ! Napoleon, amidst the snows of Russia, sacrificed the finest army that ever took the field, and with it forty-seven heroes of Ghent, who formed a part of his body guard in this unfortunate expedition.

The meteor, however, was again to appear for a short time. The Emperor returned, and forced Louis XVIII. to quit his capital and to take refuge in the loyal city of Ghent ; and it was singular that the day of his majesty's ar-

rival was the anniversary of the birth of the king of Rome. He was followed by the Duke de Berri and Monsieur (afterwards Charles X.). These illustrious strangers were received at the gate of Bruges by the mayor, and they passed through the city with a numerous retinue to the hotel of the Count de Steenhuyse, which had been prepared for their reception.

The news of the victory of Waterloo reached Ghent about midnight on the 18th June; and, though the king was suffering severely from indisposition, he went immediately to the apartment of his noble host, whom he embraced, and, with tears of joy, presented him with his snuff-box, set in brilliants. The following evening the city was illuminated; and, on the 22d, his majesty of France took his departure, after a residence of three months in the Pays Bas.

The kind reception given by the Gantois to an unfortunate monarch does great honour to their feelings of humanity as well as to their independence; for the battle of Waterloo had not been fought when they gave him an asylum.

It has been said that their former hero, Napoleon, calculating on the certainty of annihilating the English army, after their victory over the Prussians, had given orders to his

troops to sack and burn Ghent, for having harboured the Bourbons. This would have been an ungrateful return for all the honours the citizens had bestowed on him, and for the zeal they displayed in their repeated conflagrations of the manufactures of England, on more occasions than one. In 1807, an immense quantity of woollen and cotton cloths were publicly burned; and these *auto da fés* seemed highly to gratify the lower orders, if the records of their own authors are to be believed. Now they rival England in these articles, which is a more sensible mode of revenge.

Ghent can boast of one of the most beautiful public buildings that has been erected in modern times—the new university. The architect, M. Roelands, has displayed great judgment and taste in selecting the richness of the Roman designs as models. The façade is composed of eight columns, from the pantheon, and the capitals from the temples of Antinous and Faustina. At the two extremities are representations, *in basso relievo*, of the Scheldt and the Lys, reposing on urns, with William I. the founder, presenting the university to the city. On the frieze is this simple inscription :

“ Auspice Gulielmo I mo. acad. conditore, S. P. Q. G. 1821.”

The great entrance is in imitation of the *Batisserie* at Florence, with a sculpture of the arms of the university on the entablature.

The vestibule* (or *Salle de Thermes*, as it is called) is supported by four columns and eight pilastres of the Corinthian order. The arch is eighty-six feet high, and gives light to the hall. This design is from Vitruvius, and is destined to receive the busts of all the kings who have encouraged the arts and literature, from Charlemagne down to the founder.

The three other entrances are supported by colossal caryathides, and covered with a front, which crowns the busts of Themis, Apollo, and Minerva. The chamber of the Actes is of a circular form, with eighteen Corinthian columns, and twenty-four pilastres.

This structure does great honour to the munificence of the king and the good taste of the architect.

Ghent has a museum, an academy of painting, and a royal society of beaux arts and literature.

The Kauter and the Coupure are the fashionable promenades. The former is planted with trees, and surrounded with hotels and cafés.

* Amphitheatre for the delivery of lectures, &c.

On Sunday mornings, and *jours des fêtes*, it is the flower market ; and at noon the *beau monde* may be seen—the ladies exchanging their smiles and graces in return for the vases and bouquets of roses, myrtles, carnations, &c. presented by their gallants.

Ghent occupies more ground than Brussels, and (the Parc and Boulevards of the latter excepted) is a handsomer and cleaner city, but not to be compared with it as a place of residence. In every other town in Flanders the houses of the citizens are hired to strangers ; but in the capital the influx is so great, especially of English families, that an immense number of new houses have been built within the last ten years for their accommodation. On this account there is a greater choice of comfortable residences ; and, although the rent may be higher, they are better adapted to the taste of our countrymen. At the same time, it must be admitted that house-rent in Brussels does not bear any proportion to the prices of provisions.

HINTS
TO
ENGLISH FAMILIES SETTLING IN
BRUSSELS.

BRUSEL, **Bruxelles**, or **Brussels**, as it is variously written, is the capital of the **Pays Bas**, the seat of the government and the **Etats-Generaux** every alternate year with the Hague. It may be divided into two parts, the upper and the lower.

The climate of the upper part of **Brussels** is certainly very salubrious—fogs are rare, and the air is elastic; but, from the dryness of the soil, which reflects the rays of the sun, the heat is sometimes as insupportable as in the **West Indies**. The springs are rather earlier and the winters sharper than in **England**. In fact, the author found, upon comparing his diary with one kept by a friend in **Edinburgh**,

that the thermometer was several degrees lower in Brussels. It is a farther proof of the greater intensity of the cold, that the tribe of laurels will not stand the open air in winter in any part of Flanders.

The lower parts of the city are exceedingly dirty; and the malaria, emanating from two filthy stagnant ditches near the Deux Ponts, which, during the autumnal months, exhale the most pestilential effluvia, may be regarded as the pregnant cause of the diseases that are then prevalent in that neighbourhood—typhus, ague, &c.

Though Brussels is an agreeable town as a residence, it affords few objects worthy of the notice of a stranger. The spire of the Hotel de Ville is a noble specimen of Gothic architecture, seldom surpassed; and the various buildings in the Grande Place, and some in other parts of the town, will gratify the admirer of the florid style of the sixteenth century. The view of “fair Brussels”* from the Chateau de Lacken, and a promenade in the Parc, perhaps the most beautiful public garden in any city in Europe, will amply reward the curiosity of a tourist. And he must not depart

* So called by Sir W. Scott.

without paying a visit to the small but exquisite collection of pictures lately formed by the Prince of Orange, nor without admiring the architectural beauty of the hall of the Chamber of Deputies or *Etats-Generaux*.

Whenever the city is affected with any epidemic, it always begins in the lower part, and is most violent in its effects, yet Brussels is, on the whole, a very healthy place; but agues, proceeding from miasma and typhus fevers, are frequent in the autumn on the Rivage, the Port de Flandres, and in the fauxbourg of St. Jean Ten-Nood, beyond the Port de Louvain, when such diseases are not to be found in the region of the Parc and the upper Boulevards. It is, we understand, intended to drain some of the ponds between Etterbeck and the fauxbourg Ten-Nood, to prevent the miasma occasioned by them.

The Scheldt runs six leagues from the city; and, when the wind comes from that quarter, it frequently brings with it vapours and dense fogs; and it is supposed that the sea (distant fourteen leagues), as well as the river, has some influence in conveying these fogs, which are perceived an hour or two after the flood-tide. Part of Brussels is built on the side of a hill. Viewed from the west of the Parc, it pre-

sents a magnificent amphitheatre, and a picturesque and fertile scene. The soil on the upper part is composed of a mixture of sand, shells, and fossils, in which are deposited a white calcareous stone, that is used in the foundations of buildings and in making roads (very injudiciously, for they are readily decomposed by frost and rain, and consequently are a bad material for such purposes).

In the plains the soil is alluvial, with a mixture of sand and marine substances, on a bed of peat moss. The land is extremely fertile. Water is found within a few feet of the surface.

The hill on which the upper part of the town is built appears to be the extremity of an ancient sea-bank, in proof of which, petrifications of fish are found towards the Halle gate—the highest point of the old rampart being 36 toises above the level of the sea.

The Senne enters by two branches; its largest breadth is at the fish-market, 5 toises, and its depth about as many feet; but in winter it descends with vast rapidity, committing great devastations on the adjacent fields. In 1820, the waters suddenly rushed in at the gate of Anderlecht before it could be shut, and completely overflowed the lower parts of the town. Boats might be seen plying about for several

days. In the Rue Neuf, the author happened to pay a visit to a friend at noon, and, in an hour, was carried on shore on the shoulders of a porter. The village of Anderlecht, and the valley in that quarter, presented another Venice. Immense damage was done in the cellars and warehouses in the city.

There are nine gates of issue—that of Namur conducts to Waterloo and the south; the Porte de Halle, the same direction; Anderlecht, to Paris and all parts of France; Ninove, to that town; Flandres, to Ghent; the Port of the Rivage and Porte Guillaume, to Antwerp; Louvain, to Liege and Germany.

The thermometer is two degrees lower in Brussels than in Paris in winter, and two degrees higher in summer; and the seasons are more variable and humid than in the French capital, but less so than in London. In 1783, 1794, and 1826, the thermometer of Rheameur stood at 30 degrees of heat (97 of Fahrenheit). The medium temperature may be calculated at 70 degrees of Fahrenheit during the summer months.

The cold is sometimes very severe. In 1826, the mercury of Rheameur stood at 16 degrees; 4 degrees below the zero of Fahrenheit.

The population of Bruxelles, including

strangers, is calculated at 112,000. The number of houses is calculated at 16,500; but the new buildings are increasing with extraordinary rapidity. 1200 lamps in the streets; 29 fountains; 90 pumps; 800 auberges and cabarets. The Parc, Rue Madelaine, Montagne de la Coar, and some other streets, are lighted with gas. The city is divided into eight sections, forming two *arrondissements*. It is forty-nine and a half poste leagues from Amsterdam, and seventy-five and a half from Paris.

It is to be lamented that the Flemish architects do not distribute the interiors of their houses better. If it be true that many are erected for the accommodation of the English, it would have been for the interest of the speculators had they more studied the English taste. The stair-cases are steep and narrow, and the apartments cut into so many subdivisions, that you seldom see a well-proportioned room. Glass being cheaper than bricks with lath and plaster, it is not uncommon to find four windows in a room of sixteen feet square. As no regard is paid to the accommodation of servants, their sleeping places in the attics are only fit to swing a cat. As to a servant's hall or butler's pantry, they are quite unknown.

Bruxelles is the seat of the supreme court, of the court of appeal, and the assizes of the provinces are held every three months in the city.

The Catholic religion is professed by nine-tenths of the inhabitants ; but there are temples for every sort of worship, and the Jews have a synagogue and a school.

A modern writer gives the following character of his fellow-citizens :—“ Les Bruxellois sont doux, francs, sincères, courageux, et entreprenans ; ils aiment et recherchent le luxe et les plaisirs ; dans les estaminets, les cafés, et dans l'intérieur des familles, régne une gaitie cordiale. Les Bruxellois sont hospitaliers et bienfaisants ; aucune Ville du Royaume n'a possédée autant d'établissements de charité que Bruxelles. Dans cette ville on conçoit facilement et l'ouvrier exécute bien ce qu'il entreprend ; il travaille avec gout et perfectionne son ouvrage. Les arts et les sciences sont cultivés, honorés, et recompensés ; le mérite y trouve du travail.

“ Le génie de la peinture semble avoir fixé son, séjour a Bruxelles. Cette ville possède en ce moment des peintres dans tous les genres. Les dames s'occupent aussi avec le plus brillant succès de peindre en miniature, de dessin ; et a l'exposition de tableaux de cette année, la

palme doit leur être decernée. Elle possède encore le Phidias de nos jours, le célèbre Gode-charles ; elle forme chaque jour de voeux, pour qu'elle conserve encore long temps un des patriarches de la sculpture moderne."

Printing has made prodigious progress since the Pays Bas has been converted into a kingdom. One single press has published, within the last two years (1824-5), above 200,000 volumes.

Bruxelles can boast of the most beautiful promenade, perhaps, of any city in Europe—the Parc. It was constructed in the year 1774, from a design of Zinoer. It consists of seventeen acres, intersected by three large paralleled alleys meeting at a common centre, *le bassin vert*, on which is a *jet d'eau*. In the alley, *vis a vis* to the palace and the Etats-Generaux, are placed an infinite number of busts of Roman emperors in blue stone, peeping from draperies, and on a sort of *termini*, with naked feet, chiefly executed by Delvaux. They are, in general, miserable specimens of art, although highly estimated by the Belgians. During the battle in the Parc at the Revolution, a great many of them were destroyed or mutilated, but the art of sculpture has not suffered much loss.

The very moderate price of every article of

living in Flanders, compared with England, the salubrity of the climate, a mild government, and an easy access to London, render Brussels perhaps the very best station of any capital on the continent to those who, possessed of a narrow income, may wish to live respectably, and give their families a liberal education. It is justly celebrated for masters capable of instructing youth in all the modern accomplishments, who give lessons on the most moderate terms, and there is an excellent academy for boys. Many English families have already availed themselves of these advantages, while others, from setting up too great establishments, have failed in their plans of economy, and returned even more embarrassed than when they came. This is mainly to be attributed to imprudence in their domestic arrangements; for, finding all the necessaries of life so much cheaper than in England, their tables are too amply served, and, being able to drink French wines at a third of their price in England, three times as much is consumed. Thus, although at the end of the year they may have lived better, there has been no retrenchment. It is only by strict attention to minutiae in the *ménage*, by trusting little to servants, and paying for every thing as it comes into the house,

that any scheme of economy will prove effective. From many honest Flemings having been taken in by *Messieurs les Anglais*, where, from appearances, no suspicion of the kind could be reasonably entertained, tradesmen look at strangers with a suspicious eye if irregular in their settlements.

English families coming to reside at Brussels are in general ill acquainted with the expenses of living, having probably derived their information from passing tourists, or from books written by authors without experience. Hence, on their arrival, they find every thing, especially house-rent, dearer than they had anticipated ; and, being unable to procure a comfortable well-furnished habitation in the Parc or Boulevards for the price of a lodging in some obscure street in London, they complain that house-rent is dearer than in England.

Throughout Flanders, provisions of every description are abundant, and consequently cheap ; but houses in good situations in Brussels being scarce, are comparatively dear, although, in fact, the rents are lower by half than at any of our English watering-places. A six-roomed house in the Parc, tolerably furnished, lets for 300 or 350 francs per month. At Chel-

tenham or Brighton, such a house would be double that sum.

The first consideration for a settler is a habitation, the rent of which ought to be regulated by his revenue. Apartments are not, in general, to be procured for a shorter period than six months, and they are usually but scantily furnished; besides, as there is no such thing as a *quartier fermé*, as in Paris, the kitchen being in general held in common with the landlord, they are by no means suited to a family, unless dinners are had from the restaurateur.

Those who purpose residing at Brussels for only one year might be unwilling to engage an unfurnished house for so short a period; but, as a broker will readily supply them, by the month or year, with any quantity of furniture, this plan will be found more advantageous, both as to economy and comfort, than taking a ready-furnished house, which is generally destitute of many things that the English deem indispensable; whereas, by contracting with a broker, you may have furniture of your own selection at a certain per centage according to its value.

In the Rue Ducale* in the Parc (the plea-

* Duke Street, in English; and, Hartoegen Strâat, in Flemish.

santest street in the city), six-roomed houses cannot be hired for less than 80 or 90 Napoleons, exclusive of taxes, which may amount to 10 or 15 more, according to the value of the furniture you put into it. On the Boulevards there are many pleasant houses on a larger scale, and of course dearer. In the lower departments of the town, accommodation can be had on more moderate terms ; but the air is not so salubrious, and the distance from the centre of attraction, the Parc, renders a residence there less desirable.

The houses in the Parc and its environs are supplied with delicious water from the neighbourhood, and additional pipes are now laying (1828) to render the supply adequate to the demand.

Such is the dilatoriness of the tradesmen employed in fitting up and furnishing houses, that a stranger may be deemed fortunate if all his orders are completed within three months after the time appointed, especially, if the broker adds to his promise—“*parole d'honneur.*” With the Flemish tradesmen there is a material difference between promise and performance. It is a common occurrence for the paper-hanger and painter, after having contracted for and commenced his work, to leave it until he has com-

pleted any other undertaking on which he might be engaged. Indeed, the demand for labour is so great, in consequence of the number of new buildings, that these tradesmen consider they are conferring a favour on a customer by the execution of his orders.

The furniture of a moderate-sized house will amount to 7,000 or 8,000 francs—say £300.

Though there are many excellent cabinet-makers, yet there is but little variety in the furniture, which, in point of taste, is decidedly inferior to that of London or Paris.

The new hospital does great honour to the city. It is designed by the architect, Partous, and is distinguished by a simplicity worthy of its destination. Two large quadrangles, surrounded by open columns of beautiful granite, where the aged and infirm of both sexes may take exercise, sheltered from the sun and rain. In the middle is a lawn, bordered by an excellent pavement, and the whole building is remarkable for its solidity.

It is to the humanity of the administration of the hospitals, and particularly to Monsieur Marcq, seconded by the munificence of his majesty, King William, that Brussels owes this splendid edifice, which may be considered as one of the most appropriate to the relief of

old age and infirmity that is to be found in Europe. On the front of the two principal entries is this simple inscription—" *Egenis senibus*, 1826."

In the year 1819, gas was introduced into Brussels, and a few of the streets and some of the shops are lighted with it, but it is not general.

The Cathedral of St. Gudule is a noble temple, in the form of a cross, with three naves. A tower in the pyramidal form rises on the side where the cross is formed. This tower, however, was left unfinished. In the interior is the clock. The grand nave is separated from the others by twelve pillars that support the roof, and on each is a statue of an apostle—four of which are from the chisel of Duquesnoi (Fiamingo)—St. Paul, St. Thomas, St. Bartholomew, and St. Matthew.

In the middle of the principal nave is the pulpit, executed by H. Verbruggen, for the Jesuits of Louvain, in 1669. After their suppression, it was purchased by Maria Theresa, and presented to St. Gudule in 1776. It represents Adam and Eve, of the natural size, driven by the angel from Paradise. On the left is a representation of death pursuing them. Adam and his wife are so disposed as to sup-

port the globe, in which is the preacher's chair. There are many allegorical figures; and round the pulpit are two trunks of trees, in which the stair is ingeniously contrived.

This *chaire de vérité* is of the most exquisite workmanship, and well worthy of notice, as are the windows, which are painted in the best time of the art.

In 1817, the old Palace of Justice was converted into the *Etats-Generaux*, but the chamber of the commons is entirely new. The architect, Vanderstraeten, furnished the design, and the amphitheatre of Verona served him as the model. It is extremely beautiful. Five years after its erection it was unfortunately burned down by a fire which took place in the adjoining house, then occupied as a temporary residence of the Prince of Orange, but it was immediately rebuilt on the same plan.

This palace forms a fine termination when viewed from the centre of the *Parc*. The king's palace faces it at the other extremity. It has not been altogether rebuilt, but restored, from a design of M. Sys, and finished in nine months, by the exertions of this architect and M. Steelmans and Tassen. The façade to the gardens is in blue granite, from the quarries of Arquennes, Feluy, and Soignies.

The length of the building is one hundred and fourteen *aunes* (twenty-seven inches are an *aune*), and of simple construction.

The right wing of the palace is inhabited by his Majesty, the left by Prince Frederic. The entrance is by a vestibule, separated by three passages, the middle being the carriage-way, hence you arrive at the grand stair conducting to the state apartments, which are spacious and handsomely furnished (1827). The palace of the Prince of Orange, facing the Boulevard of the south, is just finished, and was occupied by his royal highness in December, 1828. The exterior bespeaks abundance of accommodation within. The basement is rustic, of blue granite. Above it, Ionic pillastres to the first and second story. The bases, capitals, and cornices, being also of this granite, painted white, and contrasted with the blue walls, produce an effect not at all harmonious to the eye. The only thing remarkable in this palace, is a dome sixty-six feet high, and thirty-one in diameter, supported by pilastres. The length of the building is two hundred and thirty-eight feet, and sixty-two wide. The stables are awkwardly placed; and, it must be confessed, that the whole has more the air of a manufactory than of a palace in the nineteenth century.

It is intended to fill up the old fossé of the ramparts beyond this palace, and convert it into a grand parade, or *Place d'Armes*. A triumphal arch is also to be erected, to serve as a gate to the city, and to be called the *Porte de Waterloo*; and near it is projected the new hydraulic machine to supply that quarter with water, which was much wanted. The revolution, however, put a stop to these intended operations. We have heard that there is a plan of extending the town towards Etterbeck, which would be a prodigious improvement. A great many houses have been already erected, but no attention has been paid to their sites; so that it would be difficult to form streets on any regular plan, should the speculation take place.

The Parc, so justly renowned for its beauty, merits a slight description, but none can do justice to its *agremens* as a promenade. It is more “a dressed wood” than a garden, for there are neither flowers nor shrubs; and strangers are puzzled why it should be called a park. This name, however, probably arose from its having, about the middle of the last century, contained various animals (*feræ naturæ*) running about in a tame state—deer, hares, goats, &c. and, in the time of the Arch-duchess Eliza-

beth, a stag, which followed children and eat from their hands. The author has a print of the old Place Royal, with this very stag in the group. The Parc was then enclosed with a brick wall, and two Gothic gates. The present garden (as we shall call it, for it puts one in mind of Kensington) was laid out by Zinver (a name distinguished in his day), in the year 1774, on the ancient site. It consists of three wide parallel avenues, surrounded by lofty trees that cross in a common centre. These trees are *polards*, as indeed is every tree in the kingdom; but in a garden they ought to be so, as branches would so overshadow the walks that they would be seldom dry.

In the alley opposite the palace is a range of figures, intended to represent the Roman emperors. These issue from a drapery of blue stone, placed on a sort of pedestal or terminus, are from the chisel of Delvaux, the Flemish Phidias of his day. At the extremity of the promenade, the Regence proposes a handsome gate, with two pavilions, as a guard-royal to the palace.

From the Green Basin (probably so called from its being overgrown with weeds) are to be seen the four principal entries. Other walks intersect them in all directions. In the

upper walk are two groups, representing the attributes of agriculture and commerce. These are by "the immortal Godecharles."* In the middle of the three alleys are *parterres* of grass, which fall under the scythe like hay fields twice a year. It is singular that the Flemings have no idea of a lawn; for when they happen to have a rood or two of grass as a bleaching-green in their gardens, instead of having it cut once a week in summer with a scythe, it is clipped with a pair of scissors, or cut with a knife or reaping-hook. The scythe is only used by the peasants to cut hay. The city gardener would be offended if you proposed the use of it to him.

The great beauty of this garden as a promenade, is the variety and retirement of many of the walks, affording shade in the hottest day. In a ravine is a well, of which there is some silly legend of Peter the Great, the Emperor of all the Russias, having tumbled into after dinner, which gave occasion to an inscription to commemorate this imperial somerset!

In a corner towards the east end is a café, called Wauxhall, to which is attached the "*Bal*

* The Flemings considered this sculptor as a second Fiamingo.

Noble," where the *hidalgos* have their meetings. There is also a small theatre, where, on Saturdays, and sometimes on other days, are exhibited little dramas, vaudevilles, and operas.

In a thick clump in the centre of a circular walk is an open rustic tent, where, on Sundays at noon, the city band of music plays for an hour; and this concert is always well attended by a concourse of elegant and well-dressed females, exhibiting their new costumes, airs, and graces.

There are abundance of benches for the repose of the *pietons*; and, although the ladies complain that the sand is a great enemy to their smart shoes and white petticoats, yet the walks are soon dry after a shower.

A certain number of men are employed to clean and trim them; and *pompiers* (armed firemen) are on duty constantly, to preserve the trees from being damaged, and to prevent beggars and improper persons from being admitted. The Regence pays all these expenses.

A bell is rung at sunset, or a little later, a quarter of an hour before the gates are shut, to warn the pedestrians; but, in case any person should be accidentally shut in, there is a porter at the gate next the Place Royal at all hours.

From the Green Basin is a remarkably fine *coup d'œil*. The beautiful spire of the town-house, the towers of the cathedral, the country on the hill, beyond the Ninove gate, and the city at your feet. Through the opening at the Place de Bibliothèque, are often seen the most beautiful effects of skies and sunsets that can be imagined, as subjects for the painter.*

This garden is admitted to be the most agreeable promenade in the middle of a town that can be found in Europe. For extent, it is not to be compared to the London Kensington, or to the Prado at Vienna, and many other public resorts; but its ready access to the citizens gives it a preference to all others, especially to those who do not keep carriages.

If the Regence would lay the walks with gravel from the Meuse, on the principal avenues, this would make it altogether unique. A calculation has been made, that it would not exceed 20,000 francs to bring gravel from Kensington sufficient for this purpose; but there is as little taste for gravel in this country to lay on their walks, as for well-kept lawns.

* This view has been frequently painted by several of the Dutch and Flemish masters; and one in the Museum at the Hague, represents a setting sun, by Vanderneer, with an extraordinary fine effect.

The *Conducteur de Bruxelles*, from which we have made several extracts, gives the following account of the Parc :—

“ It is a promenade perfectly designed, its plantations, beautiful avenues, lawns, clumps, and towers, fix the attention of strangers. Among the splendid statues which adorn this delightful garden, the most *distinguées* are the figures of Diana, Narcissus, Venus, Thetis, Apollo, Leda, &c. and the busts of Alexander and Cleopatra.”—[*N.B.*—They are all execrable.]

“ It consists of fourteen *arpens* (twenty-seven English acres), and was made by the Austrian government. On the entry of the French, it became the property of the State, and Napoleon gave it to the city to keep in order. It is encompassed by handsome houses, built on a regular plan. On the right is the Rue Ducale (*Hartoegen Straat*), formerly it was known by the name of “ La Rue Genevoise,” from certain merchants of Genoa, attracted by the commerce of the Pays Bas, settling in that quarter.

“ At the bottom of this street is the Concert Noble, where musical meetings were formerly held by the higher classes ; but during the revolution, it fell into the hands of the Bourgeois, who still use it as a ball and concert room.”

In the northeast end of the square is the *Etats-Generaux*, the hotel of the English ambassador, and several noble houses occupied by private persons, and as public offices. On the south corner is the hotel of the Prince de Ligne; and, on the north, the Hotel de Galles, now converted into a lodging-house. This street (*La Rue de la Lois*), leads to the Rue Royale, extending from the Place Royale to the gate of Skaerbeck, more than half a mile. It is now nearly completed, and may rival in beauty and extent, any street on the continent. It was pitiful economy not to continue the *trottoirs* from the Parc to its whole length. It has been proposed to establish a market on the north side, which would be highly advantageous to the inhabitants of the upper parts of the town.

The Place Royale is extremely imposing, on a small scale, but the houses are noble. In the centre of the eastside is the modern church of Caudenburg. The Hotels de Belle Vue, Flandres, and Europe, and the Café d'Amitie, occupy the other sides of the square. In a line with the Rue Royale is *La Rue de Regence*, a new street, leading over an iron bridge to the Grand Sablon, a great improvement, by which carriages may avoid the steep descent of the

Montagne de la Coar, and the Rue de la Madelaine.

On the west corner is the Rue de Musée, leading to the ancient Palais de la Cour, and to the old Botanic Garden—which last has been demolished, and on its site a superb building is now erecting (1830).

The first exhibition in this noble building took place in July and August, 1830, and certainly did great credit to the Flemish artists. Unfortunately, however, the revolution occurred before it was closed, and great fear was apprehended that the contents of the various apartments would be plundered by the revolutionary mob, or, that the building might be destroyed during the battle of four days, but no damage was done to it, although close to the Place Royal, where several large hotels were destroyed.

Among the pictures exhibited was one historical subject—the Siege of Leyden (an episode), by a young, and till then unknown, artist, Wappers; by birth, we believe, a Dutchman. The connoisseurs considered this *chef d'œuvre* as worthy of the pencil of Rubens or Vandyke, both as to colour and composition. It was said that the Prince of Orange had purchased this splendid work, and rewarded M. Wappers (as

he well merited) by a sum of 20,000 florins. Had not the revolution happened, this picture would have been sent to England for exhibition, and we trust the period is not distant when the amateurs will be gratified with the view of a modern work of such extraordinary merit.

The Royal Gallery, now building in the Rue de Musée, will be a great ornament to the city. It is intended as exhibition rooms for objects of national industry, and the first exposition will take place in 1830.

M. Fleury is the architect employed for its construction, and as it will have a corresponding wing with the present museum, the same design will of course be followed.

The centre façade, facing the street, in the form of a horse shoe, will be sixty meters in length (about two hundred English feet), the wings forty, and the whole covering an area of twelve hundred meters. The building will consist of a sunk story, a ground floor, and a *premier étage*. The institution, being of national importance, is patronized by the king.

The Museum affords but few objects worthy the notice of a stranger, the library excepted, which contains 3,000 rare manuscripts, together with 2,000 *cinque cento* editions of books chiefly from the libraries of the Dukes of Bur-

gundy. The manuscripts are illuminated with precious miniatures, and splendidly bound. They have been twice plundered—the first time in 1748, when Maréchal Saxe was governor of the Pays Bas; but, by the convention of 1769, France was obliged to restore them. From this robbery, it would appear that the Bourbons showed to their successor, Napoleon, the example of plundering works of art in right of conquest. The second robbery occurred in 1794, by Laurent, the *amiable* representative of the people! This worthy packed up, *sans façon*, seven waggon loads of the most precious; and the commissioners of arts and sciences, a few years afterwards, purloined the remainder.

By the treaty of peace in 1815, the whole were restored, along with the other articles of plunder.

M. de Laserna Salander, who had the merit of forming the Museum, has also enriched the library with many curious and valuable works, from the suppressed convents and abbeys, particularly that of Gembloux, which contained the finest library of Austrian Flanders. This gentleman had also the good fortune to seize a great number of precious books in the Place Royale, which had been packed into cases, destined for Paris.

Maria Theresa instituted an academy of belles lettres and arts, of which her first minister, M. Coblenz, was the patron and protector. The members of this society were honoured with the distinctions and privileges of nobles.

It was dissolved in 1794, but re-established by the king, in 1816, under the title of the "Academy Royal of Brussels." It consists of sixty members, twelve of whom are honorary.

By a decree, in 1826, his majesty has established a course of lectures on belles lettres and sciences at the old palace, consisting of ten professors.

Maria Theresa also founded an academy of painting, of which we have given some account.

The Grand Place is remarkable for the architecture, sculpture, and profusion of ornaments in many of the houses which surround it. An equestrian statue of Charles of Lorraine, formerly stood in this square, but was demolished by the *sans culottes* of 1794, as well as many of the houses.

The Hotel de Ville is one of the finest specimens of the Lombard Gothique structures in the Netherlands ; it is a parallelogram, and the

tower which surmounts it is extremely beautiful, in open work, and of a pyramidical form. It was begun, 1401, and took forty years to complete. On its summit is a figure of St. Michael, trampling on a dragon, seventeen feet high, in gilt bronze, which turns with the wind; for we must not call so fine a statue a weathercock.

John Van Rysbrock, the architect, or as he was then called, "master of masons and stonecutters," took a public and solemn oath that he would, in the construction of his enterprise, employ only the most able workmen, and the best materials. This curious contract, in the form of a deposition, is still preserved in the archives of the city, and is a specimen of singularly concise composition.

The statue of the Saint was cast by Martin Van Rode, and cost the city 24,000 florins, 2 sous, of Brabant.

The façade of the building has forty windows in compartments, and between each a niche, intended for the reception of the statues of the Dukes of Brabant, and illustrious men of the country. The interior has been restored by the architect, Roger, and contains many fine apartments, with a curious collection of pictures, representing the historical events of the Pays

Bas. The Salle, called *les Etats*, is decorated in the antique taste, according well with the style of the building. The halls are of great height and in good proportion. In the gallery leading to them, are six portraits of the Dukes of Brabant, by Grange—Phillipe le Bon, Charles V., Philip II., Albert and Isabella, Philip IV., and Charles II.

In the first three Salles are tapestries, representing the history of Clovis, after designs of Le Brun. The ceiling of the second is painted by Janseens, and represents the clergy, noblesse, and the *tiers-etat*, forming the three orders of Brabant. In the third, are the portraits of the Emperor Maximilian and Mary of Burgundy. The ceiling of this room is also by the same artist—"the assembly of the gods." The cornice is enriched with gold sculptures; between the windows are painted allegories of the chief cities of Belgium, *vis a vis*, are tapestries in fine workmanship.

The hotel of the Duke d'Arenberg, contains some fine pictures; but there is nothing remarkable in this palace, excepting an antique colossal head, supposed to be that of the celebrated Torso of the capitol. The gardens are extensive, and the late Duke cultivated flowers

with much care ; and his hot-houses produced the highest-flavoured fruits.

The Porte de Guillaume, leading to Lacken, is a triumphal arch, composed of a portico with three *entrées*. The middle is decorated with Corinthian columns, which support a capital, on the entablature of which is a *basso-relievo*, representing the first magistrate of Brussels offering the keys of the city to the king. There are also the statues of Peace and Abundance (on that part of the cornice which supports the capitals) with their attributes, and an inscription—

“ Gulielmo, Belgarum regi principi optimo, S. P. Q. B.”

This gate is after the antique, from a design of M. Suys, and executed by M. Van Gheel.

On entering the Place d’Anvers are the two establishments of the Champs Elysées and the Belle Vue, frequented by the first class of Burgeois, who, in summer and fine weather, assemble every evening in immense crowds, to drink beer ; and there are generally as great a proportion of women as of men, sitting under the linden trees, in groups, around tables, enjoying the cool breezes about sunset. There are nearly one thousand cabarets, guinguettes, cafés, and hotels, within “ the bills of mor-

tality," which are always crowded. Certainly no class of people in any city in Europe enjoys so much pastime in this way as the Brusselsois ; yet it is rare to see any person in a state of intoxication.

Near this Boulevard is the hospital of Pacheco, founded in 1713, by Don Pacheco and his wife Marie Isabella Marez, to admit forty-two demoiselles, or widows of officers fallen into decayed circumstances. They are lodged and provided with fuel, receiving four sous and a half per day (about £6 per annum) for their *nourriture* ! On this diet the inmates will not acquire too much *en bon point*.

In 1746, when Maréchal Saxe attacked Brussels at the Porte de Skaerbeck, the ladies petitioned this great warrior to spare the Allé-verte, which his gallantry could not refuse, and their prayer was granted.

At this gate (the east termination of the Rue Royale) has been lately erected a new Botanic Garden, with conservatories, green-houses, and an observatory (1828).

These highly-elegant buildings are designed by an amateur, Monsieur ———, who has proved himself an architect of the highest taste. The elevation is light and airy, and altogether novel—a fairy temple, such as our artist, Mar-

tin, would have introduced into his pictures, and what may be sometimes seen on canvas, but seldom in reality. Not a brick of it was laid a year back (1828), and it is already nearly completed. The situation is admirably chosen, on an elevated bank, the ground sloping to the garden, which occupies ten acres, and running parallel with the wall of the Boulevard towards the Porte Guillaume. The soil naturally rich, having served, from time immemorial, for raising vegetables, has been improved by a compost, so extremely favourable to the growth of flowers and plants, that the parts which have been laid out during the late summer months, have the appearance of having existed for several years. A hydraulic machine to irrigate the grounds is erected; and the whole, we hear, will be finished in 1831, when Brussels may boast of possessing the most beautiful botanic garden, without its walls, and the most delightful promenade within them, of any city on the continent. It will be open to the public, three days in the week, and afford a charming lounge to pedestrians, and a rich treat to the botanist. This establishment has been accomplished by the liberal subscriptions of the citizens. It was opened in the spring of 1829. The *Etats-Generaux* is a very elegant

and commodious Salle, and merits to be visited by the admirers of architecture. It is semi-circular, and well adapted to its purpose, with a large gallery—to which strangers are admitted by tickets, during the sittings of the Parliament.

The hall of the first chamber (House of Peers) is extremely plain, it contains a picture of the Battle of Waterloo, by Odevarde. The same stairs communicate to both chambers, which are of red marble, from Beaumont, and very handsome.

Facing the palace of the *Etats-Generaux* was formerly the Herald Office, and contained many curious and interesting objects, which were plundered by the French in 1794. Among other precious relics were the parade arms of Charles V. with the complete harness of his war-horse, chiselled in fine taste, and gilt; his black steel shield, inlaid with figures in gold; the lance with two pistols, which he used in the chase; his steel casque, with a figure of the sun, in silver, admirably executed; a coat of mail and shield, with two poignards; a dark lantern, which he carried at night; his sword of parade, which he used in proclaiming knights of the *Toison d'Or*; his polished steel shield, with diamond points; the grand stand-

ard of France, taken from Francis I. at the celebrated battle of Pavia ; and, the three bannerolles (streamers) which he ordered to be carried before him, in the wars he made against the Moors and Infidels.

In this collection was also the parade arms of the Arch-duke Albert ; his double-edged lance, and the armour which he wore at the siege of Ostend, marked with three balls, which did not pierce it, together with the equipments of his moorish horse.

Also, was preserved, the stuffed horse of the Infante Isabelle, when she made her entry into Brussels in 1699 ; her ebony-mounted musket, which she used at the chase of the heron ; and part of the cuirass which she wore at the battle of Nieuport.

The arms of Phillippe le Bon, the Emperor Maximilian, the Duke of Alva, Don Juan of Austria, the Prince of Parma, the Arch-duke Leopold, and Don Ferdinand, were also in this museum ; with a curious sword which Henry IV. sent to Duke Albert, as a token of a declaration of war.

Such an inestimable number of precious relics were never before collected, but unfortunately a great many of them are now in the arsenal of Vienna.

It would be interesting to know by what authority they were sent there, and the reason of their not being restored, along with the pictures, and other objects of art, at the general peace.

The Flemish historians assert that the Isle of St. Gery is the original site of Brussels, and that it took its name from the *Broussailles* (briars), that covered the ground on which it was built, forming a part of the large forest of Soigné (Zonien Bosch), or the wood of the sun. The river Senne, which waters Brussels, was crossed by several bridges in the quarter which formed the Isle of St. Gery.

In the year 950, this land belonged to seven lords of manors, each proprietor having a strong castle joining the burgh. They installed themselves supreme magistrates, and from these seven Seigneurs, issued as many patrician families. It had only an earthen dyke to protect it from the inundations of the river, (which, though a small stream, frequently overflowed its banks); but, in 1044, it was surrounded by a stone wall, flanked by seven towers, and as many gates; and, from this epoch, Brussels was considered a city.

In the third crusade against the infidels,

Philip, King of France, and Richard, King of England, undertook the conquest of Jerusalem. The Belgians, commanded by Henry d'Asche, joined the expedition. The Brussellois despaired of ever again seeing their parents, husbands, and friends, supposing they must inevitably be destroyed by the savage idolaters; but, to their agreeable surprise, a great many returned on the 19th January, 1100.

On this occasion the ladies prepared a great feast for them. In remembrance of this happy event, every year, on the same day of the month, a similar entertainment is made in many families to this time, and called, in Flemish, "*vrouwken's avond*" (the women's evening), and all the bells are set a-ringing; but the dames have discontinued the ceremony of the first evening, "carrying on their shoulders their husbands to the *chambre au lit*."

In 1356, Brussels was delivered by the valour and address of Everard l'Serclaes, a citizen. Hearing that the Flemings were very negligent on guard, he chose a dark night to advance a small number of men, with whom he scaled the walls of the city, crying "*Brabant au Grand Duc!*" The marmitons (scullions) and keepers of the cabarets assisted in the escalade, and contributed to the success of the enterprize. In

order to hold up to ridicule this event, two scullions, armed with spits, were placed on the gate of Flanders. With these weapons they had repulsed the Flemings, and this caricature was only demolished in 1784.

In 1370, the Jews were expelled from Brussels and Brabant, and their effects, amounting to 12,883,185 florins, confiscated.

Under the reign of the House of Burgundy, commerce, manufactures, learning, and the arts, flourished; and the Court of the Dukes was the rendezvous of the Savants.

Philip the Good ordered the Senne to be deepened, to facilitate the communication with Holland. Under the reign of Maximilian, the post was established, at which period printing was also introduced.

In 1489, the plague carried off 30,000 of the inhabitants. The magistrates, on this melancholy occasion, erected a tent on the Grand Place, in which was the holy sacrament, where mass and extreme unction were administered to those who fell down in the streets. This plague was followed by a famine, which did not cease till the abundant harvest of 1493.

To perpetuate the recollection of these miseries, an inscription was placed on the façade

of a house in the Grand Place, called the *Brood-huys*, which still remains—

“ A peste, fame, et bello, libera nos Maria pacis.”

The most splendid era of the prosperity of Brussels was under the reign of Charles V. but, unfortunately for its happiness, the emperor was called to the throne of Spain in 1517; yet he often re-visited his favourite abode. In October, 1555, he abdicated the sovereignty of the Pays Bas, then only in his fifty-fifth year,* and afterwards, in the same city, all his other dignities.

His atrocious bloody-minded successor, Philip, deluged the country with blood, and deprived it of its former liberty. The Duke of Alva, his coadjutor, brought with him a Spanish army; and such were the tyrannies they exercised, that 10,000 artificers, as we have mentioned already, immediately emigrated, carrying with them their talents and their industry, to England.

It would only disgust our readers to dwell on the cruelties committed on the Flemings

* Charles was born at Ghent on the 24th of February, 1500, though there is a diversity of opinion as to the precise date of his resignation.

by these monsters. A contemporary historian pathetically describes them: "Hommes, femmes, enfans, viellards, tous s'empressèrent de mouiller leur mouchoirs dans le sang de ces victimes," speaking of the execution of the patriotic martyrs, the Counts de Horn and Egmont.

At length, however, Don Louis de Requesens, commander of Castille, arrived at Brussels in 1573, to replace the modern Caligula; and the first act of his administration was an order to pull down the odious statue of his predecessor, which had been erected at Antwerp. He suppressed also the "council of troubles," where 14,000 cases were on the list to be tried.

The Belgians were happy under the government of Maria Theresa; and Joseph II. succeeded her in 1781. The States of Brabant, as we have already related, pretended that their rights had been violated, and a rebellion took place, which was hardly quieted when the French Revolution changed all the political affairs of Europe.

In June, 1803, Napoleon, the First Consul, arrived in Brussels, where the same honours were paid to him as he afterwards received at Ghent. He made his entry, mounted on a white horse; 10,000 soldiers preceded him, and a

superb guard of honour, in a uniform of scarlet, richly embroidered in gold, surrounded his sacred person, amidst the acclamations of the multitude, who assisted in forging the chains he was preparing for them. The Hotel de Ville was illuminated with thousands of coloured lamps ; and the fêtes lasted for several days. The city presented him with a state-carriage, the work of Monsieur Simon, and to his spouse they offered the most magnificent dress of lace which had ever been manufactured in the city.

But, in 1814, the career of this extraordinary person was at an end ; and, after the disasters of the Russian campaign, the capital was taken possession of in February. Soon after, by the creation of the Pays Bas into a kingdom, united with the industrious inhabitants of the Dutch provinces, it has been daily improving, and promises, in a few years, to be one of the finest towns on the continent.

ADVICE TO SETTLERS.

BRUSSELS may almost be considered as a British colony. This year (1827) the multitude of new comers has exceeded all former example; it has been calculated at five thousand, but this is certainly much exaggerated. House-rent, however, has been greatly augmented. The chief part of the winter residents are birds of passage, who take their flight in May.

The gentlemen of Brussels have the liberality to admit Englishmen, on a proper introduction, to be honorary members of their club, *La Société Littéraire*. This gives them access to the coffee and billiard rooms, and the *salons* for *écarté*. No games of chance are admitted; but *écarté* is played high.

Strangers may also join the house dinner, served handsomely at four o'clock; they meet the best company; and are permitted, if they please, to drink wine from their own cellars.

The urbanity and polite manners of the members must be highly flattering and gratifying to their visitors. The rooms are handsome, well aired, and warm ; and no establishment can be better conducted.

It must be a foreigner's own fault if he does not live on good terms with the inhabitants of Brussels ; for they are ever ready to meet him half way in civility and politeness, which is all that a passing traveller requires or ought to expect. The author, from his long residence, had the good fortune to be intimately acquainted with several amiable and agreeable families, from whom he received the greatest personal attentions.

In no part of Europe, perhaps, do the people spend so much money in dress as in Flanders. During a late musical festival at Brussels, there was an influx of 20,000 strangers from all corners of the Pays Bas ; and it may be asserted with truth, that so many well-dressed females of the same classes were never before seen collected in a city of the size of Brussels. This exhibits the wealth of the country in a striking point of view.

Except in the article of dress, the Flemings are economical to an almost penurious degree. This economy is also exhibited in the modern

buildings, in which, notwithstanding the possession of such superb models of architecture as the edifices erected half a century back in the Park and Place Royale, and the facility of obtaining the best Roman cement from the Rhine at an extremely cheap rate, not a pillar, pilaster, or any external embellishment is to be seen. Simplicity in architecture has been carried so far, that the houses resemble granaries or manufactories. The construction of the houses is still more reprehensible; the bricks, from the deficiency of clay, being partly composed of small calcareous stones* found in the alluvial soil, are so bad as to be kept together only by the strength of the excellent lime of Tournay; while the timbers employed in the heavy steep roofs (covered with coarse tiles) are merely hop-poles. When it is considered that the houses here are built, not as in England, on lease, but generally by the owner of the fee-simple, this deficiency of solidity will appear doubly injudicious.

At Brussels the taxes have, within seven years, been generally augmented. A horse, that paid a florin formerly, now pays 60 francs. Servants pay 7 florins each, increasing in proportion to

* These stones form a bad foundation.

the number kept. As this tax applies equally to female servants, the Belgians can boast that they are the only nation in Europe who fetter the labour of the fair sex. The humanity of the English Parliament frustrated Pitt's attempt to impose a similar tax in England. Chimneys, windows, and *portes cochères*, are rated at a florin each. The furniture tax is very inquisitorial, being 2 per cent. *ad valorem*. The ladies exclaim against the myrmidons of the *bureau* entering their boudoirs, and prying into their cabinets.

From these details the English stranger may be able to make a fair calculation whether his plans of retrenchment are likely to be realized by a few years' residence in Brussels.

At Vilvorde, five miles from town, is a *maison de force*, worthy the inspection of strangers ; it was originally built during the revolution as a *depôt* for prisoners of war, but is now inhabited by convicts. It is capable of holding 2,000, and is generally pretty full. Every trade, from the coachmaker to the cobbler, is in full action ; as at Ghent, the prisoners are allowed a certain share of the profits of their labours, which induces industry ; they are fed by contract, at three and a-half sous a-head ; and the establishment is admirably regulated. "The Ruffian Boy,"

the hero of a tale of Mrs. Opie's, was sent here for life. The king, a few years ago, extended his royal mercy to the culprit, but he exhibited no compunction or symptom of remorse on his liberation; long confinement and hemp-beating had not softened his heart, or improved his morals. In August last, an attempt was made on the part of the inmates to destroy this prison by fire; but, although the building was partially burned, none of the prisoners made their escape, in consequence of the prompt exertions of the police.

The lower parts of the city are exceedingly dirty; and the *malaria* emanating from two filthy stagnant ditches near the *deux Ponts*, which, during the autumnal months, exhale the most pestilential effluvia, may be regarded as the pregnant cause of many diseases.

If our English settler's means will admit of a little tour, Spa will be found an agreeable trip, and afford him an opportunity of visiting an enchantingly picturesque country. He may return by Maestricht, near which the stone-quarries in the Hill of St. Peter present singular ancient excavations of such extent and intricacy, that they are but imperfectly known even by the greater part of the quarry-men; and many strangers have fallen sacrifices to

their temerity in exploring them without a guide.

At Louvain may be seen one of the most beautiful specimens of Gothic architecture extant—the façade of the Hotel de Ville. It is, by the connoisseurs, pronounced altogether unique.

This tour may be extended through Mechlin to Antwerp.

The government has issued an edict prohibiting lotteries after January, 1828, which is a most wise measure, nothing contributing more to demoralize the lower orders than the facility at present afforded them of gaming for the smallest sums. On entering any of the offices the evening before the drawing, the practice will be found universal among a class of miserable persons who are infested with this mania. The cook, by putting an extra franc in her master's bill ;—the shop-boy, by extracting a similar sum from the till, which he intends to replace if he is *lucky* ;—and the mechanics, by putting aside a trifle out of their week's wages, are all enabled to play ; but nineteen times out of twenty there is neither *terne*, nor *ambe*, nor *extrait*. The loss of this trifle is by no means the extent of the mischief, *ce n'est que le premier pas qui coûte* ; these petty larcenies lead the way

to more important exploits, and Vilvorde is frequently the *finale*.

Considerable confusion arises from the mixture of French, Dutch, and Flemish money ; the new and the old florins, the francs, and the hundredth parts of these (cents and centimes) so differ, that it is quite an affair of Cocker for strangers to convert all this heterogeneous variety into French or English money. Every one must be furnished with a printed *Tariff*, extremely voluminous, which, instead of diminishing, considerably adds to the perplexity.

Horse-keep, from the abundance of food, is so reasonable, that if attention be paid to laying in a sufficient stock at the cheapest season, a pair of horses may be fed for less than £40 a-year. The duty is, however, higher than in England, as we have already stated ; but there is no tax on carriages. Stabling is scarce and expensive, the rent of three stalls and a *remise* is 25 to 35 Napoleons. There is not in the city a mews similar to those of London, and scarcely a livery stable, except one or two on a small scale, which have lately been established by Englishmen.

The cleanness and excellence of the hackney coaches at Brussels, render a private carriage less an article of necessity there, than in most

large towns, while it can still less be considered as an object of luxury, in consequence of the want of agreeable drives in the vicinity ; all the roads being rough *chaussées*.

Experienced masters in the different branches of education are numerous—their terms for teaching are about 2 francs the hour ; but much better arrangements can be made by the year, or quarter.

In the selection of masters, the settler should, of course, be advised by some intelligent resident.

Monsieur Sacré, *Maitre de Ballet et de la Cour*, has 6 francs an hour for teaching a quadrille to four persons ; it is, therefore, advantageous, where the settler's family does not furnish that number, that his children should take their lessons with those of a friend.

There is no want of *pensionnats* ; but the English prefer masters at home.

The ambulant tepid bath was first introduced a few years ago ; an invalid may here have one at his bedside, with hot linen, for one-half crown, while, in London, John Bull pays *three*.

There is a great dearth of English literature. Messrs. Pratt and Barry have a *salon* for the London newspapers, and a small circulating library, where new publications may occasionally be procured.

Coals are brought in waggons from Charleroi and other parts of the French frontier, a distance of ten leagues. The cheapest time for laying in the winter's fuel is August, when the best (*Marimont* pit) coals, notwithstanding the land-carriage and the expense of the barriers, may be had for 15 or 16 francs per thousand, all expenses included. They are a pleasant sort of fuel, containing abundance of bitumen, and but little sulphur. A canal, however, is projected, to be completed in five years, which will considerably reduce the price. As the Walloons are not remarkable for their honesty, care must be taken to see the coals weighed. Two baskets of *menu* (small coals*) are given in each thousand. Wood is sold in August, from $5\frac{1}{2}$ to 6 francs per measure; a sworn meter is also employed to measure it, and 14 sous per measure is the price of cutting and stowing it in the *grenier*. The purchaser should take care that the wood is dry; it will, however, be found much more expensive fuel than coals.

It is said to be the intention of the government to cut down the forest of Soignies, and bring it into cultivation, which will produce

* These resemble the Staffordshire coals.

a large revenue. At present, the beech for burning is sold by a certain measure at about one-third of the price of the same fuel in Paris. The Duke of Wellington, along with his principality, has one thousand acres of the forest, which produce him 40 francs per acre. Napoleon cut down the whole of the oak, which was transported to Antwerp for ship-building, and afterwards fell into the hands of the Allies.

In regard to the prices of provisions, they vary, as elsewhere, according to the season of the year, butcher's meat excepted, which is always stationary.

PRICE OF PROVISIONS, &c. AT BRUSSELS—1829.

	Florins.	Cents.
White Bread, F lb. _____	0	9
Brown „ „ _____	0	8
Meat, _____ „ _____	0	23
Butter, _____ „ _____	0	30
Eggs, F 25, _____	0	34
Beer, F quart, _____	0	12
Milk, „ _____	0	12
Fouls, F couple, in season, _____	1	50
Ducks, „ „ _____	1	0
Hares, each, „ _____	2	0
Turkeys, „ „ _____	2	0
Pigeons, „ „ _____	0	15
Apples, F 25, „ _____	0	30
Carrots, turnips, parsnips, spinnage, &c. when in season, say, for a dish for a family dinner, _____	0	20

	Florins.	Cents.
Potatoes, Ɔ sack,	2	0
Asparagus, a good bundle, two or three of which for a family dinner,	0	25
Pease, Ɔ quart, shelled,	0	21
Fish for a family dinner, say.....	1	50
Quarter of Lamb,	2	0
Sallad for a family,	0	10
Good light Table Wine (Claret), if taken in cask, Ɔ quart,	0	60
Tea (black),	2	0
Good White Sugar,	0	42
Coffee,	0	40
Good Brown Sugar,	0	25
Rice,	0	15
White Soap,	0	30
Candles,	0	30
Coal, Ɔ 1000 lbs.—the chaldron is 2500 lbs.	6	50
A small house, four or five rooms, kitchen, &c.	£25	
A good six-roomed house,	4	5
A good family house,	9	0

5 Cents make 1 penny.

1 Florin makes..... 20 pence.

The poultry in this list is that fed in the country of Compeigne, which is in general excellent.* The price here given is the *maximum*; a finer and larger sort is sent from Breda,

* Millet seed is the food on which poultry fattens best.

which may be estimated at a franc per pound. There is also an inferior poultry produced in the Pays de Wallons, which is not put into cribs; it is sold at a very low price, but is meagre and often tough, fit only for *consommés*. Game is pretty abundant—a hare, 3 francs; a leveret, half this price; partridges (grey), 2 francs per brace; quails, snipes, teal, &c. are cheap and abundant.

Fish is neither plentiful nor cheap, fresh-water fish excepted. Smelts are sold in little baskets; a small dish for four persons for a franc. Eels, carp, tench, and perch, are equally moderate. The Flemish and Dutch cooks are celebrated for their *matelotes*, *water-zootje*, and other fish stews.

Lamp-oil is a considerable article in house-keeping—*quinquets** being in general use. A well-trimmed lamp of this description will give more light than six candles, and is more agreeable and cleanly. The expense of a large lamp is less than a *sou* † per hour. The best purified rape oil is 9 or 10 *sous* per *litre* (quart), or about 3s. the English gallon.

Bread is invariably excellent, pure, and light.

* Lamps so called from the name of the inventor.

† Sou or sol is one, sous are two or more.

The duty on wines being moderate, a pleasant-flavoured Bordeaux, of second quality, may be imported and put into your cellar for 14 *sous** per flask; other French and Rhine wines in proportion. Very little port or sherry is imported. Beer is an article of immense consumption with the Belgians;—no nation drinks so much. Flemish beer, however, is not relished by English palates, being harsh and over-hopped. The lower orders are become, within the last seven years, extremely dissipated, owing, it is supposed, to the increase in the wages of the mechanics and labourers employed in the numerous buildings erected within that period. Notwithstanding the *cabarets* have increased ten-fold, they are generally full. During the Kaermess annual feast of three days, it is calculated that 80,000 *litres* (pots) are drunk each day. Spirits, though very cheap, are little drunk by the Belgian *bon vivants*, so that their constitutions are not impaired like those of the “blue ruin” amateurs of St. Giles’s.

* It is to be observed, that a Flemish sol is nearly double in value to a French.

ENVIRONS OF BRUSSELS.

ON approaching Mechlin (or, as it is called by the French, Malines), the lofty tower of the cathedral might be imagined the fragment of a gigantic fluted column, an appearance, arising from the number and depth of the buttresses, of which indeed the tower almost entirely consists. In the church of Notre Dame, behind the high altar, is the celebrated "Miraculous Draught of Fishes," painted by Rubens expressly for the Guild of Fishmongers; with a few fine compositions by Vandyke.

This ancient and extensive city, 12 miles from the capital, and situated in a rich plain, has been long in a state of decay. The river Dyle flows through it, and it is navigable for small craft. The population at the last census was 24,000. From the cleanliness of its streets it has been surnamed "Malines la propre."

The manufacture of lace, formerly so much valued by all civilized European nations, is on

the decay ; and, since the great improvements of that article of dress in England, the Mechlin is rarely used.

The cathedral is a truly noble structure, and it was intended to raise a spire 350 feet high, and to have covered it with gilt copper, which would have made it a third loftier ; but the funds failed. The dial of the clock is 124 feet in circumference. Louis XV. mounted the tower in 1746, to see the extensive and rich view from it.

In 1456, the gunpowder magazine was struck by lightning, by which melancholy accident 300 houses were destroyed, and 900 persons either lost their lives or were maimed.

In 1572, it was pillaged by the Spaniards, who cruelly massacred a vast number of the citizens. The same year the Prince of Orange encamped near it, and was warned of the approach of the enemy by his faithful dog.

Under the Austrian government, there was a foundry of cannon and an arsenal of gunpowder. The French continued these establishments ; but they have been abandoned since the general peace.

The village of Laeken is the most beautiful of all the environs, and from which are fine views of the city and the fertile country around.

The summer palace of his majesty is admirably situated. It was built in 1782, by the Arch-duke Albert of Saxe-Techen, and his spouse Marie Christine. Monteyer was the architect employed, from a design furnished by the Prince. The façade is composed of a peristyle of four Ionic columns, which crown a handsome front, with a *bas-relief* by Godecharles, representing "Time presiding over the Hours and Seasons." Two pavilions form the wings. The rotundo, of blue granite, is decorated with sculpture, and the pavement a mosaic of marble. This Salle is a music-room. The view of Brussels from its windows is charming. The author was with Sir Walter Scott, when he exclaimed "fair Brussels," on catching the first view of it from the steps of the palace.

The grounds are laid out in the English style; and, if the scythe was oftener employed, and the walks gravelled, the imitation would be more perfect. The orangerie is one of the finest on this side of the Alps. The trees were kept formerly in the botanic garden; they are of great age and size. The fine sheet of water in the vale renders the *coup d'œil* perfect.

Before the French evacuated Brussels in 1813, they sold the Chateau to some of their

confederates ; and, if time had permitted, it would have been pulled down and the materials sold. It was owing to a patriotic citizen that this was prevented.

It was at this Chateau that Napoleon decided on the Russian war. The king resides in it for the summer and autumnal months.

The Bois de Cambre, leading to Boisforte, affords a charming drive, with the luxury of a smooth road. It is little more than a mile from the Namur gate, through the village of Ixelles. The lanes and green walks in this wood, with varied points of view, render this promenade extremely agreeable. In short, the environs of Brussels possess a great variety of charming outlets ; and, in every village will be found *guinguettes*, where a rural dinner may be had at all times, bon marché. The following bill of fare will exhibit this :—

A respectable citizen told the author that he frequently takes his family to the village of Boisforte to enjoy a *jour de fête* in the country at a small expense. He has a roast of veal, mutton, or beef, cutlets, a potage, a fowl, a pudding or tart, an omelette, two or three dishes of vegetables, a little dessert, café, and chasse, with bread at discretion ;—his bill for four persons, being 4 francs.

At La Hulpe, beyond Groonendael another league, Monsieur Hennessy, banker of Brussels, has a paper mill, into which he has introduced the improved English mode of manufacturing paper.* This gentleman has also built an elegant summer residence on the edge of the forest, overlooking the valley and a fine sheet of water. In the village is a house of refreshment and a good station for a Pic-Nic.

Terveuren, three leagues southeast of the city, affords a pleasant drive through the forest. Every stranger visits this village to see the hereditary prince's beautiful villa, highly deserving of notice. The little inn in the village provides a sumptuous dinner for a franc and a-half, *par tête*, without any previous notice; though, if the party is large, it would be wise to inform the kindly old hostess of the number of it the previous day.

Excursions are frequently made to Trois Fontaines and to Merli, a league and a-half on the Malines road. At both these places country fare may be had, and parties may get into the passage boats to conduct them thither, and return in the evening. There are many

* His workmen shortly rebelled, and compelled him to abandon an invention that abridged labour.

other agreeable rides and walks in the environs. Boisforte is a pretty village, two leagues distant, on the edge of the forest. Parties are often made in summer to dine at the small comfortable hotel (for we must not call so genteel a place a *cabaret*) of Monsieur Louis, one of the foresters, who furnishes excellent repasts and good wines at moderate prices. The amateurs of *pic-nics*, make parties also to dine in the wood, *al fresco*. In this village the Duchess Dowager d'Ursell has a pretty villa, in the Italian taste, fitted up with Greek vases, tessellated pavements, and other reliques, brought by her Grace from Rome. A league beyond Boisforte, is Groonendale, situated in a retired and pleasing vale.

The summer residence of the hereditary prince at Terveuren, ought to be visited by every tourist, as a gem of elegance and good taste. This villa was presented by the nation to the prince, as a mark of its gratitude for his bravery in the fields of Quatre Bras and Waterloo. It is distant from the city about eight miles.

The ancient chateau of Terveuren was built in the eighth century by St. Hubert, who died in 727. It was inhabited by John II. and his spouse, Margaret, daughter of Edward I. King of England. Prince Charles of Lorraine

embellished it in 1749, and the following year erected a *Maison de Plaisance*, which he called the *Chateau de Charles*. It was destroyed in 1783 by fire.

The Park contains about 260 acres, surrounded by a brick wall, built by the Infante Isabelle. On the height, to the north of the ancient *Chateau*, stands the *Villa*, or, as it is called, the *Palace of the prince*, encompassed by a shrubbery and grounds, laid out (you are told) in the Italian taste. The situation is commanding, being on a plateau, from which can be seen the *Palace of Laeken* and the surrounding country to a great extent. The form of the *Pavillon*, as it is called, is a square of 135 feet. The principal entrance is to the north. The *façade* is composed of a portico, supported by six Ionic columns. You enter into a large vestibule of five arcades, also decorated by columns and pilastres of the same order. The *parquet* (floor), is laid with oak from St. Lucia, extremely beautiful, as well as the sculptures and freizes, the work of Monsieur Rude. From this vestibule on the right, is a communication to the apartments of the prince, and to the left to the great antechamber. In front of this, to the rotundo, and the stairs leading to the first floor, to the right, there is a communication to the apartments of the princess.

The *Salon* is lined with a pale-yellow damask, the chimney and mantel pieces of green Genoa marble, and the ceiling of wood, in compartments, exquisitely decorated with arabesque ornaments. The furniture is mahogany. Adjoining, is the sleeping room of the prince. The lining of the walls is green damask, the furniture of satin wood, with sculptures of figures in green bronze. Behind, are the cabinets and baths. Near these, is the common salon, decorated in arabesque with flowers, fruit, and other ornaments, relieved in gold. The arabesques are executed with great spirit, the roof in compartments, and sculptured with the utmost delicacy.

The *Salle de Reception* (drawing-room) is in crimson damask, with gold ornaments, the ceiling in compartments of arabesque, raised in gold, with bas-reliefs, producing a surprising effect. The furniture is sculptured in good taste.

To the first stage, is a balustrade of polished steel, encircling the rotundo, the work of Monsieur Corin. The floor is in compartments, with inlaid military trophies. The mirrors are splendid, and the eight bas-reliefs represent the life of Achilles, from the antique. The first floor is adapted to the accommodation of the royal establishment.

This beautiful villa, either in detail, or as a whole, may be considered one of the most elegant structures of its size, in Europe. It does great honour to the architect, Vanderstraeten, and to the good taste of the Prince and the grand Duchess, for the choice of the furniture.

The Park, extending to the south, is intersected with drives and walks. The piece of water might be much improved by giving it a less formal shape, and the walks at the Villa ought to be gravelled, for the winter rains wash away the sandy soil of which they are composed, and the lawns are not mowed (as they ought to be) by the scythe, so frequently as they require.

During the summer months of 1828, above 3000 strangers (of which seven-eighths were English) visited this palace. In consequence of this influx, a diligence has been established to conduct parties to it, who generally dine at the *Renard*, the little inn we have already mentioned. It is necessary to apply at the gate of the palace to procure admission, which is never refused when the family is absent; and no gratuity is received by the porter. It is to be lamented that the same order is not given to the domestics of the town palaces, as an example to all countries. In England, none but persons of fortune can afford to visit the interior of palaces, or of

noblemen's seats. The house-keeper at Warwick Castle amassed £30,000, as the perquisites of her office:

The *Salon* of the princess is lined with blue damask, ornamented with flowers, most delicately painted in oil, the floors, a mosaic of Indian woods, the chimney of black marble, with mosaics of *pietra dura* of Florence, representing birds, flowers, and fruit of exquisite workmanship.

From this apartment the cicerone conducts you to the *Salle-à-Manger* (dining-room). It is covered with alabaster of Luxemburg, breast high, and a wainscoting in sea-green, the jambs, or mantle trees, being in statuary marble. The gorge of the ceiling and the cornice are enriched with sculpture. The floor of this beautiful apartment is executed in Indian woods, in the most admirable manner, and has probably never been surpassed; but the chairs of bad mahogany are quite unworthy of this noble room.

In the centre of the building is the rotundo, or, as it is called, "The Italian Saloon," which embraces the height of the two stories, and is remarkable for the beauty of the ornaments. The ceiling is in compartments of arabesque, raised in gold with bas-reliefs. Adjoining is the billiard room. It is in white *scagliola*, with

genest. The doors are in satin wood and amaranthe. Above them are the figures of Clio, Euterpe, Thalia, and Melpomene, with their attributes, from the pencil of Madame Rude. The floor is admirably inlaid in oak, planetree, and mahogany. The chimney is in Italian *girotte* marble, with gilt bronze. The splendid glasses, reflecting the beautiful mosaic floors, have a charming effect.

From this apartment you pass to the princesses' dressing-room, lined with pale-yellow of delicately fine tissue. The armoires and furniture are in mahogany, inlaid. The bed chamber of the princess adjoins it, the hangings of which are a violet damask. The bed is *à la Grec*, of Amboyna wood, with gilt bronze. The furniture, satin wood, inlaid. Some of it is of the Greek form; the chimney, yellow marble of Sienna. From this chamber you pass to the boudoir, in pannel, painted in arabesque, relieved in silver, on a lilac ground. The mirrors placed between the pilastres in the angles have a fine effect. The furniture is in Amboyna wood, with incrustations of mother-of-pearl, and gold and silver.

We have thus minutely described it, as a *vade mecum* to strangers, as we consider it a perfect *bijou*.

Louvain is a city of great antiquity. It is situated on the Dyle, about five leagues (*lieues du pays*) from Brussels, and nearly the same distance from Malines. Julius Cæsar, it is pretended, was its founder. In 1165, it was encompassed with a wall ; but previous to 1339, it had only one paved street, though the Dukes of Brabant inhabited the Chateau of Cæsar.

Edward III. of England passed the winter of 1485 with his queen in this celebrated castle, and Charles V. was educated in it.

Before 1794, Louvain had the glory of having never been captured, though often attacked. In 1572, the Prince of Orange made a vigorous assault on it, but was repulsed, and obliged to raise the siege, from the bravery of the citizens, assisted by the students of the college. In 1710, it was attacked by the French, and surprised ; but again saved by the courage of the inhabitants. On the 15th July, 1794, however, General Kleber carried the posts of the *Montagne de fer*, by assault, and the Maiden citadel was compelled to surrender.

The college, which had gone into decay during the revolution, has been restored to its former establishment, and is in a thriving state.

In Louvain are forty breweries, which annual-

ly make 200,000 tons of beer (*bierre blanche*), which is highly esteemed throughout the kingdom, and immense quantities of it are consumed.

The hall, call Frascati, is remarkable for its size. During the annual fair may be seen 1000 persons promenading with ease in its galleries, and as many sitting in the *loges* (boxes) and *buffets* (refreshment rooms), while two hundred quadrilles are performing their evolutions, and another set of equal numbers is ready to start.

The circumference of the city is four and a-half miles, though the population now does not exceed 27,000, the gardens and vineyards within the walls being extensive.* It communicates by a canal with Malines, on which there is a considerable traffic. There are also several thriving manufactories of woollen stuffs, coarse cambrics, and linen.

The College Church of St. Peter, built by the Comte Lambert Balderie, towards the beginning of the eleventh century, is a noble edifice, originally surmounted by a tower of five hundred and thirty-three feet high, which was unhappily thrown down by a hurricane in 1604. The Louvainites esteemed it the eighth wonder of the world.

* The wine (if any is now grown) is of bad quality.

At the commencement of the fourteenth century, Louvain was large, handsome, well peopled, and rich. The fabrication of cloth in 1317 was so flourishing, that there were four thousand drapers' establishments giving employment to one hundred and fifty thousand artisans. We presume, however, that this is overcharged.

Previous to its occupation by the French, it contained forty colleges; "and every stranger," says the *Voyageur des Pays Bas*, "was struck with admiration at the immense building, the *halles*, and its superb *salles*, where civil law, medicine, and theology were taught.

The ancient university contained a botanic garden, a theatre of anatomy, and cabinets of physical and natural history. King William re-established one of the three universities in 1816, and the College of Philosophy in 1824.

Tirlemont possesses nothing worthy of notice. It is a fortified town, with a population of ten thousand, distant from Louvain, fourteen miles. Beyond the gate leading to Maestricht, are three considerable *tumuli*, supposed to be Roman.

Between Landen and Neerwinden, the French, in 1693, under the command of the Mareschal de Luxemburg, gained a dear-

bought victory over the allies, commanded by William III. of England, and Emmanuel, Elector of Bavaria. The same field was also the scene of another severe conflict in 1793, when general Dumourier, at the head of the French army in Belgium, terminated his military glory by a convention with the Prince of Saxe Coburg, whereby he agreed to evacuate the Pays Bas, on condition that he should not be molested in his retreat by the Austrians.

Flanders was formerly divided into two provinces—the west, of which Ypres was the capital, and the east, which comprehends three chatelaines, Ghent, Courtrai, and Oudenarde; also the Imperiale, comprehending the Comté d’Alost, the Seigneurie of Termonde, the Pays de Waes, and les Quatre Metiers.

Under the French government, these two provinces formed the departments of the Lys and Escaut, or Scheldt. The Pays de Waes is cultivated with the greatest care. It is divided into small fields of eight or ten acres (and many half that size), which are raised in the middle, forming a sort of cone, by means of arches, and with extraordinary care. The borders are in grass, and the fields enclosed by quick-set hedges, planted with trees, and trimmed with the utmost nicety. A ditch sur-

rounds them, to preserve the dung which the rains carry in from the lands.

Every weed and parasite plant is rooted out the moment it appears, and the soil is dressed like a flower garden. It is highly favourable to the growth of carrots, with which the farmers feed their horses, thereby producing a fine coat. And the turnip crop might be brought to the same perfection, if the drill system was understood; but the obstinacy of the Fleming is such, that he will not follow the example of England in stall-feeding.

The whole Pays de Waes looks like a continued garden, interspersed with villages; and the hamlets are so extensive, and approach to each other so closely, that the traveller is puzzled to know, where one begins, and the other ends.

The highways are everywhere bordered with gentlemen's seats, and the habitations of rich farmers; so that the agricultural amateur, in his ride from Ghent to Antwerp, a distance of thirty miles, will be highly gratified.

Dendermonde is a fortified town on the conflux of the Dender and the Scheldt. It has sustained many sieges; and is classical to an Englishman, from its being the scene of some

of the exploits of "My uncle Toby and corporal Trim."

West Flanders is also well cultivated, though its soil is lighter than the eastern province. The most fertile part is *Veurne Ambagt*, a champaigne country, intersected with paved roads and canals, which produce *miasma*. The only elevations are the downs (or, as we would call such in England, sand hills), which are planted with firs. The pasturage of the plains is extremely rich, but, from the want of trees and inclosures, the country is tame. The butter produced from the best dairies, is called *amandel boter*, and much renowned.

Many horses are bred in this district, and sent to France, where they fetch good prices, and a ready market. The colts are particularly in request by the Normans, who educate them in the *manège* for the Parisian *dandies*; yet, notwithstanding the great abundance of horses in west Flanders, the peasants generally ride on donkeys, being better adapted to travel on the light soil, especially among the downs.

The marshes, by an ingenious mode of draining, have been converted into a soil that produces rich crops of grain. The brothers, Herewyn, by persevering, and their knowledge of hydraulics, have done wonders in this way,

and thereby rendered the country more healthy. A huge dyke, called *Rinkslot*, retains the waters in their boundaries, and, by means of wind-mills, the superabundant stream is received in a canal, falling into the sea. These two provinces send twenty members to the *Etats-Generaux*.

Tournay is on the Scheldt, and is supposed to derive its name from the five towers of the cathedral. It was built five centuries previous to the Christian era, and was called by the Romans *Civitas Nerviorum*. It is noted for its manufactory of carpets, commonly called Brussels carpets, in which six thousand persons are constantly employed. Another establishment for manufacturing carpets has been lately made on a large scale; and, from the rapid growth of luxury in the Netherlands, its success cannot be doubted.

It has been said that, when George IV. passed through Tournay, on his return from Hanover, his majesty gave orders for a carpet to be made for the Palace at Windsor, the price of which was estimated at 30,000 francs; but we presume this report was extracted from "*The Brussels Gazette*." The revolution has stopped most of the looms.

SOCIETY AND MANNERS

OF THE

BELGIANS.

THE English assert that the Belgians are cold, and that it is difficult to get into their society, forgetting the difference of their habits and tastes. The Belgian dines at two or three o'clock, the Englishman at five or six. The former sits a couple of hours at table, takes his *café* and *chasse*, and proceeds to the theatre and his club. The latter remains many hours over his wine after the ladies have gone to the drawing-room, and forms a party of whist, or *ecarté*, from which he does not stir till after midnight. His wife invites to a ball, twice as many persons as her house can contain; pays 100 francs to Monsieur Sacré for his band; puts down an expensive supper, with champagne, which the Belgian cannot afford to

return. Hence they move in different circles, and seldom meet.

At Paris they manage matters differently. The Frenchman mingles more with strangers, but he will not alter his hours to accommodate them, and he entertains them in his own fashion, to which he is accustomed. At the Parisian *soirées*, the refreshments are simple and not costly, consisting of ices, lemonade, negus, and *eau sucrée*; and, when they are invited in return by *milor Anglais*, they do ample justice to his luxuries, laughing, *sous cap*, at his extravagance.

The upper classes of the Belgians reside four months of the summer at their country houses, but have little intercourse with each other. Their retirement is probably a measure of economy, to enable them to pay for their opera boxes, and their milliners' bills. Dress is their chief expense, and their great pleasure is to exhibit themselves and their equipages in the *Allée-verte* and the *Boulevards*. They attend the theatre in their morning costumes, the head-gear only being arranged. They take off their *chapeaux* and hang them on a peg in their boxes. This is done at Paris and in Italy, and might be followed by our countrywomen, both

to save trouble and expense ; for the theatres are a great enemy to ladies' garments.

It is impossible for strangers to avoid remarking the boisterous intonation of the voices of the lower orders of the Belgians, who excel in clamour the lazzaroni of Naples. The servants, and especially the females, are so discordant, that, when their mistresses have occasion to find fault with them (which often occurs), they must have strong nerves to venture on a second rebuke.

In market, or between persons driving a bargain in a shop or in the street, the clamour of their stentorian lungs rivals Billingsgate or St. Giles's. The men threaten each other with extended arms, and every appearance of mutual assault, that strangers wonder the war of words and gesticulation does not end in actual battle ; and, the barbarous din being always in the mother tongue (Flemish), it is the more terrific.

In consequence of the constant employment and high wages of the mechanics employed in the new buildings, erecting in various parts of the city, money is abundant, and the cabarets always overflowing.

Drunkenness produces music and nocturnal debauches. These *canaille* sally forth at midnight, parade the streets *en masse*, yelling the

most discordant ditties under the windows of the quiet citizen, so that repose is out of the question; yet these worthies are not interrupted by the police. John Bull, committing similar offences in London, would be sent to the watch-house, and mulcted five shillings for being drunk!

We would fain give our readers a sketch of the state of society and manners of the upper ranks of the Flemings, but this is a most difficult task. To portray with fidelity what one has but little opportunity of seeing, must be fallacious, although many writers of travels, who have only passed hastily through the countries they describe, and who, perhaps, have only seen the society of a *table d'hote*, or a public ball, pretend to draw the character of the inhabitants by a dash of their pens; yet Goldsmith, with great humour, drew the portraits of all the nations of Europe by a single paragraph. In describing the Scotch people (who are so national that they do not think any of their countrymen could possibly merit the gallows), he says, "We understand that Duncan M'Gillivray, who was hanged last week in the Grassmarket of Edinburgh, for sheep-stealing, was not a native of Scotland, but from the north of Ireland!"

Though the author has lived above twelve years in the Netherlands, he has not been able to discover any characteristic trait in the Belgians, from other nations. There is but little difference in their manners from their neighbours in Prussia, or Germany, though perhaps they resemble them more than they do the French ; but, from their great intercourse with the latter during the revolution, they have adopted a little of the gaiety and grimace of that lively nation.

When strangers are admitted into the society of the inhabitants of any country, there is generally, if not always, a little restraint, ceremony, and formality, which prevent foreigners from judging of their true character. A Belgian will receive you into his house with politeness, but without cordiality. They consider the English as a proud and haughty nation, and seldom court their society. This opinion of our countrymen probably originates in our having less action and grimace in conversation, than themselves, and because it is not the Englishman's custom to address strangers in mixed companies without some previous introduction. This shyness, foreigners think, must proceed from pride, or *mauvaise honte*. Not one Belgian in five hundred was ever beyond

his own frontiers ; and, consequently, he can know but little of the usages of society of other countries, sagaciously considering his own manners as a criterion of good breeding.

There is but little marked in the manners and character of the Belgians (as we have already observed), to be noticed by a foreigner, or to demand his study. The phlegm of the Dutch, seems to be mingled with the vivacity of the French, and the *mélange* is not very pleasing.

The different provinces of Belgium exhibit some different shades of character. On the borders of Holland, the natives are heavy, blunt, honest, like their neighbours, and adopt their customs, amusements, and even their dress ; but in the south, they ape the French, from whom they are hardly to be distinguished, except in their preferring, as a beverage, beer to wine. The various governments under which they have passed hinder them from assuming any fixed and national character. They love their pleasures ; and perhaps no nation in Europe has so much feasting, or spends so much money in *cabarets* and *guingettes*, as the middling and lower orders of the Flemings.

All ranks are expensive in their dress. The wives of the *Bourgeoisie* are no longer to be

seen in their respectable and graceful *failles*,* except some matron, attached to her youthful costume. The waiting maid and the mantua-maker are not to be known from the mistress, except that they wear caps, which, being composed of expensive lace and materials, are very costly. Yet the cook and the housemaid, whose wages do not exceed 8 or 10 Napoleons, will lay out one on this head dress. Hence the necessity of plundering their employers.

The Belgians, being unaccustomed to crowned heads (1824), have not as yet learned to pay those marks of respect which are due to a sovereign. When his majesty appears in public, little notice is taken of him by the populace, who look on with the utmost apathy. This is the more inexcusable, as certainly no monarch in Europe deserves more the love and respect of his subjects.† We would, however, hope, that this apparent want of respect arises from ignorance, rather than unworthy feelings.

They have not, perhaps, forgotten the period when, under the dominion of Napoleon, they were dragooned into loyalty by the military,

* A mantle like the Scotch plaid, only it is black.

† This was written during the king's popularity.

who enforced the "Vivas" by blows of the sabre on the shoulders of the refractory !

The most obvious peculiarity by which the Belgians are distinguished, is their extravagant fondness for religious ceremonies and exhibitions and fetes. Nowhere is there a greater appearance of piety. The long and splendid procession brings every one to his door, to salute on his knees the consecrated host ; and he esteems it his duty to attend mass every day ; and, at an early hour, every church is thronged with worshippers. These acts of devotion being paid, the Belgian eagerly engages in the avocations of business and pleasure.

Every Bourgeois is member of a club, to which he resorts every evening (if he does not frequent the theatre), where he plays cards or dominos, and drinks his beer. On *jours de fête*, he takes his family to the *estaminets* ; and, in summer evenings, these numerous places of resort are crowded with well-dressed persons of both sexes.

A very favourite pastime of the Belgians is shooting with the bow and arrow. A pole is erected beyond the wall of every Flemish town, and in all the villages. On its top is placed an iron grate, supporting a great many small stuffed birds. On Sunday evenings and *fêtes*,

the whole commune assembles to shoot at these models of the feathered race.

During the *kermess*,* the greatest gaiety prevails in every village of the kingdom. These feasts are partly religious, and partly bacchanalian. In the latter, resembling the Whitsuntide feasts of England. The number of the Saints' days, however, has been reduced from one hundred and twenty to thirty.

Monday is a holiday among the labouring classes in the towns; and no carpenter, bricklayer, mason, shoemaker, or other handicraft, does any work on this day; but the character of the Bruxellois is greatly changed since the vast number of buildings and other improvements in the city have given constant employment to all classes of artizans, with high wages. Instead of the sober and industrious race which we found them at the general peace, they are become dissipated and turbulent. In 1829, there were nine hundred and fifty licensed houses for the sale of wines, spirits, and ale. Many of these *estaminets*, as they are generally called, are on a large scale—spacious ball and drinking rooms, capable of containing 1000 or 1500 persons, and fitted up gor-

* Kirk mass—an annual feast.

geously. These are for the higher order of Bourgeois; and, during the carnival and the summer months, are daily crowded with company of both sexes.

In 1826, the king, with great propriety, abolished lotteries—an abominable system of gaming, which corrupted all ranks, and induced servants, tradesmen, and shopkeepers, to rob their employers.

Spa is the only part of the Belgian dominions where public gaming is permitted; but the seasons are short, and the evil is not great.

The number of individuals who are daily ruined at Paris by *rouge et noir* and hazard, is beyond all calculation; and, though the suicides they occasion are concealed from the knowledge of the public, there is no doubt that they exceed those of London. We, however, are branded with being “a nation of self-murderers;” for in England, a coroner’s inquest and the daily press promulgate the fatal deed, while, if a lifeless body is found in the streets, or taken out of the Seine, at Paris, it is carried to the *Morgue* to be identified; the journals are silent, and the police alone is made acquainted with the circumstance. The policy of concealing these suicides appears to be erroneous, as an exposure might deter others from similar

crimes. Perhaps the self-love of a Frenchman would be hurt, by letting the world know that his compatriot had, under any circumstances, wanted nerve or philosophy to bear the pressure of misfortune.

There is no doubt that foreigners, particularly young Englishmen who frequent the Palais Royal, are the greatest victims to gaming, though it but rarely occurs that they are driven to the last extremity; yet young and old are daily fleeced. It has been calculated, if a man *punts* 5 Napoleons on each deal for four hours daily, he must at the end of the year be near 6,000 out of pocket by the *refaits* alone, as every time thirty-one comes up to the dealer and the *punter*, the latter loses one-half of his stake; besides this, the bank has a pull of two and a half per cent. at *rouge et noir*, and six at *roulette*, on the play.

The Marquis de L——, who has had the licence from government for many years, is said to have realized a fortune equal to 25,000 Napoleons per annum. He pays 9,000,000 of francs annually to the public; and, before he can “turn a penny,” he must expend 4,000,000 more, to keep going his various establishments in town and country, for his jurisdiction extends over all the departments of France. Is

it, therefore, to be wondered at that so many fall victims to this abominable and disgraceful practice ?

Since the Revolution in Flanders, the Code Napoleon has been the law, but it is soon to be succeeded by a Code Guillaume.

All the pleadings before the public courts, together with the records and official papers, are at present in Dutch.

Marriage is regarded, in the Netherlands, as purely a civil contract. The magistrates publish the banns, by a notice of the intended marriage affixed on the Hotel de Ville for fifteen days, and the ceremony is performed, which is generally repeated by the priests in their respective parishes, but this is not compulsory.

A register is kept, divided into several columns, where the names of the parties are inscribed according to their degree—the rich, those who possess a competency, and the poor. The bridegroom may enter his name in either of these columns, and according to the rank he assumes, the fees are regulated.

The marriages of British subjects are celebrated in the house of the British Ambassador, and the Bishop of London, we believe, has contrived to exact the fee of one guinea for registering the same ; but whether these fees (of his

Lordship's extensive diocese of the continent of Europe and its islands) go into the pockets of the Church, or for the benefit of the king's revenue, we have not been able to ascertain.

A curious cause has been lately tried at Bruges, the decision of which has thrown the *femmes couvertes* of foreign countries into a panic. A Greek, married to an Englishwoman, and established at Bruges, got into difficulties, and quitted the country without paying his debts. His creditors sued his wife in her maiden name, for the amount, and threw her into prison. A high-minded chivalrous Englishman, also living at Bruges, espoused the poor lady's cause, supposing the arrest was illegal; but, though the best counsel that the city afforded pleaded the case, it was decided against her, with costs of suit, it appearing that such is the law of Belgium, and "that any married woman, participating in her husband's expenses, is liable to the payment of debts thus contracted; and, if insolvent, to imprisonment." The law, however, only applies to foreigners; but it does not appear to be a measure adapted to encourage them to settle in the dominions of his majesty of the Netherlands, although the influx of strangers, especially the English, in the capital, must greatly benefit the country.

After the English, the Germans and Russians are the greatest travellers; the French and Belgians the least of all nations. The French, who think too highly of their own country, and of their language, will not take the trouble, or have no pleasure in visiting others, and it is only men of science who travel; besides, they think it beneath their dignity to acquire the knowledge of foreign languages. French being spoken at all the European courts, these *savants* consider this sufficient. They have acquired the reputation of being more inquisitive than other travellers, from being accomplished persons. Englishmen do not think it necessary to be considered as men of letters, when they make the tour of Europe. They move about, generally speaking, to gratify their curiosity, without the desire of establishing the reputation of philosophers, and yet the press is inundated with their journals. Belgium affording but few men of science, and few having the command of money to meet the expenses of travelling, they seldom quit their own territory.

The Belgians are much indebted to King William for having abolished so many of their *jours de fête*, although this ordinance at first gave great offence to the clergy and the bigots; but the people soon discovered the great ad-

vantages which resulted from such an abridgment in the calendar. The zealous Catholic, under the old system, had nearly one-sixth part of the year appointed to fast days, so that all labour on these days was stopped. What would an Englishman think of a religion that rendered him idle for such a period? Or, what would a Norfolk farmer say, when he required the labour of his servants to cut down his hay or his wheat, that St. Anne or St. Peter, being *jours de fête*, required his attendance in church; or, the manufacturer, who ordered a piece of work to be executed without delay, to find that his men were in their holiday suits, saying their prayers? "All this" (says an intelligent traveller, who has given a similar opinion of the disadvantages arising from so much time being spent in the observance of religious ceremonies) "may be considered necessary for their salvation, but it cannot be denied for a moment, that the most important results are thus produced upon the agriculture and prosperity of a country." If such a state of things was practised where rents, taxes, and wages, are high (which they are in Belgium), the farmers would be speedily ruined.

In Switzerland, this is very visible; for in those parts of it where the Catholic persuasion

is found, you see the fields neglected, and the people poor and idle. You learn that several hours are daily consumed in attending to their religious duties, whereas, in the Protestant districts, the labourers are in the fields, Sundays excepted.

The ancient custom of *bonhomie*, paying visits on the first day of the year to your friends and acquaintances, is still kept up at Brussels with great precision. At an early hour, when light is visible, the whole genteel male population of the city is in movement, and every carriage and horse in requisition for the occasion. The pedestrians may be seen crossing each other at every corner, the great contest being, who shall first deliver the cards. A man in *good condition* will, in the course of the morning's round, *pousser* fourscore, or one hundred billets, in these visits.

A novel and ingenious mode of acknowledging these calls was adopted this year (1828), by a citizen who, being encumbered with flesh and keeping no carriage, found his physical powers unequal to the task of leaving his name at the doors of his numerous friends in person. He therefore stationed his servant in his hall with a plentiful supply of visiting cards, to be exchanged for those left for him.

ADDENDA TO BRUSSELS.

THREE English physicians are established in Brussels (1829), men of talent and education, whose fees are very small, compared with those in England—a great saving this to families with limited means. Monsieur Piron prepares medicines with as much care as any London chemist, which may also be considered a matter of no small importance to strangers.

A society of gentlemen have entered into a subscription for importing the English journals; but a club on a similar plan to that at Paris is still wanted; there being no rendezvous where gentlemen are supplied with pamphlets, reviews, &c. or where a party can be made at whist, as at our watering-places. And that *exclusiveness* in their intercourse with foreigners, for which our countrymen have been so much and so justly blamed, perhaps hinders many of them from taking advantage of the Flemish Club, called *La Société Littéraire*, which we shall have occasion to mention again in the

sequel. Thus the English society is chiefly at home, and large expensive parties do not suit every one's purse.

Foreign literature is freely admitted into Brussels. The censorship is unknown, and consequently many books are printed and sold here which are prohibited in France and Italy.*

The English service is performed, morning and evening, at the Chapel Royal and at the church of St. Augustin. The curates' salaries are paid by the rents of the seats, which are regulated by committees; and a charity fund, for the relief of the indigent English, is collected at the church doors.

The Belle Vue, the Flandres, and l'Europe, in the Place Royale, are excellent hotels; and the hotels d'Angleterre and d'Hollande, and many others, afford comfortable accommodation. There is a *table d'hôte* at the Hotel de Suede, where an excellent dinner is served at two francs a-head, at which from thirty to forty persons sit down daily. There are, too, for the most part, *tables d'hôte* at the principal hotels. The Flandres, Suede, and Belle Vue, however, take the lead. Good dinners can be had from the *restaurateurs*, at all prices; and where there

* This was written in 1820.

are no children, many families adopt this as a point of economy.

When the old ramparts at Brussels were thrown down, several years ago, a ride and promenade were projected, on the plan of the Parisian Boulevards. From the Porte de Namur to Porte Guillaume the drive has been completed, avenues of trees have been planted, and many handsome buildings have been erected; but the Committee of Taste, who have the arrangement of the new embellishments, either from lack of funds or want of judgment, have committed a fatal error in paving the ride. They employed small calcareous stones, which are already decomposed, or displaced, so that the ride in a carriage is as fatiguing to the invalid as insupportable.

Groceries are perhaps ten per cent. cheaper than in England, tea excepted, which varies more considerably from the price of the English markets. Pekoe, delicate and high-flavoured, for which the London grocer would charge ten or twelve shillings, can be procured in small chests, suited to the consumption of a family, for four or five francs per pound.—Though the Dutch have only a few ships that trade with China, yet they undersell our Leadenhall monopolists; the duty on tea being here

only six per cent. will partly account for the difference of price.* Coffee is better flavoured than any from our plantations. It is imported chiefly from Java and Bourbon, and is retailed at twelve and fourteen sous. It is the custom to mix it with a little *chicorée*, which is cultivated in the fields; it is an agreeable bitter, and, when prepared, sells at four sous per lb. Servants object to their *café* being too highly saturated with this weed; and, when settling for wages, they frequently ask, “*Mais, madame, combien de chicorée dans le café?*”

As much of the economy of a *ménage* depends on servants, and as nothing is more difficult than to procure trusty ones, you must be careful in your choice of them. Cooks are everywhere dishonest; and here they make the English the peculiar objects of their attention, both in marketing abroad, and in every species of speculation at home. To check this as much as possible, you should make yourself acquainted with the prices of the day, for butter, poultry, fish, &c.

The wages of a cook, *à la bourgeoise*, are 10

* The Dutch and Belgians sell their teas 30 or 35 per cent. cheaper than the English, without any consideration of duties, which shows the advantages of an open market.

or 12 Napoleons; a house-maid, 8; a footman, from 15 to 20. Belgian domestics, though not so expert as English in doing the work of a house, and perhaps more capricious in their tempers, are less dainty in their food, and consequently less expensive; but they contract so many bad habits in the service of the English, that they find some difficulty in again getting placed with their countrymen, and this they tell you with great coolness, and make their demands accordingly. The cook is so confident that you will submit to be fleeced, that, in engaging with you, she will say, "*Mais, madame, combien pour profit ?*" Which, anglicised, means, "To what extent may I impose on you?"

At Trois Fontaines, Merli, Terveuren, Boisfort, &c. an excellent dinner of a dozen dishes is served, at a franc and a half *par tête*.

In the town, many of the *restaurateurs* are equally moderate in their charges. At the Groonendael in the Puterie (a respectable *table d'hôte*), a person may *s'abonner* by the month, for thirty-five francs, and sit down to two good courses, well cooked, and a dessert, and where he will meet with good company.

The poor half-pay subaltern, who in England "can hardly sleep for hunger," may in Brussels thus have luxuries on his scanty funds.

The author, a few years ago, on his way to Spa, slept at Boetté, a small inn, three leagues beyond Genappe; he had a companion with him, and they travelled in a tilbury. They were served with an excellent dinner, had a bottle of hock, and two bottles of volney, coffee, beds, and breakfast the following morning. Their bill, including their horse, was 15 francs (12 shillings). We strongly recommend tourists, taking this route, not to pass the comfortable little auberge of Boetté. It is thirty miles from Brussels; and to those travelling with their own horses, or *en voiturier*, it makes a good station to Spa. We are further tempted to detail the expense of a tour of thirteen days, which the author made with his friend, to show what may be done with management. They travelled from Brussels, by Namur, to Spa, at which place they remained five days, and returned by Maestricht and Louvain. Their whole expenses amounted to 192 francs, and they lived well, but never exceeded their two bottles per day. It happened that two of their countrymen made the same tour, in the same number of days; and on comparing notes afterwards, these gentlemen had expended 27 Napoleons! But they would not dine at *tables d'hôte*; they had private *salons*, and drank *Lafitte*

(alias *vin ordinaire*), at 7 francs per bottle! dining on the *debris* of the public table!

Though Brussels is, perhaps, the dullest capital on the Continent, especially when the court is absent, yet we have endeavoured to prove, by the comparative prices of the articles of life with other countries, and from long experience; that it is one of the cheapest, and as a station for the education of youth (females especially), admirable.

To those who consider the pleasures of the table as the *summum bonum* of existence, it will afford every luxury; but to the lover of the beaux arts and literature, there is little gratification.

The Fine Arts are making considerable progress, and the annual *expositions* at the Hague, Ghent, and the capital, show very considerable talent among the artists of the day. Jacobs, a native of Ghent, after studying at Rome three years, gained the prize medal of the Academy of Milan, value 100 louis; but during the exhibition of his picture,—the bringing of Pompey's head to Cæsar,—this highly promising young man was unfortunately cut off by exposure to *malaria*. The president, in order to console his father, sent to him, along with the picture and medal, a flattering letter, express-

ing the regret of the Academy at the loss the arts had sustained by the death of one of its brightest ornaments.

This picture, on its arrival at Brussels, created considerable sensation among the artists, who, in honour of the talents and memory of their compatriot, conducted it in procession to St. Gudule, where a grand requiem, composed for the occasion, was performed, and the picture was exhibited to a numerous assembly. This beautiful specimen of modern art, in consequence of the death of the brother of Jacobs, has been offered for sale, but no purchasers have appeared.

The painting is nevertheless one of the finest productions of the modern school, both as to composition and correctness of drawing; and though inferior in colour to Poussin, may be hung up as a *pendant* to that great master, without losing its merits in the eye of the connoisseur.

There is no object of interest nor remnant of antiquity in the city, except the spire of the town-house, St. Gudule, and the market-place—no galleries of pictures nor libraries to which strangers have access, except the museum, which its manuscripts only make worthy of notice. To the Englishman, Brussels is parti-

cularly *triste*, for he has no place of re-union or club where he can meet his countrymen to play a rubber of whist, or talk politics ; and, generally, from his ignorance of the language, he can have but small enjoyment in visiting the theatres, and the ballets afford as little gratification to the eye. John Bull must, therefore, eat and drink ; *gastronome* is the sole occupation left to him. He cannot hunt, or shoot, or fish ; there is no Newmarket or cockpit. He cannot drive his team over a rough pavement, or take a morning ride, except in a sandy lane. These are the drawbacks to a residence in Brussels. We have endeavoured to sketch its advantages and *agrémens*, and we will leave it to our readers to settle the *balance* of good and bad.

“ We have nothing extenuated, nor aught set down in malice.”

BELGIAN FARMERS.

THE tenacity of the Belgians to old habits is very extraordinary. The husbandman uses the same implements of agriculture that his fore-



J. Henderson.

S. Leck.

**PEASANTS
OF THE ENVIRONS OF BRUSSELS**

fathers did two centuries back. His plough is a horse load, and his harrow has wooden teeth. He will adopt no new inventions to abridge labour. He will not follow the example of England in raising turnips on the drill-system, nor vary his mode of planting potatoes, although he is aware of the advantages. This is unaccountable, as the Flemish farmer's ruling passion is gain; and he will walk ten miles to a market-town, to put a few *centimes* in his pocket. The author knows more than one yeoman who farms his own estate, purchased for four or five years' annual value during the Revolution (church lands). He slaves in the fields like a *Gallère*, his wife and daughters clean the stables and byres, and weed the corn, exposed to the rays of the sun and "the pelting of the pitiless storm." The family are in rags, except on *jours de fête*, and he feeds them on *soupe maigre* and stewed cabbages.

In Scotland, a man of such property would be called a "*Laird*." He would live in a good house, send his sons to college, and his daughters to boarding-schools. He would see his friends, and entertain them like a gentleman, without exceeding his income.

It is singular that the Flemish peasant is so ignorant in planting potatoes, and so obstinate,

that neither precept nor example can induce him to follow the English mode of cutting the root into eyes, and selecting the best. His practice is, to plant the smallest, such as ought to be thrown to the pigs.

A particular friend of the author's, extremely intelligent in agricultural affairs, and a good practical farmer, visited the Pays Bas in the summer of 1825, and took some pains to investigate the state of farming. Along with much to praise he found a good deal to condemn, particularly in the management of their cattle, the want of drill turnips, and the wretched state of the implements of husbandry. This gentleman visited several large farms, and found these deficiencies universal. He considers the soil admirably adapted for the growth of turnips, for fattening sheep and cattle. But the farmers contend that it is too light to stand the pressure of their feet; moreover, they rear them in the extensive forests of Soignies and Ardennes, and fatten them on oil-cake, at a very small expense; whereas the English method would leave the grazier no profit. Admitting these arguments to be in some measure just, turnips ought to be raised; and, if the fields were found to receive injury from penning, stall-feeding might be adopted, and the

cows kept in better condition. The wretched state of these animals in spring is altogether incredible; they resemble the cattle of Shetland, that live at certain seasons on stock-fish, or the cows of the North Cape, which, according to Acerbi, are fed on pickled salmon!

The breed is also bad, which is the more inexcusable, as finer milch cows can nowhere be seen than in the pastures of Holland. Such is the pitiful economy of some of the Flemish farmers, that when a cow dies, whether from malady or accident, she is never replaced until the calf is old enough to take her station in the dairy-yard.

The farmers seem to have no notion of the advantages of selecting the best breeds of domestic animals. Their sheep are long-legged and long-backed. The swine equally so. The author procured the Berkshire breed for a friend, who farmed on a large scale, but, from want of attention, he did not keep it pure, and it shortly degenerated into the *greyhound* form. These animals are turned into the forests, and having abundance of acorns and beech-mast, they get fat, and nowhere can be seen finer pork.

The Tourist will be surprised to see the uniform fine crops in Belgium. The mildew is almost unknown, arising, it is said, from the

care which the Flemish farmer takes to select his seed, Some pick out the best ears, while others strike a sheaf against a block of wood, taking for seed the grains which first drop out. The seed is changed every second year, and is prepared in a solution of blue vitriol. In the Pays de Waes, this method has been practised for more than half a century, where mildew is seldom seen, and smut never.

The clover fields are manured with peat ashes from Holland, at the rate of sixteen bushels per acre. Two good crops are always produced by this means, and afterwards pasturage, while the wheat that succeeds never fails. The peat ashes may be imported into England at 1s. per bushel.

In the plains of Fleuris, fallows are entirely abandoned. The ground is cleaned (the principal use of fallows), by raising it in small ridges with an instrument called the *binot*. It is a maxim with the Flemish farmer, that "if the land be well manured every ninth year, fallows are unnecessary." This doctrine may suit in the rich loamy soil of many parts of the Netherlands, but such husbandry would not answer in England.

The usual return of wheat is twelve or thirteen, and never less than seven. The greatest

attention is paid to weeding, and much care taken of the manure, of which a liberal allowance is given to the land; but it is laid on in too fresh and green a state, and the compost heap is little known.

The culture of rape and winter barley are peculiar features in the Flemish husbandry. The usual course of crops in the Pays de Waes (where the best farming is practised) is as follows:—

1. After the land is trenched and well manured, potatoes.
2. Wheat, with more manure, sown in October and November, and carrots for second crop same year.
3. Flax, with manure, and laid down with clover.
4. Clover.
5. Rye or wheat, with carrots for second crop.
6. Oats.
7. Buck wheat, after which the ground is trenched. Rye is sown in the three last months of the year, and commonly reaped in July or the beginning of August. Winter barley is sown in October, and reaped about the end of August. The sheep are small and very unprofitable. The wool is both coarse and scanty, and no attention is paid to improve the breed. The draught horses are fine; but the connoisseur would complain of their being low in the back. A great many mares, however, are exported to England. The Suffolk-punch is said to have derived its origin by a cross

from this country, but no attention is paid to their breed, though they might be very easily imported from Holland at a small expense, and a short journey. If the Flemings knew that "the cow gives milk by the mouth," they would probably feed them better. This was a favourite maxim of the late Mr. Harley, so well known in Scotland for his improvements in dairies, and for the management of cows. He travelled into Belgium and Holland in the summer of 1829, to collect materials for a work on this subject, published the following year. He told the author that the Flemish cows are the worst breed he ever saw, and their mode of treatment equally bad; while in Holland they are the finest, and the greatest possible care is everywhere taken to nourish them and to keep them clean. The advantages of such management are apparent. It is singular that no nation can rival the Dutch in curing butter for exportation, and the same may be said of their herrings.

PROVINCE OF LIEGE.

THE MEUSE.

THE river Meuse rises in France, between Void and Toul, and passing by Verdun, Namur, Liege, and Maestricht, joins the Waal, near Worcum, proceeding to Dortrecht, where it unites with the Rhine.

In many parts of its course, particularly between Namur and Liege, it exhibits, on a smaller but more pleasing scale, all the wildness, variety, and picturesque beauty of the Rhine. It is the resort of tourists, and of artists who wish to study nature in her most majestic form. The river here is shut in by immense rocks on each side, covered with a variety of wood to their summits, or naked and abrupt, of every form and colour. Some of the cliffs are whimsically fringed with box, wild myrtle, and ivy; other larger openings present a deep and romantic

valley, either terminating in a romantic rock, or a pleasing view of a *riante* country.*

The scenery, indeed, is seldom surpassed ; many of the rocks are crowned with villas, or, more rarely, by a venerable ruin. The fields are highly cultivated, the villages well peopled, and you are greeted everywhere with an appearance of plenty ; and almost every mineral in the catalogue of geology is found here. Gold and silver (though but in small specimens), copper, lead, tin, iron, zinc, marble (in considerable variety), granite, lime-stone, slate quarries, &c.

The situation of Namur is very picturesque. The town is of high antiquity, and is defended by a strong fortress, one of the line to protect the frontier. The road here crosses to the right bank of the Meuse by means of a Gothic bridge ; and from hence to Liege it is what is called "*un chemin ferré*," and is certainly as hard as iron. It was constructed by French engineers, soon after the Revolution, as a communication with the forts, and is formed on the same plan as our new English highways and streets, denominated "*Macadamised*." It would not be fair to insinuate that our ingenious countryman had

* From Dinant to Liege, a distance of fifty-five miles, the valley is everywhere picturesque.

seen this *chemin ferré* of the Pays de Liege, and that, instead of being an inventor, he is only a copyist. But, be this as it may, he merits his reputation, from having introduced the system into general use in England, and from having improved on it, by breaking every stone to the same size, which renders the foundation much more solid.

Near Liege, Serang, formerly a summer palace of the *ci-devant* Prince Bishop, has been converted into an iron foundry by the celebrated engineer and mechanist, Mr. Cockerill, who, after having realized a large fortune by his skill in the construction of steam-engines, and spinning machines, and in other branches of mechanism, settled his sons at this place, a few years ago. The king, desirous of enlarging an establishment so important to the nation, has embarked in it a sum amounting to £90,000 (1827).

It has already attained considerable magnitude, and constantly employs four thousand hands. One of the largest figures ever cast in bronze, has been lately manufactured there—a colossal Belgian Lion, which is placed on the summit of an immense conical triumphal mound, raised on the field of St. Jean, in honour of the victory, in which the Belgian troops had so

conspicuous a share. A singular fort on a perpendicular rock defends the bridge, and renders this pass impregnable.

Liege, though beautifully situated, and watered by two fine rivers, the Meuse and the Ourte, is itself a filthy kennel. In summer, the narrowness of the streets, or rather lanes, the smoke from the forges, and a "concatenation of villanous smells," impede respiration. No town in Europe could be kept clean at so small an expense, yet none is dirtier. Were the streets widened, and a free circulation of air admitted, it would be a delightful residence.

There is a considerable manufacture of coarse cutlery and of nails. The Liegeois pique themselves on their perfection in the art of gun-making, though, possibly, Joe Manton would not hold their workmanship in much estimation. I believe their guns, however, are the best on the Continent. The barrels are well twisted and well bored, but they are too slight in metal, and the finishing of the locks is not to be compared with our best Birmingham manufactures.

Liege has been surnamed the Sheffield of Flanders. The old palace of the bishop (become classical as the chief scene of action in the admirable romance of *Quentin Durward*),

is still standing, though in a dilapidated state, and is partly inhabited by brokers, and others of the lower orders.

The accuracy, fidelity, and beauty of the descriptions of the valley of the Meuse, and the Pays de Liege, delineated with the hand of a master, in the above interesting tale, would induce the reader to believe, that the author had long resided there; but we have reason to believe, that Sir Walter Scott never even saw Liege or the Meuse, as, on his first and only visit to Belgium, he landed in Holland, and proceeded from Brussels to Paris by the direct route.

'The *patois* of this country, as appears from some deeds in the Liege dialect still extant, is of high antiquity. Its origin is very obscure, although, in the neighbouring jargons (those of Huy, Namur, and Dinant), the curious philologist may trace a resemblance to the antiquated French of the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries.

The ear of the traveller is gratified by the purity of accent of the French, spoken by the better classes, which forms a strong contrast to the guttural sing-song, into which that eminently colloquial tongue is transformed by the neighbouring Fleming.

Near Liege are numerous country houses,

delightfully situated, with their gardens and shrubberies, extending to the bank of the river ; that of Monsieur Dubois, banker of Liege, at St. Jacques, is particularly beautiful. A magnificent chateau, called Choquier, two and a half leagues distant from the city, is built on the edge of a perpendicular rock, of primitive granite, 300 feet high, overlooking the country with a bird's-eye view, to a great distance. It is the property of a Russian, Baron Serdovin.

Between Liege and Chaud Fontaine, on the banks of the fine river Ourte, are also many lovely summer residences of the wealthy Liegeois, rich meadows, and most productive orchards. Few places, indeed, can boast of more agreeable environs than Liege.

The province of Liege is bounded on the north by that of Limbourg, on the west by Brabant and Namur, on the south by the grand Duchy of Luxemburg, and on the east by Prussia.

The Meuse, the Ourte, the Ambleuve, and the Vesdre, with many tributary streams, water this beautiful and picturesque country. The city is situated in an agreeable and fertile valley, surrounded by hills and meadows ; and the Meuse and Ourte pass through it.

Its name is supposed to be derived from the

Latin word *legio*, on the occasion of a Roman legion being defeated by the *Eberons* (ancient inhabitants), during the sojournment of Cæsar, in Belgium.

It had formerly seven colleges, a cathedral, seven abbeys, and thirty-two parishes in the city and environs, with an incredible number of convents for both sexes. At present the public edifices can be easily counted. The old palace of the *ci-devant* Prince Bishop (destroyed by fire in 1503, but rebuilt three years after, by Erard de la Marche) has two squares, surrounded by open arcades, under which are shops, and a prison for females. The Hotel de Ville, the church of St. Paul, the great altar of St. Martin, and the theatre, lately built, merit the notice of strangers, although the palace is in a state of decay. The bridge is of great antiquity, being erected in 1037. The quay, the citadel, and the public fountains, particularly that in the centre of the Grand Place, afford also some interest.

CHAUDE FONTAINE.

CHAUDE FONTAINE, a league from Liege, is famed for its copious and clear tepid springs, of an agreeable temperature for bathing, being 92 degrees of Fahrenheit.

It is a pretty romantic spot on the edge of the forest of the Ardennes. The forest, the valley, and the banks of the Ourte, afford delightful rides and walks; but there are few lodgings in the village, if this poor hamlet may be so called, and the hotels are filthy and unfit for any family accustomed to cleanliness and comfort. Were the accommodation better, Chaude Fontaine (which to the lover of tranquillity and admirer of nature would be a delicious retreat during the dog-days), would no doubt become a place of fashionable resort. But there is no enterprise or speculation among these nail-making Liegois, otherwise a good hotel and a few habitations for strangers would amply repay the projectors.

Chaude Fontaine will then shortly rival Spa as a resort for the *beau monde* and the invalid. Its insignificance, hitherto, has been occasioned by the want of sufficient accommodation; but we learn that a spacious hotel is about to be

erected, with a *redoute* (public rooms), and a theatre. A church is also projected, and many houses are now building; so that, in a few years, there can be no doubt of its attracting strangers during the bathing season. Its proximity to Liege, from whence it can be furnished with provisions, and the beauty of its situation, must ensure to the speculators in the intended improvements, an ample return.

The abundant supply of tepid water which fills the baths, is quite a phenomenon. These springs are in a small island, formed by the Vesdre, and are conveyed in pipes by a wheel, put into movement by this brook. Chemical analysis has not been able to discover in this water any particular qualities, but a heterogeneous and insipid composition, resembling distilled water. As a diet-drink it is not palatable, but very soft.

Walks and rides have lately been cut through the forest, which approaches the village; and the drive by the valley to Spa affords a delightful promenade to the invalid, or for pleasure, the road being gravelled (*Anglicè macadamized*). The scenery much resembles some of our Perthshire and Highland glens. The natural and stunted oak, the bubbling brook, the kite and sparrowhawk skimming through the sky, and

the cooing of the woodpigeon, all add to the illusion. Alpine firs and birch alone are wanting to make the landscape quite Scottish.

The expense of living is extremely moderate. A plentiful and sumptuous table, with excellent breakfasts, may be had at the hotels for $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 5 francs per day, including lodging; but the rooms are small. This, however, will shortly be remedied, as a new hotel is projected (1829).

A promenade on the Ourte, in the long-boats calculated to navigate this rapid stream, is quite novel and agreeable, provided you have good nerves. Dykes are constructed for the purposes of navigation, by turning the streams into narrow channels, leaving only space for the bark to pass. These *chutes* are extremely rapid, yet the boatmen are so expert, that accidents never occur, though the velocity of the descent causes at first, in the stoutest heart, a little emotion. The streams are mounted by means of pullies, which are also managed with great dexterity.

DINANT.

DINANT, a small village on the Meuse, five leagues above Namur, is only worthy of notice

as being situated in a picturesque country. It is placed at the base of a rock, on which formerly stood a castle, demolished at the close of the seventeenth century. Both banks of the river offer admirable points of view to the painter and to the admirer of bold scenery. A league higher up the river, and the whole route through the vale to Namur, the scene changes every hundred yards; but the most striking object in this charming ride is a perpendicular rock, several hundred feet high, which, at a short distance, assumes the appearance of a tower, being separated from another abrupt rock by a few feet, only permitting a carriage to pass. This is truly a singular and sublime *lusus naturæ*.

The Government has lately repaired and fortified the castle, from whence is a view of a bridge over the Meuse, with this singular inscription—

“This bridge was built here”!

Many streamlets fall into the Meuse, between Dinant and Huy, affording sport to the angler, though the trouts are small; but, near the last place, they are of a larger size, and, in a preserve of the Count Argentaui, in the same neighbourhood, there are very large trouts, weighing six or eight pounds.

The ride from Dinant to Liege can seldom be exceeded for variety and picturesque beauty, the road never quitting the banks of the river more than twenty yards, and the scenery changes like a diorama. Many Tourists, however, proceeding from Brussels to the Rhine, take the Louvain road instead of by Namur, as they save four or five leagues in the distance; but the consequence is, that they miss seeing the Meuse. Besides, the road from Brussels by the latter, passes through Waterloo, Genappe, and Quatre Bras, and there is not an object worthy of notice on the Louvain route.

S P A.

THE foundation of this village, situated on the little stream the Wese, eight leagues from Liege, and six from Chaude Fontaine, is dated in the year 1327. It owes its origin to an iron-founder, who purchased from the Prince Bishop twenty-four acres of the forest, in the middle of which he discovered the fountain of Pouhon, in a small field. This industrious man cleared the ground of his little domain, and built the first house. This spring is the most renowned of all. It derives its source from a neighbour-

ing mountain towards the south, and, having no shade, is exposed to the rays of the meridian sun. The author of the *Voyageur des Pays Bas* says, that the sun—"perfectionne la coction des mineraux, dont elle tire les vertus"—perfects the concoction of these minerals, and draws out their virtues. This is a new philosophy.

Among the various mineral fountains, the best are those of Geronstere and Sauveniere; and, as they contain a considerable quantity of fixed air, they are considered as being highly efficacious in derangements of the stomach, and are a powerful chalybeate. Those of Tonnel, Barissant, Watteroff, and Nevizé, are not so much in vogue. It is the general practice to drink for a few days at the spring of Pouhon, before commencing with the other minerals; but it is extremely injudicious to take a course, or even a single glass, without previous preparation and medical advice, as they are apt to fly to the head, and derange the stomach so seriously, that fatal effects have been the consequence of this imprudence.

An English physician* of talent resides at Spa. By consulting this gentleman, a great deal of mischief may be prevented; for nothing is

* Dr. Baird, who has been settled for many years there.

more dangerous than a powerful chalybeate to many persons, if used indiscreetly. The author nearly fell a victim to his imprudence, by taking a single glass of the Pouhon spring without previous preparation, and therefore he cautions his countrymen to be careful how they use the Spa waters without advice.

Spa can boast of little else than its medicinal springs. The town is small, having little more than 3,000 inhabitants; and a number of its houses are built of wood. The streets, however (four in number), form a cross, and are wide and regular. The habit of rising early, and riding to the most distant springs, is favourable to health. The company is superior to the common description of visitors at watering-places, although occasionally mixed with adventurers, who do not fail to reap a harvest from the practice of gaming, for which the place has been conspicuous for several centuries.

These waters were known to the Romans, and are mentioned by Pliny. Their properties are diuretic and exhilarating, and are more cooling, and allay the thirst more readily, than common water.

During the Congress at Aix-la-Chapelle, the emperors, the kings, the princes, and the gran-

dees, there assembled, all visited this temple of Hygeia, which it was imagined would have given it additional eclat; but so uncertain is human foresight, that ever since that period (1818), it has been annually on the decline, and of late has been chiefly supported by a few wandering English from Brussels, and a stray tourist, *en passant*, to the Rhine.

It seems that our countrymen, during their short stay, form themselves into coteries; and it is, therefore, no longer the *ton*, as formerly, to attend the *redoute* for promenading and dancing. This is a singular whim; for the public rooms are not only handsomely fitted up, large, airy, and well lighted, with bands of music attending every evening, but all these *agrémens* are gratis, which, however, is probably the cause of their not being patronized by our fair and fastidious countrywomen. *Rouge et noir* and *roulette* are the sole amusements; and, though the play is not so deep as in Paris, nor the hours so late, yet there is a considerable circulation of Napoleons and Guillaumes, which finally settle into the pockets of the bankers, who have established a branch from Aix-la-Chapelle. A small theatre, for the representation of little operas, comedies, &c. adjoins the rooms.

The hotels are numerous and well regulated, and supply excellent dinners at a moderate rate. The wines of Burgundy, which are transported by the Meuse, are in general use. Living is, on the whole, so cheap, that 10 or 12 francs a-day will cover the whole expense of one person, provided he does not exceed his bottle of Burgundy. The mutton of Ardennes, esteemed by the *gourmands* the best on the continent, is here in the greatest perfection. It is very small, not weighing above six pounds a-quarter, and is brought to market at five years old; besides a great quantity sent to Paris, the Brussels market is occasionally supplied with it.

The amusement of the mornings is riding on the mountain ponies in the forest; they stand ready equipped in the street, with little jockeys to run as conductors. The expense is 1 franc per hour; certainly a cheap and salutary exercise.

The king has expended considerable sums from his private purse, in the embellishment of Spa, by enclosing several hundred acres of the forest, through which walks and rides have been formed, under the direction of a gentleman of Liege, who has exhibited both judgment and taste in the execution; but such is the perverse fancy of the visitors, that they prefer gossiping

in the narrow and dusty streets of the village, to the shade and verdure—the fresh and balmy breezes of the pretty park.

There are three Spas, whose springs have different medicinal virtues. That in the town being a powerful chalybeate, and reckoned extremely efficacious in assisting digestion, and giving a tone to the stomach. There is a carriage drive of five miles through the valley to Justeenville, a romantic spot, where a rich manufacturer of Verviers has erected a villa, and laid out his grounds with shrubberies, and gravelled walks in the English style. I understand, however, that the beauty of this delightful place has since been destroyed by the new road cutting through the shrubberies, and that it is no longer retired. The scenery resembles that of Matlock, and various mills and manufactories near it make the similarity the more striking.

The proprietor was wont to be very liberal in opening his pretty domain to the public, and frequently permits the visitors of Spa to make *pic-nic* parties in his grounds.

The following is the usual mode of drinking the Spa springs :—You proceed *en dishabille* to Pouhon. An hour after, those who attend the other fountains out of the town get into carriages, or mount ponies, all returning to break-

fast and to a second toilet. By 10 o'clock, the movement in the streets commences; then, says a modern tourist, "Une gaieté pleine de charmes, les dames *en dishabille*, galantes, folâtres, et riantes; elles portent à leur ceinture une médaille, que les hommes ont à la boutonnière de leur habit; ce sont de petits cadrans d'ivoire, qui marquent *seize points*, pour indiquer le nombre des gobelets que l'on boit, et qui ne vont guères *au dessous seize*" !*

The great street is terminated by a fountain of common water, but extremely soft and pure, and open to the public *gratis*; an inscription over the door, indicates that "the Czar, Peter I. caused this monument to be erected in remembrance of the re-establishment of his health by the use of the Spa minerals, during a sojournment of six weeks in the year 1717." Exactly a century afterwards, his descendant, Alexander, honoured Spa with a visit.

The fashionable season commences in July, and finishes about the end of September. Spa has been totally deserted by visitors since the Revolution.

* A gaiety, full of charms, the ladies in an undress, gallant, playful, and laughing. They carry at their girdles a medal, which the men wear at the button holes of their coats. These are little ivory dials, which mark sixteen points, to indicate the number of goblets they quaff, and which are seldom under sixteen.

Among the various excursions which the Spa visitors make in the neighbourhood, the cascade of Coo is one of the first objects of curiosity. It is distant four leagues, but the road is hardly practicable for wheeled carriages.

The Tourist must not expect to find a cataract like Shaffhausen or Terni, but an insignificant stream, falling over shelving rocks of some twenty-five or thirty feet.

A man with one eye is reckoned a beauty among a nation of the blind, so it is with the cascade of Coo (or Coe) ; a rivulet is dignified with the name of river, where more copious streams are rare.

In the neighbourhood of the Belgian Lion dwells, or did dwell, a few years ago, a *Curé*, who received strangers, and entertained them as well as he could, on very moderate terms. His mansion, or rather *cabaret*, is not splendid, nor his larder in general well supplied, but a dish of mountain trout and eels he can always set before his guests ; and it is interesting to observe with what dexterity his reverence (doubtless from long practice) takes off the skins of the latter ; no member of Billingsgate is more adroit. He also arranges them *à la tartare*, so as to satisfy any *gourmet*. A bumper of Nantz crowns the repast.

AIX-LA-CHAPELLE.

THE pleasantest route to Aix-la-Chapelle is through Verviers, which is seated in a rich and populous valley, where the principal cloth manufactories are established. The cloths produced by their looms are finer than ours (the warp and the woof being *both* of the best Saxon wool); but they are much more costly, and therefore cannot be brought into competition with the English in the market. The King of Prussia, during the war, pretended to be our rival, and laid out enormous sums in establishing looms, but he soon found that, so far from exporting cloth, he could not even clothe his army. Not being willing to acknowledge his failure, he ordered the webs from Leeds to have their selvages embroidered with the Prussian eagles!

His majesty does not pay much attention to the highways of his newly-acquired territories. In the vicinity of Juliers, the late Emperor of Russia stuck so fast in a hole, that he could not be extricated without the aid of a detachment of pioneers! Though few things put a traveller into bad humour more than bad roads, the Emperor only observed with a smile, "that the inspector deserved a trip to the Silesian mines."

Aix-la-Chapelle (or Aachen) was the birth-place and favourite residence of the Emperor Charlemagne ; having rebuilt the town, he there terminated his mortal career, and was buried in the Cathedral. After the lapse of above three centuries his body was disinterred, pushed from the marble chair in which it had so long sat, and, being stripped of the imperial insignia, with which it had for so many years been invested, was deposited in a beautiful ancient sarcophagus, and replaced in the tomb ; the chair and imperial ensigns being reserved for the coronation of the succeeding emperors. Still his body was not allowed to rest ; the French removed the sarcophagus (and, we presume, its contents) to the Louvre, and it has been since restored to the cathedral at Aix-la-Chapelle. As might be supposed, this town contains many memorials of this successor of the Cæsars—relics, paintings, and statues.

The baths have long been celebrated ; they are very hot. Like those of Harrowgate, they contain a large portion of sulphurated hydrogen, and are useful in cutaneous complaints. The usual season for visiting the baths is before the commencement of the season at Spa ; but the attractions to this place are more for gaming than for invalids.

DUCHY OF LUXEMBURG.

THE general appearance of the country through the greater part of Luxemburg presents a picture of savage nature, which cannot be called grandeur, like the mountains of Switzerland or the Pyrenees, yet it is worth visiting as a country but seldom seen by the Tourist; and the new line of road affords facilities in travelling which were hitherto impracticable for wheel carriages.

The *chemin ferré*, sixty feet wide, finished in 1827, is one of the finest on the Continent, extending from Namur and from Liege to Luxemburg; and relays of post-horses have been established. From Treves, the traveller may also descend by the Moselle to the Rhine, but for this purpose he must purchase a small boat, which will cost 50 or 60 florins, and, at the end of his voyage, he can dispose of it for half that sum. In traversing this country, the naturalist,

the geologist, and the painter, will find abundance of interest.

The population is thin, and agriculture in a state of infancy; but there is every reason to believe, from the improvement of the highways, and from the canals which are now executing, that it will rapidly improve. In the meantime, the inhabitants find employment and the means of a scanty subsistence, by exploring their inexhaustible mines, and converting their forests into charcoal, which give to their country a character so wild. Unfortunately, there are but few running streams or navigable rivers, which is the chief cause of the poverty of this province, and its distance from the sea is another drawback; but within a period of seven years (in 1835) one of the canals will be finished.

The country that borders on the Moselle produces abundance of grapes, and some of the wines have an agreeable flavour, especially the vintage of Brauenburg. This highly-flavoured wine has, within the last seven years, become a fashionable beverage at the first tables in London, and, when *iced* in summer, nothing can be more grateful. Some of it has the flavour of the Frontignan grape without its sweetness. This wine has a singular quality. It is

difficult to make it into vinegar. The author accidentally discovered this property, by putting a few bottles into a green-house, and afterwards into his cellar, for the purpose of using it as vinegar ; but the following spring he was surprised to find that no acetous fermentation had taken place.* It has been generally supposed in England that the wines of the Rhine and Moselle are more acid than the white wines of France ; but if the above experiment may be any criterion of their qualities, it would prove that they are less acid than Sauterne, Barsac, and Grave ; for it is well known that it is necessary to sulphur the casks of these wines, to prevent the acetous fermentation taking place. Acids are supposed to generate gout, and, in England, Rhine wines are on this account forbidden to gouty subjects ; yet the gout is a disease rarely known on the banks of the Rhine, where hardly any other wine is drunk. We therefore conceive this to be a vulgar error ; and, that no wine is better to a gouty patient than that of the Rhine, the author can testify this from his own experience and the testimony

* Messrs. Mumm, wine merchants, of Frankfort, have this vineyard ; and from their cellars, *amateurs* may be certain of procuring it genuine.

(which can be more depended on) of an eminent English physician, who practised at Mayence for many years, and who was of opinion that the strong wines of the Rhine were extremely salutary, and contained less acid than any other. Moreover, they are never saturated with brandy as the French white wines are. Although Moselle is become so *recherché*, it is a cheap wine, the best Braunenburg only costing 12 or 15 Napoleons per *aum* of thirty-six English gallons; and, including the duties and all expenses, may be imported for 3s. per bottle into England. But "*revenons à nos moutons.*"

The sheep, which are fed on the wild aromatic herbs in Luxemburg, are small (as in all mountainous countries), but celebrated for the delicious flavour of their flesh. The breed is nearly the same as that in the Ardennes, which was introduced into Scotland above a century back, and the race only declined within the last thirty years, when a larger and more profitable breed for the farmer was brought from England. A celebrated *gourmand* of the north, however, retained his favourite mutton till his death, very lately; a short time previous to which he observed, that "life was not worth holding, since the breed of the Ardennes sheep was become extinct."

This country also produces a breed of strong little horses, which were imported during the last and present centuries into the county of Galloway, in Scotland, from whence they took their name. This race of excellent animals has been for some years on the decline in that country ; but since the intercourse between England and the Pays Bas has been again opened, the Galloways of the Ardennes have been brought over. Although they seldom exceed fourteen hands high, they are so full of bone, short-legged, and with backs, as a Yorkshire jockey would say, "just long enough to carry the saddle," that they are capable of carrying great weight ; and, being bred in the forests, are extremely hardy, and sure-footed. In consequence of the demand for these *cobs*, the prices are doubled, and a good one, fit for harness in low phaetons, will fetch 30 Napoleons. Ten years ago (1824), a pair could have been had for that sum, or even less.

In the woods and hills (for mountains they cannot be called), there is a good deal of game, and formerly grouse, but now, are extremely rare. The roe deer (*Chevrevuil*) is frequent, as well as the wild boar, and now and then a famished wolf makes his appearance in the villages of the Ardennes.

In the little river of Semoy, a muscle produces a small pearl, which, though slightly tinged with yellow, is greatly esteemed. The Ythan, in Aberdeenshire, produces a similar sort of pearl, which is also highly estimated by the natives of the north, although of little value to the connoisseur. It is the rarity which gives value to such gems. In the mountain of Cairngorum, in the Grampians, belonging to the Duke of Gordon, yellow and brown crystals are picked up by the shepherds, and, when polished, are sold for large sums by the Edinburgh jewellers; but such crystals might be imported from the Brazils, of a greatly superior quality, for a mere trifle. The author purchased at Lisbon, some years ago, a large box of them (not less than 20 lbs. weight), for two dollars! Yet the late Mr. C——, an Edinburgh jeweller, frequently sold his cairngorums for 50 guineas!

Since the new route has been finished to Luxemburg, diligences have been established, and a few small *auberges*. The towns are greatly inferior to those of Flanders, and although the accommodation for travellers is improving, it is as yet very indifferent.

Theux, the first town from Liege to Spa, is only to be mentioned as producing, in its neigh-

bourhood, the finest black marble in Europe. Stavelot, containing three thousand inhabitants, is pleasantly situated in the forest, on the river Warge. The parochial church and the abbey are fine Gothic structures, and of high antiquity.

The principal trade is in leather, which is tanned, it is pretended, with more perfection than elsewhere, owing to some chemical property in the water, which renders the leather impervious to wet ; but this is probably a piece of quackery. The trade, however, is extensive. The hides are imported from South America, and, when dressed, are sent into all parts of Germany and the Northern States. The village contains a mineral spring not inferior to that of Spa.

Midway between Stavelot and Dieffeldt is Salm, from which the Prince takes his title. The ancient chateau of the family is on a mountain. Fifteen miles from Luxemburg is Greven Macheben on the Moselle, which, after Braunenbergh, produces the best wine. Ten miles south-east is Echternach, a romantic town, situated among mountains. Twelve miles north of Dickirch is Vianen, also situated in a wild and hilly country. It has a strong castle on the top of an almost inaccessible rock. The wine of Vianen is said to be but little inferior

to Moselle, or Mösel, as it is written in German. From Luxemburg the traveller passes through Steinfurt to Malmaison ; fourteen miles southwest of which is Neufchateau, only deserving notice from the large fairs that are held in it. Bastogne is well built, and the most populous town in the Ardennes ; being considered the Paris of the Ardennes.

The town of St. Hubert is pleasantly situated on an extensive lawn in the middle of a thick forest. The Abbey is an object of much interest and veneration, and the legend of it is yet related with much solemnity.

Prince Hubert, like too many of the great *hidalgos* of the earth, was more eager to enjoy those pleasures which his elevated situation placed in his power, than to attend to his religious duties. He carried his profaneness, on one occasion, so far, as to go a-hunting on that solemn day—Good Friday. Such impiety was not allowed to pass without some visible token of the Divine displeasure, and a stag, with a crucifix between his horns, suddenly appeared to him, going at full speed, in the forest !

His guilty conscience smote him, and, justly regarding this supernatural phenomenon as a warning from heaven, the prince renounced his dissipated life, abjured the pomps and vanities

of the world, assumed the habit of a monk, founded the magnificent Abbey of St. Hubert, and passed the remainder of his life in prayer and penance.

St. Hubert was formerly highly celebrated for his miraculous cures of persons bit by mad dogs. By praying to the Saint a certain number of times, the severest attacks of hydrophobia disappeared ; but, for a century back, the Saint has got into disrepute, on account of the hospital established for the reception of invalids having no longer any revenues. For the support of this charity, the king of France permitted the almoners to make collections in his kingdom, in gratitude for which, the Abbé of St. Hubert sent annually to his Most Christian Majesty, three couple of blood-hounds, and as many hawks. No doubt, *Charles Dix*,* being so professed a sportsman, must lament that these presents are no longer forthcoming.

Rochefort is celebrated by having been built by Julius Cæsar ; for its being attacked by the Austrians in 1792 ; and General La Fayette being taken prisoner in it ; but, above all, for the fine quality of *its cheese* !

We have given a list of these towns, in case

* This was written during the reign of that pious monarch.

any adventurous Tourist should be inclined to penetrate into the Duchy of Luxemburg.

It has been arranged by an *arrêté* (edict), dated the 1st July, 1827, to construct a navigable canal, commencing in the neighbourhood of Liege, to join the Moselle (Mösel) at Wasserbillig, a distance of fifty ancient leagues. This will have two branches, one from Hamoul to the Meuse, by the *embouchure* of the river La Lesse, a little above the village of Dinant, and the other, from Ettlebruch, canton of Diekirch, to Mersch, where it will communicate with the Elze, and probably, at some future period, will complete the navigation to Luxemburg.

The canal was commenced on the 1st of April, 1828, from Liege to the Moselle, and was to have been completed in five years, and to Wasserbillig, in seven ; but we imagine the Revolution may have retarded this.

It follows the valley of the Ourte, from the Meuse, but when it is considered how this torrent is confined between high mountains and rocks, and the multitude of locks necessary in such a country, with the danger of supplying the canal from so rapid a source, this enterprise must be considered as one of the boldest that has been undertaken in modern times.

But what will not the labour of man accomplish by perseverance, when the good of the public is to be the result? The Duchy of Luxemburg is in a languishing state, for want of internal communication. Nothing contributes so much to the improvement of a country as good roads and navigable canals, of which the Pays de Waes affords a remarkable example, being, from a state of nature, 150 years ago, now one of the most productive districts in the kingdom.

The Scheldt rises behind the gardens of the ancient Abbey of Mount St. Martin, near Catelet, ten miles north of St. Quentin. This fine river, whose navigation has often embroiled the greatest part of Europe, flows from an arch of twelve feet deep, dug in the side of a hill. It passes by Cambray, Bouchain, Valenciennes, and Condé, and called by the French *L'Escaut*, after which it enters the Netherlands, and, proceeding by Tournay, Oudenarde, Ghent, Dendermonde, and Antwerp, divides into two principal branches, called the Eastern and Western Scheldt, which forms the Island of Zieland.

The long-disputed question of the navigation of the Scheldt is at length laid at rest, by an Act of the Congress of Vienna. The nineteenth article declares, that “the navigation of every

river, from its source to its mouth, shall be free, subject only to certain duties which have hitherto been paid, and these depend on the tonnage and not the nature of the cargo." As nothing, however, is said about the mouth of this river, there appear still some difficulties if any duties are to be exacted for entering into this mouth (1830).

A N T W E R P.

ANTWERP is the capital of Dutch Brabant. It stands on the Scheldt, and was once the chief mart of Flemish and European commerce. In 1568, it contained 200,000 inhabitants; but, when the northern provinces threw off the Spanish yoke, they obtained possession of the mouth of the Scheldt, blocked up the entrance to the harbours, which fatally crippled the commerce, and transferred the greatest part of it to Amsterdam. The city now only contains 56,000 inhabitants. The numerous stately buildings which still remain, in the Gothic taste, testify its former grandeur.

The fortunes that were accumulated by many of the merchants exceed all credibility; yet, if the history of its riches is to be believed, one of the chief magistrates had the honour of entertaining Charles V. and, after the repast, the citizens who were invited to meet the monarch, threw into the fire a bond of 200,000,000 of

ducats which the city had lent him, exclaiming, "that they were more than repaid by the honour he had done them" !

Regnard, in his voyage to Flanders in 1681, says of Antwerp, "it surpasses every city which I have seen, with the exception of Naples and Venice, in the magnificence of its houses, the grandeur of its churches, and the spaciousness of its noble streets."

This city is eight leagues from Brussels, and twenty-seven from Amsterdam ; although of great antiquity, the fabulous history of its origin is highly absurd. It is pretended, that a monstrous giant, living on the banks of the river, cut off the right hand of all those who refused to pay a certain sum, that this *Charon* had fixed for the passage of the river. It is also alleged that a certain *Brabon*, from whom Brabant is derived, slew the monster (whose name was *Antigone*), and made him pay the same tribute that he had exacted from others, throwing the amputated limb into the Scheldt ! The fortress in which the giant lived was then called *Handwerpen* (*Werpen* meaning, in Flemish, to throw), hence the name of the city ! On its arms are still preserved the record of this ridiculous fable, by a representation of two hands, and a triangular castle

It is certain, however, that Antwerp existed in the fourth century. In 630, St. Amand preached the gospel in it, and, in 1300, it was too small to contain its inhabitants and strangers attracted by commercial pursuits. John II. made it a free port.

In the sixteenth century, the largest vessels could enter, the river being forty feet deep at high flood, and twenty, at low water. Amongst its 200,000 inhabitants might be reckoned 350 painters, and 300 silversmiths. 500 ships daily entered the port, and often 2,500 were at anchor before the city. Many hundred waggons from France and Germany, filled with merchandise, arrived every day; and commerce annually put into circulation 600,000,000 of florins; and, the imposts, under Charles V. amounted to 2,000,000. Such are the statements on record, but they probably are exaggerated, and, like the history of "Antigone," a little fabulous!

The manufactures kept pace with commerce. The velvets, satins, and damasks had attained such a degree of perfection, as to rival the looms of Italy, and their embroidery in silks, their jewellery, and taste in the fine arts, sciences, and literature, were justly celebrated.

In 1567, the Spaniards sacked the city, and the pillage continued for three days. They set

fire to the Hotel de Ville, entirely constructed of marble, and considered one of the most splendid structures in the world. The Bourgeois, who resisted in defence of their lives and properties, amounting to 10,000, were butchered, and the pillage was calculated at 2,000,000 of gold crowns. What a catalogue would the crimes and atrocities committed by this barbarous nation of sanguinary monsters make !

On the 18th of March, 1582, the Prince of Orange, dining at the Abbey of St. Michael with the Duke D'Alençon, had a pistol fired at him by the hand of J. Jauregy, clerk to a poor Spanish merchant. The assassin was instantly put to death by the stroke of a halbert of one of the attendants. On his person was found a Jesuit's catechism, and an invocation to the angel Gabriel. On this account it was supposed that the Jesuits had been employed by the French to destroy the Prince, and the citizens, highly indignant at such an atrocious act, assembled to revenge the attempt ; but his Highness caused a placard to be placed on the Maison de Ville, written with his own hand, declaring, that "he had reason to believe it was the Spanish faction, and not the French, who had instigated the deed, which happily had failed."

The following year, the Duke D'Alençon attempted to get possession of Antwerp, by introducing seventeen companies of infantry into it, under pretence of passing them in review. By this stratagem, he seized on the *corps de garde Bourgeois*, and turned the cannon of the ramparts on the city; but the citizens rose *en masse*, and drove out the traitors with great slaughter. The Duke was so chagrined at the failure of this *russe de guerre*, that he retired into the Chateau de Thierry, where he died in 1584.

The siege of Antwerp by the Duke of Parma is well known, and one of the most celebrated in history, but it is not our province to detail it.

An engineer of Brussels laid before Napoleon, on his first visit to Antwerp, a model of the famous bridge by which Alexander of Parma attempted to shut the Escaut. It was highly approved by the Emperor; and, it was one of the schemes of this extraordinary man to erect a bridge on a similar plan. He had intended also to make the port a second Tyre. The two floating basins which he made cost 18,000,000 of francs.

The citadel is very strong, having six bastions, mined and countermined, and surrounded by wide and deep ditches. It has often served

as a model for other fortifications, in various parts of Europe.

The celebrated engineer, Carnot, who commanded for some time when under the dominion of the French, greatly improved it. This distinguished officer was highly esteemed by the inhabitants, and, in return for their kindness, he spared the beautiful Fauxbourgs.

The city is in the form of a half moon, and is seven miles in circumference. The Scheldt is only twenty feet deep at low water, but at high flood it rises to thirty-eight. The river is navigable then for ships of war, for several miles above the city. Had not Napoleon been stopped in his career, the port of Antwerp would have been the finest in Europe, if his grand plans had been put into execution. In a short time, much was done to improve it. The quay is said to be two miles in length. The spring tides rise to thirty-six feet for a league above the city. There are two spacious docks, an inner and an outer, sufficiently large to contain a hundred sail of the line. The harbour branches into four noble canals, where any number of ships may ride in the greatest safety.

The docks were considered some years ago the largest in Europe (those of London ex-

cepted). One of the basins could contain forty sail of the line. The harbour is sufficiently large for two thousand vessels, and is divided into four canals, lined with extensive quays and warehouses. Near the great basin is an immense magazine, called the *Oosterling*, a parallelogram of two hundred and thirty feet. The middle story was intended for the residence of merchants, but has been little used.

The subterraneous canals, which were constructed at the expense of individuals, to convey goods to their warehouses, in small boats, are now turned into common sewers.

The Cathedral is esteemed one of the finest structures in the Christian world; and, York Minster excepted, we know not one that can rival it. It is five hundred feet long, two hundred and thirty wide, and three hundred and sixty high. It was begun in 1442, under the superintendence of Amelius, one of the most celebrated architects of his time, and completed in 1518, a period of ninety-six years.

The large and magnificent nave is unequalled in the Low Countries.

The beautiful spire is one of the first objects which greets the eye of the stranger on his entrance into the gates of the city (and, indeed, is seen long before his approach), and well

merits its pre-eminent claim for magnificence, execution, and lightness of structure. It rises to an elevation of four hundred and sixty-six feet, and seems to hang in air, like St. Peter's at Rome. The ascent is by six hundred and twenty steps. The masonry is connected by iron clamps, and appears so delicate as if a blast of wind would blow it down, yet it has never suffered the smallest dilapidation or injury. It was intended that a similar spire should have been erected by its side, but this was abandoned, as it would have destroyed the effect of the other.

At Antwerp, the amateurs of the *beaux arts* will have a great treat in examining the fine specimens of Rubens and Vandyke, with which the churches, museum, and private collections, abound. Here is the splendid "Crucifixion" by Rubens, which Sir Joshua Reynolds regarded as "one of the first pictures in the world for composition, colouring, and correctness of drawing." Agony cannot, perhaps, be more strongly depicted than in the neck, half-averted face, and struggling limbs of the foremost thief, who has torn one of his legs from the tree. In the cathedral, you will see the two magnificent compositions of the same master, "The Elevation of," and "Descent from,

the Cross." In the former, nothing can be more admirable than the calm resignation of Christ, contrasted with the gigantic energy and violent muscular development of the persons who are raising the cross. In the latter, you will admire the almost unequalled drawing of the body of Christ, than which nothing more perfectly lifeless was ever represented on canvas; while two of the Maries approach nearer to the Italian school, in point of beauty and tenderness, than perhaps any female figures which ever came from the pencil of Rubens. The principal light being formed by the body of Christ and the white sheet, has a very striking effect.

The gallery of the tower presents a bird's-eye view of the town, its fortifications, the course of the Scheldt, the surrounding country, the islands, and the sea. Over one of the altars of the nave is a strangely conceived, but clever picture, by Floris, the father-in-law of Quentin Mastys, who was called the "*blacksmith of Antwerp*." Chance presented the young damsel to our Vulcan, and he became deeply enamoured of her, but "dared not tell his love," being informed that her father would not permit her to marry any one but a great painter. Inspired by love, the blacksmith diligently, but secretly, applied

himself to the study of painting; day and night he laboured; and the only hours of recreation in which he indulged himself, were devoted to the society of his beloved.

After many months' intense application, he saw in the study of Floris one of his pictures, "The fallen Angels," which the artist considered as his *chef d'œuvre*. The lover resolved to make a daring effort to surprise and win the old man. Seizing his pallet, he painted a bee on the thigh of one of the figures. It was executed with so much truth and delicacy that, when Floris on his return saw it, he frankly acknowledged "that a young artist of so much promise was truly worthy of his daughter," and gave his immediate consent to their union.

The tomb of Mastys is near the west door of the cathedral; and also some curious ornaments belonging to a pump, which are said to have been executed by the hammer of the smith, before Cupid had worked the miracle of changing his anvil into a pallet!

The church of St. Jacques contains the sepulchre of P. P. Rubens. It is of black marble, the design extremely simple, and appropriately accompanied by a portrait of himself and his three wives, his children, and his parents, by his own hand. The stained glass of this church

is extremely fine, particularly a copy of Leonardo da Vinci's "Eucharist."

In the church of the Dominicans are some good pictures by Rubens and Vandyke—"The Scourging," "Bearing the Cross," and "The Crucifixion;" but what the Antwerpians prize the most is a representation of "Mount Calvary," exhibiting, in a rude but spirited style, the wild and rocky grandeur of the place, thronged with countless numbers of patriarchs, prophets, and apostles. On descending some steps under the rock, is the tomb of Christ. The Saviour, shrouded in beautiful and costly silk, tranquilly sleeps in death, while around him all the horrors of purgatory are represented! The Catholic devoutly crosses himself as he gazes on the frightful scene, and the Protestant cannot always be unaffected; for rude as is the representation, and almost bordering on the burlesque, the *tout ensemble* is calculated to inspire serious and salutary reflection.

In St. Augustin are other works of the great Flemish masters, which were plundered by the French, but of course restored. The pulpit is also fine; and, the Church of St. Wallburg deserves being visited, from its possessing "the Elevation of the Cross." From the Exchange

of Antwerp, Sir Thomas Gresham took the model to build that of London. Besides Rubens and Vandyke, Teniers, Joerdans, and Snyders were natives of this city. In modern times it has become a great depôt of bad pictures; and in no part of the Continent is the English *soi disant connoisseur* in more danger of paying dearly for the indulgence of his bad taste.

The chief manufacture of Antwerp is lace, sold under the name of *Mechlin*; also a strong black silk, of which the *failles** of the Flemish women, and the neckcloths of our modern *dandies*, are the chief consumers. It is manufactured (we understand) by an Englishman, married to an Antwerpian, and is exported, as fast as it can be made, to London. The fabric is extremely durable, but is high priced.

Although Antwerp is a very handsome city, yet its general appearance is much injured by the strange *melange* of magnificent hotels, with the dwellings of the lowest classes of society. The traveller will also regret the want of sunken areas (which is the case in all the Flemish towns); that hindering the too near

* These *failles* are of stout black silk, manufactured *express*, and cost £4 or £5 sterling. They are, however, no longer fashionable, and now only worn by elderly matrons.

approach of the passenger, adds so much to the grandeur of the buildings ; besides, there being no *trottoirs* (pavements), the pedestrian is exposed to continual danger and inconvenience ; and the lower story is generally, in wet weather, encased in an unsightly covering of mud.

At Antwerp, the stranger perceives a mixture of the *costume* of the last century, among the lower orders, with the modern dress of the present day. The flat low-crowned beaver ; the long-skirted coat, with its huge pockets ; the ample dimensions of the lower garments of the men of the old school, contrasted with the *blouze* (always blue), and fustian jacket and trousers, and cat-skin caps, universally worn by the Belgians ; the close cap, long lappets ; the silk *faulle* (mantle) ; covering the head and shoulders, which were in use thirty or forty years ago, and precisely the same form as the Scotch plaid of that period, only that it is always black, instead of colours ; the cap differing but little from the *mutch* of the north country. Now, the same class of females, and even much lower orders, have, in lieu of this head gear, English or French shawls, lace caps, and printed cotton gowns ; and, instead of the shoe buckle on holidays, and the tabot on all

others, the *grisettes* are *chausées*, with fine stuff sandals, and their robes *a la mode Française*.

The Academy of Beaux Arts was instituted in 1754, by Philip le Bon ; and, in 1763, Philip IV. of Spain gave it the title of "Royal." Antwerp has also a school for the encouragement of painting, engraving, and sculpture. The exposition of their works is held alternately with Brussels and Amsterdam.

The Museum is the finest in the kingdom, containing one hundred and twenty-seven pictures of the best Flemish masters. A Holy Family—The Virgin interceding for the Souls in Purgatory—The Communion of St. Francis—Jesus exhibiting his wounds to St. Thomas—The Virgin and Jesus—The Adoration of the Magi—Christ between the Thieves—are by Rubens. And from the pencil of Vandyke are a Mary Magdalene—Jesus on the lap of the Virgin—Christ on the Cross, &c. &c. &c. St. Luke before the Proconsul—St. Nicholas going to relieve an indigent family, &c. are by Otto Venius. The Last Supper—The Adoration of the Shepherds—and Justice—by Joerdans. Catalogues of the museum may be purchased. Antwerp also possesses many fine private collections of pictures, especially that of Monsieur

We must not omit to mention, that there are several excellent hotels in Antwerp, especially Le Grand Laboureure, and the Hotel D'Angleterre ; but, being a fortified place, it is not so agreeable a residence as Brussels. An Englishman can hardly be reconciled to be locked up at night, or to be restrained from entering at all hours. The city is, however, much cleaner ; but there are no English settlers in it, except those engaged in commerce.

POSTSCRIPT.

IN addition to the slight sketches of Belgium, we subjoin some remarks on the state of the arts, with a few miscellaneous particulars, which we hope will not be unacceptable to our readers.

REMARKS ON THE PRESENT STATE OF THE ARTS IN FLANDERS.

By virtue of a Royal Decree of the 13th August, 1827, it was ordered that in all the principal towns of the realm there should be a School of Design, and that the pupils should be instructed at a small expense, in drawing after busts, academy, and living figures. Accordingly these academies are established in the chief towns of the provinces, where it is not rare to find a young man of the lowest condition, with talents of the first order. The masters report these dawnings of genius to the Government, and a small pension is granted to the boys during their studies. There are two Royal Academies,

one at Amsterdam, the other at Antwerp; into these the young *élèves*, when they are sufficiently advanced in drawing, are sent to finish their education in the study of painting, sculpture, architecture, engraving, &c. masters, who are paid by Government, being provided to superintend them.

In order to be permitted to enter into these academies, there must be some previous proof of talent, by the pupils having obtained prizes in the inferior schools. The scholar also must submit to an examination in that branch of art which he proposes to pursue.

Every two years the prizes are fixed for the great competition, or that which is called the “*Concours d’Italie*.” For this purpose a subject of composition is indicated. Those pupils who propose being competitors for the prizes, are shut up in separate rooms until they have completed their *first* sketch. Those which are esteemed the best, are proceeded with, and the *élèves* continue, during the whole period of their works, shut up for a certain number of hours; and, in order that they may have no assistance from the designs of better artists, they are every day personally examined, and stripped *even to their shirts!*

When the compositions are finished, they

are sent to a *salle*, open to the inspection of the public, when a committee of the best artists award the prizes. The pupils who obtain them are rewarded with a pension of 1200 francs for two years, to enable them to visit Italy; and when it is found that an *élève* has considerably profited by his visit to that classical country, his pension is continued for another year.

These schools, and prizes, are not the only means employed to forward the arts. There are in the cities of Amsterdam, the Hague, Ghent, Antwerp, and Brussels, "*Sociétés des Beaux Arts*," formed by the voluntary contributions of individuals, who subscribe an annual sum, for the following purposes.

In one of the above cities, there is an *exposition* every year for the production of living artists, which is open generally six weeks, and attracts the attention of the public, by which its taste is improved. It is divided into two classes—that which contains the compositions of the young men who contend for the prizes, which have been fixed for several months previously, and announced in the public journals. The names of the competitors are concealed until the prizes are decided by the directors. They are gold and silver medals, with sums of 200 to 800, and 1000 florins, according to the impor-

tance and merit of the work. The society keeps the prize pictures, except the artist wishes to retain them, in which case the medals only are given.

The other part of the exposition is formed of the works of artists who have passed the age of study in the schools. This of course is the most important, and most worthy of the notice of the public. On the close of the exhibition, a committee selects the best works of the pupils, which are put into a lottery, in order to encourage the rising artist, by the sale of his productions ; this lottery is limited to the subscribers, and by this mode both the amateur and the artist are gratified.

It is not here the place to enter into any discussion of the merits of this school ; but it is an incontestable fact, that David gave an impulse to the art in France. The monstrous commotions of the Revolution were the muse of this artist, giving birth to the ultra-heroic and eccentric character of his productions, so much the theme of praise in his time, though so widely different from the *beau ideal* of the Italian style, and the real beauty of art in the hands of Raphael and his contemporaries. But the great defect of David, is his copying too closely the antique models, which gives to his

pictures the appearance of an assemblage of statues. Be this as it may, his influence extended over Belgium, which soon became a province of France; from that moment the young artists, already well initiated by their study of the works of Herreyns and Lens, went to finish their instructions at Paris, and the French style became predominant in Belgium.

In forming themselves after this school, they lost that native genius which only can create *chefs d'œuvre* of art. Imitation is always an error, and they never attained that spirit and energy which, even in its excesses, gave a certain degree of character to the French school, so that their copies became tame and insipid. They, however, continued to study drawing and draperies, with all the patience of which the Flemings are capable; and, in colour, they afforded a proof that the instinct of this essential part of the art is still inherent in the descendants of Rubens and Rembrandt.

But the French mania was adopted only by artists. It never became the taste of the nation in general. Its theatrical bombast and exaggeration proved too great a contrast to their own simple manner; and, since the restoration, many artists who visited Italy, perceived that the study of the antique *alone* was not sufficient

to form an artist, and they returned to nature and the fine examples of the Italian masters of the sixteenth century.

But the French manner has not yet lost its admirers and followers, as may be seen in the *pose* and attitudes of their figures, and their theatrical expression ; on the other hand may be perceived a better style in some of their groups, more ease in the draperies, and a good tone of colour ; but, above all, the charm of *chiaro scuro*.

These remarks, however, can only convey a faint idea of the state of the arts here ; and, if we were to enter more into detail, it would be abusing the patience of our readers. We cannot, however, close the subject, without mentioning the principal historical painters.

M. Odevaere, painter to the king, has executed several large pictures, representing the remarkable events in the history of the family of Orange, and the Pays Bas :—“The Institution of the Principality of the House of Orange by Charlemagne ;” “The Battle of Nieuport, gained by Maurice of Orange against the Spaniards ;” and, “The Battle of Waterloo.”

M. Odevaere is at present (1828) occupied in painting a picture (as a pendant to the first mentioned), “The Inauguration of King William I.”

In all these pictures may be discovered a man who has well studied his subjects, but whose execution is inferior to his design. He is also a man of letters, and is occupied in a work on the state of the arts in Italy during the time of Raphael, which is looked for by the amateurs with impatience.

M. Paelink, her Majesty's painter, possesses very considerable talent, with much assiduity. One of his best performances represents "Psyché at her Toilet," which is in the museum at the Hague. He has also treated, with considerable success, several sacred subjects, and has a good knowledge of *chiaro scuro*.

M. Navez is highly esteemed by his brother artists for his compositions in the manner of Caravaggio. He also has attempted "*le grand style historique*" in a subject—the Prophet Elisha—which he calls "*Le Prophète Elisée, qui ressuscite l'enfant de la Veuve.*" The connoisseurs consider this as a *chef d'œuvre* of modern art. This picture is also at the Hague. His last work (exhibited at Brussels in 1828), "The meeting of Isaac and Rebecca," is not so highly estimated. There is a stiffness and rigidity in the figures, a meagre tone of colour, with a monotony of expression approaching to tameness, unworthy of the hand of this artist ;

but he is still in the prime of life ; has great enthusiasm, and is desirous of forming a school of his own. The favourable success he has already had, induces a hope, that the expectation of his admirers will not be disappointed.

Lastly, M. Verbockhoven stands deservedly at the head of artists in landscape. He is an imitator of Paul Potter in his cattle, and Wou-
vermans in his skies. His cattle are carefully and well drawn, and true to nature ; and he groups them with judgment. He finishes very highly and elaborately, but in his attempts to give the fine colour of the masters he would imitate, his efforts are not successful. The glare and vivid tone of his colouring are not to be found in nature. This is to be regretted, for M. Verbockhoven is undoubtedly a man of very fine talents. He gets high prices for his pictures. A landscape by this artist, exhibited last year (1829), was purchased by an Englishman for 3000 francs.

The lithographic art advances with rapid strides, and gives profitable employment to a great number of young artists, who have a ready sale for their productions.

LITERATURE.

THE quantity of books printed in Brussels in 1828, was enormous, and has increased a hundred-fold within the last six years ; they are sold for less than what the paper would cost in England, but it is not of so good a texture, and the type will bear no comparison with ours, yet the cheapness of books enables every one to buy, and to gratify his taste for reading. The Life of Napoleon was, in 1828, published for £1 sterling, in nine volumes ! and all Lord Byron's Works for 16s. ! The king, a few years ago, patronized with his purse a royal press ; and lately, Didot, meditated to establish one on a large scale, but this has been abandoned. It is singular that no attempt has ever been made to publish a monthly periodical work, or review of literature, in Belgium, beyond a trifling *brochure* or two on agriculture or medicine, &c. I suspect the Belgians have but little taste for the *belles lettres* or science of any sort. The author did not hear, during his residence among them, of any writer of *esprit*, except Paul de Kock, who has published several clever novels in the style of Le Brun ; but he lives in Paris, where his works

are printed.* Ducange, however, we believe, is a Belgian, and a man of talent ; but also an emigrant in France.

REMBRANDT.

WE could fill a volume with praises on this great master, but, as we have passed over Rubens and Vandyke, on account of their well-known merits, we shall only observe that, he was perhaps the greatest colourist that ever existed. Leyden had the honour to give him birth in 1606. His real name was Gerretz, but he took that of Van Ryn, from the place where he spent the youthful part of his life—on the borders of the Rhine. He was the son of a miller, and had but little education. J. V. Zwanenburg was his first master in painting, and afterwards he studied under Peter Lastman and Jacob Pinas, artists of inferior talents ; but with the last, it is said, he acquired that taste for strong contrasts of light and shade which he ever after so happily cultivated. He, however, formed his own manner entirely, and

* The Paris booksellers have made rich by selling cheap books, while many of the London publishers have been bankrupts.

the power he possessed of representing every object with such truth, force, and life, nothing but nature could equal.

His first picture was sold at the Hague for 100 florins. This made him known, and was the foundation of his future fortunes.

He afterwards etched a great many of his pictures, by which he realized large sums. There is perhaps no branch of collectorship that exhibits more caprice than that of prints in general, or those of Rembrandt in particular. A good impression of his print, called the "Hundred Guildres" (because he refused to sell it under that sum), still sells for 20 or 30 guineas. He published 340 prints and etchings, according to Strutt; but De Burgy, at the Hague, collected 655, including the varieties.

Rembrandt's personal character was far from amiable, being extremely avaricious, and not very scrupulous in the means of getting money. He was also fond of low company, by which his taste and principles became degraded. He died at Amsterdam in 1674.

REMAINS OF THE DWELLING OF TENIERS.

DAVID TENIERS was fortunately circumstanced from his birth. His industry, from the great

number of works he has left, must have been as unbounded as his pencil was facile. With Rubens he lived on terms of the greatest intimacy, and no one could more ardently appreciate the talent of his friend than did Teniers. One day he stood wrapt in the ecstasy of delight before one of those extraordinary works of the great colourist, waiting for its finish ; but his surprise was equal to his admiration, when Rubens, in a few minutes, added to it those magical touches which are so truly the secrets of his genius.

Teniers was not so happy in meeting the public taste at that period, and consequently found but few amateurs to purchase his works. The fire and snow pieces of Van Hiel were then eagerly sought for ; but have long since become the lumber of brokers' shops. The eminent painter, Gasper de Crayer, affected to despise the works of Teniers, ridiculing them as low and vulgar ; and the magnificent Louis XIV. turned them out of his palaces ! Posterity has, however, since done justice to his talents, and princes contend for the possession of his pictures, which are so many leaves from the book of nature.

Intimate as were Rubens and Teniers, they were equally near neighbours. The latter re-

sided at Perck, a pretty little village about three miles from Vilvorde, and the same distance from the Chateau de Stein. His house, which was small, is converted into a farm, now known by the term in Flemish dialect, of the *Dry Torren*, or the *Three Towers*, which are represented in some old prints.

The centre one, with the gateway, still remains. It is in the small room of this remaining tower that he painted many of his pictures, the view from the window being a perfect mirror of the scenery he chose. The slender spire of his village church he has repeated a hundred times in his distances. But the inquisitive traveller will be still more delighted at witnessing, now existing on each of the folding gates, a representation of the half of a spread eagle of enormous dimensions, which forms a whole when the gates are shut; it is painted by himself. The taste of its form is a sufficient guarantee; if it were not, as it is, corroborated by the tradition of every inhabitant of the village, as being the work of the great *schilder* (painter) himself.*

In the modest and unpretending church of

* Sir Joshua Reynolds, in one of his Lectures, says—"We may again have another Raphael, but never a Teniers for colour."

Perck, the wife of Teniers is buried ; he himself is interred at Antwerp. A grave-stone indicates the spot, and is engraved with the name of "*Isabella de Freau Huysvrouwe Vanden Heer David Teniers.*" A picture is hung near it.

A ROYAL THEFT.

WHEN at the Hague, the *Custode* of the museum pointed out to our notice an exquisite *morceau* of Gerard Duow, and of which he told a curious history. On Charles II. being restored to the British crown, the States-general, by way of a *souvenir*, presented his majesty with this little *bijou*. This was mentioned to his successor, King William, who probably thought that his old friends in Holland had a better right to it than John Bull. Be this as it may, the *royal* Dutchman laid his hands on it, and the first visit he made to his native country, he delivered it back to the museum from whence it had been taken. For this bare-faced larceny his majesty merited the indignation of his new subjects. The keeper, when relating the anecdote, gravely observed, "that he thought the king showed, in this little act, great ingratitude, and even hinted that the

picture ought to be again restored by Guillaume I."

DUTCH AND FLEMISH TASTE.

BOTH the Flemish and Dutch prefer Rubens to Raphael, Cuypp to Poussin or Claude, and Teniers to all the world. A Dutch merry-making gives them more pleasure than the Transfiguration ! In fact, they consider colour and finish as the chief merits in painting, and they have no idea of poetry in design.

The grand compositions of the great Roman masters are quite beyond their conception ; hence Dutch and Flemish pictures bear much higher prices in Holland than in England ; but, during the Revolution, many of their best collections found their way to that country ; yet still Amsterdam, the Hague, Antwerp, and Ghent, are rich in the best works of Rubens and Vandyke.

A superb portrait of Rubens' "Confessor" has been lately added to the Royal Museum. It had been known that such a picture existed before the Revolution, and the property of a Burgomaster of Amsterdam. It was probably concealed during the commotions ; at length

it was discovered in the hands of an individual of that city, who ceded it to his majesty on reasonable terms. It is a very fine head, beautifully coloured, and full of expression. It is a pendant to Maria Foreman, Rubens' third wife. Appropriate companions!—a Spouse and a Confessor!

CRIMES AND PUNISHMENTS.

As the daily journals of Belgium seldom notice the crimes committed within the realm, it is not easy to ascertain the degree of murder, robbery, housebreaking, &c. that occurs, all which the English journals detail. If one, however, may judge by the state of the prisons, the Belgians are not immaculate. Ville Vorde, a *maison de force*, is capable of containing 2,000 convicts, and, in general, it is nearly fully peopled, as are the other prisons in the city, for crimes of less magnitude. As the Code Napoleon is the law of the land (1826), the guillotine is the mode of executing criminals, and it is pretty often at work, although the executions are less frequent than in England, in proportion to the population. The pillory is more common, and attracts little or no attention from the multitude,



Illustration by J. Hughes.

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A. J. H. W. & Co. LONDON
of Hainaut

who do not seem to consider this punishment as either severe or disgraceful, except *branding* and *flagellation* ensues, which are the common accompaniments to the *carcan* (pillory). Housebreaking is not so common as in England; and we have reason to believe that murder is also more rare. Privately stealing, petty larceny, and pilfering, are very frequent.

SMUGGLING.

THE duty on every article of English production being so much lower in Belgium than in France, smuggling is carried on to a considerable extent along the frontiers, as may naturally be inferred. Smugglers are in all parts of the world very expert in deceiving the officers of the Customhouse; and nowhere with better success than in Flanders, especially in the articles of tobacco and snuff, these being monopolies in the hands of the French government, and of inferior qualities, and at extravagant prices. To facilitate the passage of the Virginian weed, a sagacious breed of dogs, called *picards*, are trained to cross the frontiers at different points, avoiding the high roads. These animals are large, and capable of carry-

ing a heavy weight. A sack is slung across their shoulders, fastened by a girth, large enough to contain twenty pounds of tobacco or snuff; and many of these animals can carry even a greater weight. Their sagacity and training is almost incredible. When employed in this traffic, they keep on the out-look, and when they espy their enemy—man, they skulk off, and hide themselves; but, though their journeys are performed during the night, the poor *picards* are often shot by the persons employed to destroy them. Notwithstanding the utmost vigilance, however, an enormous quantity of tobacco is transported in safety by these means, and serves as an additional proof of the absurdity of laying too heavy a duty on a commodity, that has been long considered as indispensable as bread.

AMUSEMENTS OF THE BELGIANS.

THE higher ranks of the Belgians amuse themselves as all other well educated and well bred persons do; and they dress entirely in the French manner. The Parisian costumes are regularly imported by the *modistes*; and, in a week after, a new fashion is seen on the *Boulevards Ita-*

liens, it is transported to those of Brussels. The Belgian *dandy* is a counterpart of the *animal* of the Palais Royal. As few visit England, they have no opportunity of exhibiting themselves in an English costume, which they pretend to despise, insinuating that we borrow ours from the French. We have already mentioned the splendour of the *estaminets* and *cabarets* of the Bourgeoise and the lower orders. During the carnival and other fêtes, and in fine weather, multitudes frequent them for the purpose of dancing. The places of resort of the upper classes of the citizens are handsomely and splendidly decorated and illuminated. They belong to particular societies, and require tickets of admission.

At all these balls the utmost decorum prevails. The quadrilles, waltzes, and country dances are conducted by a *maitre de ballet*, who is elevated on an inverted *tonneau*, and gives his orders in an authoritative voice, to which the most implicit obedience is paid. The grace which many of the *abigails* and *grisettes* exhibit in their movements would do credit to higher circles. The admission to these *guinguettes* is adapted to every one's purse, often not exceeding a *plaquette* (3d.).

The music is paid by the dancers, and is ge-

nerally very good. At the Rose Blanche, a famed *estaminet* on the Chaussée d'Etterbeck, a *salon* has been lately erected, 120 feet in length, and capable of containing 500 persons.

The annual musical festivals in the three cities of Brussels, Ghent, and Antwerp, are a proof of the great taste for music the Belgians have, for almost every town in the Pays Bas possesses a band of music, consisting of wind instruments, and composed of amateurs. It is truly astonishing the state of perfection of many of these bands, not only for the brilliancy of their execution of the most difficult German and Italian symphonies, choruses, &c. but for their taste in harmony, and, as the Italians would say, *ben sostenuto*. Their pride is to excel; and, at the annual meetings in the principal cities, they vie with each other for the prizes, which are given by the *academie* for the most perfect performance, as if the honour of their birth-place depended on the merits of their performers. Each band wears a uniform, and carry colours to distinguish them, besides a number of flags, on which is the name of the town, surrounded with musical emblems. They are marched in by martial airs, and attended by thousands of spectators. There are a great many prizes, and the best judges are appointed to award

them. A few years ago, the citizens of Ghent considered their band as having merited the first prize, though it was awarded to Brussels, which excited great jealousy. There are also prizes for *costume*.

EXPENSES OF A FAMILY LIVING IN FLANDERS.

THE following is a calculation of the annual expenses of a family, consisting of three persons, with one female servant* :—

	Napoleons.
House Rent,	40
Dinner and Wine,	120
Breakfast and Tea,	16
Coals,	12
Oil and Candles,	7
Washing,	15
Servant's Wages and Allowances,	10
Sundries,	30
Total,	250

—which, at the present exchange, is about £200. If, therefore, a man has £300 a-year, there will be £100 remaining to clothe† his

* The accounts were regularly kept.

† Clothes are probably as expensive as in England, boots and shoes excepted, which are 50 per cent. cheaper, but of inferior leather and workmanship.

family, and for his *menus plaisirs*. In no large town in England could they live half so comfortably for less than £450, or in London for less than £600.

I have here given a winter bill of fare, but, in summer, a far greater variety of vegetables, and a better dessert may be had at the same expense, and good beer for 2 sous the quart, or even less.

A married pair, without children, may live very comfortably on the above sum, with management, and to pay for every thing with ready money. Many small families, to avoid the care of house-keeping, get their dinners from a *restaurateur*. For 4 or 5 francs may be had, a soup, two plates of meat, two of vegetables, with a pudding or tart, quite abundant for four persons. Small Bordeaux can be bought for 14 sous per bottle; and groceries being of moderate price, as well as fruit, the little luxuries which are denied to limited means in England, are here to be had, providing always that strict attention is paid to the *ménage*, and little trust given to servants; but the generality of English who come to Flanders for motives of economy, are disappointed. They send their cooks to market, and are cheated; and, because luxuries are very cheap, they give

entertainments, and, at the end of the year, they find they have been spending more than they can afford.

We would recommend families intending to settle for a few years at Brussels, to purchase their wines in cask out of the depôts, which will be found a saving of 25 or 30 per cent. A sound pleasant-flavoured *vin ordinaire* of Bourdeaux may be put into your cellar for 1 franc a-bottle. Rhine and Moselle wines are not so much drunk as the white wines of France, but they are more wholesome, being less acid, and not mixed with brandy.

All sorts of spiritous liquors are extremely reasonable in Flanders, the duties on those of foreign importation being only 10 per cent. Bread, that great article in house-keeping, is of the finest quality, and certainly a third (if not more) cheaper than in England.

Since steam has been introduced on the Rhine, the more enterprising Tourist visits the Rheinhold, and even penetrates into Switzerland; this can be accomplished for less money than a trip to Cheltenham of a month.

The quantity of *Bulls* moving about in all parts of the continent is incredible. It is supposed that at least 10,000 visit Waterloo annually; a calculation made from the passports.

When the capital of Flanders became an English colony after the battle of Waterloo, eating and drinking were "the order of the day" for several years; but now, that our grown ladies and gentlemen have been studying that branch of the fine arts, which dancing is called in France, the pleasures of the table have given way to waltzing and quadrilling; and, if a family had not the inclination or the means to give a ball, "they were nobody." It was no excuse that your house was too small. "These dances required but little room," they observed; and it was certainly extraordinary how some ingenious ladies contrived to cram a band of music, with three or four score of full grown persons, into their small rooms. These parties were very frequent, and would not have been very costly, if suppers were excluded; but "there was the rub," for, if champagne was not flying about like small beer, and ices between the acts, they were reckoned shabby.

ANECDOTE OF VANDYKE.

TRAVELLERS who visit the Pays Bas will find in every town collections of pictures more or less important, and *chefs d'œuvres* of the old

masters in many of the village churches. The celebrated picture of "St Martin dividing his Cloak with the Beggars" is in the small church of a village a few miles from Brussels. The history of this work is not a little interesting. Rubens, it is well known, not only recommended Vandyke to visit Italy for his improvement, but furnished him with the means, and letters of introduction. While he halted for a few days at Brussels on his way, there happened to be a *kermess* there, into the merriment of which he entered with much spirit. At a *cabaret*, where there was a ball, he saw a beautiful country girl, with whom he danced, and became so desperately enamoured of her loveliness, that he followed her home to the above village; and, contriving to scrape an acquaintance with her family, he thought of nothing else. In the mean time the funds with which his generous patron had supplied him were daily diminishing; and he found that, unless they could be replaced, it would be necessary to abandon his Italian expedition. In this dilemma he applied to the *Curé* of the village, stating that he was an historical painter, and understanding that an altar-piece was wanted for the church, he would undertake to paint one on very moderate terms. The priest

smiled at the stripling's pretensions to execute such a work, and put him off, saying "there were no funds." Vandyke, however, insisted on making the experiment, only demanding to be supplied with canvas. "He would paint the picture," he said, "and leave the price to the *Curé's* liberality." Inspired, we may easily believe, by the love and romance of a young heart, the future painter of kings and courtiers instantly commenced his work, and finished it in a few weeks. The priest, though no connoisseur, could not help admiring the beautiful figure of the Saint, and sent for a friend at Brussels to judge of its merits. This person had some taste, and recommended its purchase; but the youth would neither tell his name nor fix the price of his labours. It is, however, said that he obtained for it 100 florins (a considerable sum in those days), and being thus again enabled to pursue his journey, he bid adieu to his dulcinea, and departed for Italy. This anecdote is given in a rare little work, "Sketches of the Flemish Artists," published at the Hague in 1642.

WE shall conclude the First Volume, by a few hints to Tourists, and a table of Flemish money.

A great error is committed by English travellers in overburthening themselves with baggage. We caution them against this, for besides the trouble it will give them at the customhouses, the utmost vigilance will hardly prevent their losing a great part of it.

It is of great importance to procure a trusty and intelligent servant. On him depends many of the little *agrémens* of travelling, and they should therefore be very careful in their selection ; one who is not perfectly acquainted with the countries which he visits, and with the French, German, and Italian languages, will be rather an incumbrance than otherwise.

In large towns, *tables d'hôte* are to be preferred to private rooms, as they are always more plentifully served, and afford an opportunity of mixing with the people of the country, and of improving in their language ; but, unfortunately, many Tourists have a dislike to public rooms, and to converse with strangers. If, on coming abroad, they would, instead of boasting of national superiority, lay aside some of the prejudices of their country, and accommodate themselves to foreign customs, they would be both better treated and more respected. We have often heard it insinuated, that their money alone renders Englishmen support-

able. We do not, however, think so ill of our countrymen, as to believe this to be generally the case. A well-educated gentleman, with some knowledge of the world, will always conduct himself properly either at home or abroad ; but the fact is that, since the general peace, a class of *parvenus* who do as little credit to their country as to themselves, have made their appearance in hordes in all parts of the Continent.

Once in a public room at Antwerp, the Author overheard one of these Bulls swearing at the waiter in wretched French, because he could not be served with a buttered toast at breakfast ; while his friend was equally vociferous in “ damning the rascally country that did not afford a bottle of port to wash down his *biftick*, or a bootjack that an Englishman can use.”

In regard to money, the most convenient, and the easiest to get discounted, are the circular notes of Hammersley and Herries. Napoleons are the best circulating medium in gold, but they must be purchased at a premium.

A great deal of trouble will be saved by the Tourist, by confining his wardrobe into small compass, and, if well stowed in a stout port-manteau, with a capacious sack, will be found ample for any rational man. An umbrella, a portugal cloak, a small telescope, a brace of pocket-pistols, a case containing two spoons, two forks, and as many knives, are also indispensable necessaries, and we know, from experience, that shoes and gaiters are better than boots, which are apt to swell the legs in long journéys.

To those who can afford posting, a strong and light travelling carriage is of the highest importance. Englishmen err in bringing to the Continent carriages with poles, which always require four horses, whereas, if they purchase that modern machine called a *Droski*, at Brussels or at Frankfort, it will be found more suitable to the roads, with stronger wheels, and two persons may travel with a pair of horses ; and, besides, the price is much less.

Be careful of your passports, and endeavour, before you set out, to have them countersigned (*vizé*) by the ambassadors of the countries in your route ; this will often prevent delay in their examination, especially on the frontiers of many of the potentates, whose jealousy in ad-

mitting strangers into their dominions at this moment is well known ; for similar reasons, let no books be found in your possession which are written in favour of liberty, and never utter a word on political subjects after you pass the Meuse.

Your *valet de place* will generally be found a spy on you, as well as every waiter at the hotels, and the *commissionnaire* whom you have hired to show you the lions. This last class of *rogue* will also mislead you, and put you to unnecessary trouble and expense in dragging you to every object which he thinks worthy of a stranger's notice, or mentioned in a guide book that he will put in your hands. In every large city, a respectable person will be procured to act as your *cicerone*, but talk not on public affairs with him, however learned he may be in the arts.

Many young travellers commit themselves to deserved censure, by haggling with landlords, waiters, &c. about trifles, for every traveller must submit to a little imposition, and especially an Englishman ; but they have been, perhaps, told that they are cheated at all hands, and that it is necessary to make a previous bargain before you enter a hotel. This may be the case at some second-rate inn, but, in

general, it is bad policy to *marchandise* at respectable auberges, and nothing will be gained thereby, for, if your courier knows his business, and is honest (a rare quality, however, in these fellows), you will not be greatly imposed on. It often happens, also, that good food cannot be always had in many places in hot weather, and during Lent; and the Tourist who is fastidious in his diet, discovers that he is likely to be starved, because the larder does not afford a single dish of flesh meat. We would, however, advise him to be contented with a *maigre soup*, an *omelette*, and a pudding, with vegetables, which he can always command.

A list of wines is generally produced, dignified with names of the first quality, avoid these; and, in every part of France, Germany, and Italy, call for the wines which the country produces—denominated *vins du pays*—they will be found the best, and you will not be imposed on by paying for a *vin ordinaire* the price of first growth. Invalids who travel into Italy for health, should inform themselves of the best stations at particular seasons. By neglecting this previous information, many persons in search of health go to Florence in winter, when they should be at Pisa, and others, to Rome, in preference to Naples.

To those who cannot afford the expense of travelling with post-horses, we strongly recommend them to hire a *voiturier*, in preference to the diligence. A *calèche*, with a pair of horses, if for not more than two persons, may be had for 24 francs per day, and will accomplish a long journey, at the rate of thirty-five or forty miles, halting one day in the week ; and this will be found nearly as cheap as the public conveyances, besides the freedom it gives of doing as you please, as to time and distance. If the party is larger, carriages can be obtained with three horses, sufficiently capacious to contain four persons, with a servant on the box.*

There is an old and wise saying, "Look before you leap." The adage may be applied to modern travelling. The Tourist ought to weigh, before he sets out, the *désagrémens* with the pleasures he is likely to meet with in his route ; but this is seldom considered, and the rage for making the "Grand Tour," as it is called, has been so very general in England for the last twenty years, that thousands of both sexes, and all ages, may be seen wandering in Holland and Flanders, on the Rhine, and Switzerland, and indeed in every corner of the

* It must be observed, however, that a certain sum will be demanded for back-fare, as can be agreed on.

southern parts of the Continent, in pursuit of pleasure, and to gratify their curiosity.

Nothing can be more gratifying to the human mind, than visiting the magnificent scenery of the Alps, and the classic soil of Italy; and this curiosity is highly laudable, provided it can be accomplished with conveniency as to time and expense, and that the Tourist has sufficient health and vigour to undergo the fatigues and privations necessarily depending on so long a journey. At the same time, there are other indispensable requisites to make a tour on the Continent either useful or agreeable; a certain respectable education, some previous knowledge of the world and of men and manners; but, above all, a taste for the arts, and the picturesque beauties of nature.

Before they commence their travels, every thing is viewed *couleur de rose*; they have no notion of the miseries that they daily and hourly meet with, in being cooped up in wretched diligences, or the bone-breaking of bad roads; the execrable accommodation at many of the inns, and the impositions of rapacious landlords; to say nothing of the greatest of all the nuisances of the south, the mosquitoes, bugs, and other disgusting vermin, that attack the tired traveller, and from which there is no escape. In defiance, however, of all these abominations, it

is quite incredible to meet the swarms of elderly gentlemen, and delicate females, braving the evils and inconveniences to which they are exposed, and many calculating how they can make their slender finances hold out, by living on sour crout and staggering bob, the grease of the German kitchen, and garlic of the Italian, their only consolation being to wrangle in bad French with the landlords about the reckoning. To travel with pleasure, a long purse is required, for the moment that petty economy is studied, all the enjoyments are at an end.

Notwithstanding the acknowledged talent of the English, no people in Europe are so easily duped when they visit the Continent, and this may be accounted for in various ways. Many of our fashionable dandies travel merely because it is the rage of the day. Just escaped from the universities (where they pick up more *slang* than useful knowledge), having been initiated into the mysteries of the *hells* of the metropolis, served a campaign at Newmarket, and obtained a competent knowledge of "Life in London," they consider themselves equally well acquainted with the great world, and set out to visit foreign countries with replenished purses, and no small portion of self-conceit. Formerly, it was the fashion for these youths to be accompanied by a *savant*, yclept a *bear leader*; but

that attendant is now generally dispensed with, and the *debutant* is left to his own discretion. At Paris he generally throws away all his ready money at the *restaurateurs* and the gaming tables of the Palais Royal. But having procured a fresh supply from *Papa*, he proceeds to Switzerland and Italy. In nine cases out of ten, his valet (generally a cunning Swiss) knows as little about travelling as his master; but is quite *au fait* in plundering him, going *snacks* with the landlords of the inns for that purpose. As dining at two o'clock could only be considered by him a *dejeuné à la fourchette*, he esteems it vulgar to go to a *table d'hôte*, or to mix with the *canaille* in public rooms; and therefore orders private apartments and the most expensive viands, not knowing that these are generally the *debris* of the *table d'hôte*. And as he thinks the *vin de pays* of the countries he passes through is too cheap, he commands Champagne, Lafite, and Château-margaux, which are produced at an extravagant price, but of the worst quality. It would be impossible, he thinks, to drink *vin ordinaire*, which costs so little money; and, in this notion, he is encouraged by *Monsieur le Courier*, that the bill may be inflamed.

English travellers, in general, consider that, by examining every object of antiquity at Flo-

rence, Rome, and Naples, they have fully accomplished the proper object of foreign travel. They take no pains to get introduced into good Italian society ; and, indeed, it is to be supposed they consider it beneath their notice, as the nobles, though extremely affable and easy of access, are not often rich enough to give entertainments. The young traveller votes their conversation and music a *bore*, and prefers herding with his countrymen at taverns. It would certainly be a more profitable occupation, if he spent his evenings in good society (of which there is much to be found in Italy), than in smoking cigars and drinking Monte Fiascone or Rosoglio at a *restaurateur*. The chief use of travelling is to improve the mind and enlarge the understanding, which can only be accomplished by associating with intelligent and well-educated persons, wherever they are to be found. To gratify one's curiosity by examining the fine specimens of art with which Italy every where abounds, is highly commendable ; but

“ The proper study of mankind is man ; ”

and when our traveller has neglected to mix with the society of the natives, he generally returns home ignorant of the souls that animate

them, however learned he may be in the representation of the national features on canvas. Nor will it be found that, by restricting his intercourse to his own countrymen abroad, he has either diminished his prejudices, or materially improved his intellect and manners.

Previous to the French Revolution, the only Englishmen who made the Grand Tour, were young noblemen and the sons of rich squires, but, since that period, every illiterate vulgar *marchand*, from the land of Cockaigne, who can raise two or three hundred sovereigns, must travel, forsooth. Unfortunately, foreigners unacquainted with England, cannot discriminate between these Cockneys and the respectable class of our countrymen who cross the Alps, and they are all considered "an ill-bred, vulgar nation, haunted by dæmons, and very unhappy at home, else they would not have quitted their families to wander about all parts of the world." The author has more than once heard these opinions gravely promulgated.

The privations which our countrymen sometimes submit to, and the pains they endure, in order to gratify their desire of visiting foreign countries, we have already stated. A large proportion of these Tourists have not the

smallest taste for the beauties of nature or the works of art, and return to their firesides with less real knowledge than the monkey in the fable. One frequently encounters these dull plodding travellers in the treckschuyts and steam boats, steering their way southwards, at a certain season, like birds of passage, without knowing a word of the continental languages, and with no more knowledge of the topography, history, and manners, of the places through which they pass, than they can pick out of their guide books.

In visiting the Italian and Swiss lakes, you must consult your maps and itineraries. Reichard is very copious on this subject, and as any part of his voluminous work can be had separately, travellers ought to provide themselves with the volume on Italy and Switzerland. We shall add a few useful instructions, taken from his Itinerary, on the best mode of managing your strength in climbing the Swiss mountains.

If you are not in the habit of walking in mountainous countries, begin by two or three leagues a-day; and if you daily add a league, you will soon become a vigorous marcher; "*che va moderato va lontano.*"

When beginning to ascend a steep mountain, proceed steadily and slowly, at a measured pace,

by which you will prevent too quick a circulation of the blood and severe perspiration, and avoid fatiguing your back and the muscles of your legs.

If possible, endeavour to choose the ascent of a mountain with your face to the west during your morning's march, and to the east in descending in the evening, by which you will avoid the glare of the sun in your eyes.

Never separate yourself too far from your party. Before you attempt to climb a rock, consider the facility of getting back. Always consult your guide on these occasions, and never fail to take his advice at all times. Never venture on ice which has been recently formed by a fall of snow ; this frequently happens in summer. Do not cross a glacier during the middle of the day ; for the ice being then in a " melting mood," you run the risk of tumbling into a *crevasse*. A piece of green gauze will protect your eyes from the glare of the sun reflected by the snow. In long marches your feet are apt to blister ; never cut them either with knife or scissors, but run a needle and thread through them, and you will soon be again in marching order.

ENGLISH SOCIETY AT BRUSSELS,

FROM 1814 TO 1830.

WE hope it may not be thought invidious to detail the adventures of some of our countrymen who visited the Continent on the general peace, for the express purpose of practising their arts of swindling in a foreign land, after they had been compelled to quit their own, by the pressure of their affairs, the fears of a prison, and an exhausted credit; though it may happen sometimes, that a family is obliged to emigrate on account of having contracted debts which they could not immediately pay, from misfortune in their pursuits, and improvidence, to seek an asylum abroad, where their limited means might still enable them to live comfortably on a broken fortune, which in England would hardly afford them the necessaries of life. In such cases their prudence was commendable, where there was a prospect by economy to liquidate their debts; but when we met persons of respectable birth and education, established in various parts of France, Flanders, and Italy, thus circum-

stanced, and saw them vieing with each other who should give the most expensive entertainments, and keeping equipages without income, there ought to be no longer any feeling of sympathy towards them, or ceremony in exposing to the public their unworthy transactions.

It was naturally to be expected when the Continent opened, after it had been shut up for a period of 30 years, that a great influx of English, of all ranks, would visit the countries most adjacent, and that Calais, Boulogne, and Brussels would be speedily filled with travellers of every description, and this last city being one of the most plentiful it became the favourite resort ; and such was the demand for houses, that the rents rose three-fold, and as the Park was the most agreeable quarter of the city, John Bull offered such extravagant terms to the citizens occupying it, that the two principal streets, the Rue Royale and the Rue Ducale, became in a few years an English colony. It was, however, shortly discovered that though every article of life was 100 per cent. less than in London, yet large dinners and expensive wines, balls, and suppers, cost money, and that at the end of the year the economists found they had spent as much, if not more, than in their own country. They ran up bills with the

tradesmen which they had not the means of paying ; the Flemings took the alarm, and though they could not arrest the bodies of their creditors, they put executions into their houses, and gave high affront to the dignity of their debtors ; but there was no remedy, they must either pay or bolt, no bail being accepted by the Code Napoleon, and many left the country in disgust. Another class who had no management, trusted every thing to their servants, who took advantage of their masters' improvidence and credulity, and cheated them accordingly ; when a settlement came, the roguish cook and footman were detected, and the butcher and grocer were found playing into their hands. Mr. Bull got into a furious rage, d——d the country, and, swearing " there was not an honest man in it," retired to his own home, to eat boiled beef and cabbages, and drink brandied port and brown stout, which he found agreed better with his constitution and his purse, than the kickshaws (query ? *quelques choses*), and meagre wines of France, and the moselle. A third set of the English society, but not the most numerous, was the younger branches of our nobility and gentry, and persons of some consideration at home, who being accustomed to luxuries, now become beyond the reach of their decayed fortunes and limited

means, were desirous of continuing the enjoyment of them in a beautiful country, but many from heedlessness, and inexperience of a foreign *menage*, found their calculations of uniting luxury with economy, were erroneous, and their two courses, with a dessert and a variety of wines, though very cheap, amounted to more than their incomes. The prudent part returned to England, and others continued as long as their credit was unsuspected. The few sensible families who were induced to emigrate for the education of their children, and who looked into their establishments, paid their bills weekly, and practised a genteel economy, found Brussels an excellent station for their purposes. They gave their daughters all the modern female accomplishments by masters, under the superintendance of domestic mothers, for a fifth part of the money which it would have cost them in England, and living at the same time under their income, and enjoying every rational comfort.

We now come to the tribe of *Chevaliers d'Industrie*, of whom on the opening of the Campaign, previous to the battle of Waterloo, there was no small number. The expense of transport to a *dandy* who dared no longer parade in St. James's Street, from the fear of meeting his tailor, did not exceed three guineas, *via Ostend* ;

these *animals* appeared in the spring with the nightingales, permitted their mustachios and whiskers to grow, and staining their cheeks with walnut juice, passed for military heroes who had served in the Peninsula, taking the local rank of *captains*. A few of these *worthies* in Wellington boots and embroidered surtouts, had better pretensions, for they were actually or had been serving in the *local militia*. The most prudent lived in obscure lodgings, and dined at a cheap *restaurateur*, by which means their funds lasted some time; but the more dashing adventurers lodged at the best Hotels, dining at the *tables d'hôte*, calling for champagne, and astonishing the waiters by a daily *douceur* of a franc, instead of the usual one of a *plaque*.* They paid their way at the first starting, but when their bills amounted to a sum which their finances could not meet, they started for Valenciennes or Aix-la-Chapelle, *sans façon*, and in twelve hours were *fuori di regno*! A few of our travellers with large funds and highly respectable were introduced at the *société littéraire*, and played at *ecarté*, but being no match for the wily Belgians, they got speedily cleaned out.

* A Flemish coin mixed with silver, value 3d. English, but now out of circulation.

As Spa, in July and August, was the season when the *haut ton* congregated, they changed the scene, and tried their luck at *rouge et noir*, and flirted and quadrilled with their country-women at the *Redoute* (public rooms). But we never heard of a single instance of success either in a gaming or a matrimonial speculation.

The forest of Ardennes joins the village, and a Spa pony put our heroes on the road to Aix-la-Chapelle in the dominions of his majesty of Prussia, which they could easily reach in a few hours. Here they waited for a fresh remittance, which on its arrival enabled them to try their fortunes once more at the gaming table. The Prussians, however, being as clever as their neighbours, the reign of the *soi-disant* captain was equally brief, but it was more difficult to escape from the hands of the *Silesian Philistines*, for when the Rhine was crossed they had still a part of Prussia to pass; and how the poor youths contrived to get back to their own country, or to pursue their travels into Italy, we have no means of information.

These small adventurers did but little harm, and were hardly talked of when they became defaulters. Monsieur P. the fat landlord of the hotel de B. whispered any losses he had sustained among his particular friends, in a good-

humoured way, always concluding the secret by adding "I shall get my moneys ; the Englishman never sheat." We trust his prophecies were realized. This swarm of *ephemeræ* flourished two or three seasons, gradually disappearing like the quails.

The peace of the Continent being fully established by the victory of Waterloo, Brussels became more like an English watering-place than a foreign town, and the demand for houses increasing, a new city speedily arose on the site of the old ramparts, with *boulevards* in imitation of those at Paris, which were occupied by the new comers, as the houses were finished. It has been calculated that, during the winter seasons of 1824 and 1825, not less than 4,000 subjects of Great Britain resided in the Belgian capital, but many of these were birds of passage, moving towards Italy, by the Rhine, or into France, or returning home. During their temporary residence, it did not appear that their visits were for economy ; on the contrary, their pursuits were gaiety and dissipation. They moved in distinct bodies, a first and a second class ; but on what account they were so distinguished, our inquiries have not been successful. In London, there are nobility and gentry, separate classes, but who occasion-

ally associate with each other, if the latter are rich. This we can understand ; but it is not so easy to comprehend the distinction that separates the chain of English society in Brussels. The few *sprigs* of quality who adorned it were not, in general, of sufficient importance, either in rank or wealth, to constitute a body, and the other *soi-disant* pretenders to distinction had no outward visible sign of talent or qualification to look down on persons of a similar *caste*, except keeping a carriage with a pair of job-horses, giving large dinners ill served, with a few flasks of flying champaign and *Bordeaux ordinaire*, which many of them procured in hampers from a quack merchant or a grocer, at 15 sous per bottle. The lady gave *soirées*, and now and then invited more than her house could hold to a carpet ball, for the benefit of Monsieur Sacré* and his band, and “where the company moved by general consent.” We suppose these must have been the causes which entitled this branch of the *soi-disant premiere classe* to lord it over the heads of a certain part of the English community, whose means or inclinations did not keep pace with these would-be *hidalgos*. It was highly amusing to a looker

* The *maitre de ballet* of the Court.

on, to see the airs and consequence which some of these gentry gave themselves, by “aping the manners of the great,” and the contempt with which they treated their quiet retired compatriots, who gave no entertainments beyond a little tea party, and kept no equipages ; “dull dogs, who payed their bills, and who visited each other in a hackney coach, or perhaps walked home on foot from their *soirée* of six-penny whist, where the refreshments only consisted of a sandwich, and a glass of negus or lemonade.” These were the second class of the English residents, whom “nobody knew,” and whose names, should they be known to the *hidalgos*, were never before heard of.

Brussels was the first station where John Bull roosted, on his *debut* to the Continent. He was totally ignorant of the world, and of continental manners ; and, as he brought with him all the prejudices of his own country, it was some time before he could accommodate himself to the usages of society so foreign to his habits ; and, being unacquainted with the language, he avoided the natives, herding only with his countrymen whom he had selected as worthy of his notice. By and by, however, he found that it was the fashion and *bon ton* to invite the indigenous counts and barons to his

wife's *soirées*, these cavaliers being more *au fait* and more willing to quadrille and waltz with their daughters than the English dandies. A few of this last class, who had picked up a little French during their six months' residence, and got rid of some of their rust, condescended to mix with the Belgians, who eat their suppers, drank their champaign, flattered mamma, and flirted with the misses, laughing in their sleeves at the extravagance of the entertainments.

It was very striking to an observer who had crossed the Alps, to see the great difference between the English society at Brussels, and Calais, and Boulogne, when compared with the classes they had met at Florence, Rome, and Naples; the latter, having been some time on their travels, had acquired more polish, and got rid of many of their English prejudices. They were, besides, of a more respectable class than the Cockneys who had taken a trip over in the steam boats, with a few pounds in their pockets to spend at Brussels, and, when they have accomplished this, return home.

It would appear, from this marked difference in the manners and habits of the English traveller in Italy and his countryman on the coasts of France and Flanders, that the former

was purified by crossing the Alps. "A little travelling, like a smattering of learning, is a dangerous thing." An emigrant from the Custom-house Quay to Ostend, is not much improved by the trip to Flanders, but, on the contrary, becomes more offensive in his manners, by having picked up a little bad French, which he bored you with ; talked of the luxuries of French cookery, and the quantity of champagne and burgundy he daily imbibed ; of the splendid balls his wife gave ; boasted of having been at a party at the palace, and of having danced in the same quadrille with the Prince of Orange. On the other side of the Alps, it was the fashion for tourists, on their arrival in the large cities, to procure a list of the English residents, and selected those they were desirous of visiting, by leaving their card, which was always returned, and the future acquaintance went on or stopped as the resident was inclined. This, at least, was the mode some years ago ; but we know not if it still continues.

During the author's long residence in Italy, he never heard of any distinction in society among the English. The Lord associated with the commoner, without inquiring into his dynasty or fortune ; the rich gave balls and dinners, and those of more limited means con-

tented themselves in giving a little *soirée*, with wine and water, fruit, and *eau sucré*; there was no vying with each other who should give the most expensive parties, and harmony prevailed. Such were the effects of travelling. This good fellowship at Florence might also be attributed to the urbanity of the British ambassador, Lord B——h, who invited every respectable English family to his parties, and thereby put society on an equality; for, having the *entré* to the minister's house, was a passport to all other good society.

But to return *à nos moutons* at Brussels. By the introduction of steam-boats, the facility of transport to Belgium, tempted the English to visit the capital, and the number of settlers annually increased. The tricks which a few adventurers had played on the citizens when the Continent opened, made them more wary of giving credit to temporary visitors. A few, however, succeeded; they hired large houses, kept splendid establishments, and gave grand entertainments. There could be no suspicion of such customers, and they got unlimited credit, but we never could learn how they contrived to put off the day of settlement. It is certain that several dashing families lived in Brussels for years in the most expensive manner

without income, or any other means of procuring money, except by *wind bills*, and long credits. We could mention half a dozen of these *worthies* who flourished between the years 1818 and 1826, entertaining dukes, and even royalty itself, keeping carriages, and saddle horses, and spending thousands; raising money among jews and usurers, and taking Moses in, under false pretences. Some of their transactions were so flagrant that "Jonathan Wild" might have boasted of the ingeniously contrived frauds practised by more than one "great man," on the unsuspecting Flemings, and the convict "George Godfrey" might have taken a lesson from them. Our adventurers, however, have long disappeared from the stage, and have been succeeded by a better race of honest bulls; there is no longer any stain on the British character in Brussels, and a defaulter has become rare for several years (1830).

It was probably the apprehension of getting into the society of adventurers, that afterwards induced the respectable residents to make inquiries into the "birth, parentage, and education" of strangers, previous to forming their acquaintance—a caution highly commendable. It sometimes, however, happened, that the information of the gossips as to the respectability of

some new arrivals, was erroneous ; and they admitted into their parties *parvenus*, who had realised their fortune by trade ; one had been a pawn-broker ; another a tailor ; and a third a follower of the camp, &c. in the Peninsula. They, however, were rich, and gave parties, and no one cared about their dynasty. Such is the influence of money !

Drinking and sitting long at table, has been long exploded in the best societies in London, but many of the English residents in Brussels still adhered to their old habits and stuck to the bottle, and dining at a late hour. It was indeed difficult to imagine how the men contrived to kill time between the hours of breakfast and dinner, for there was no *rendezvous* where they could meet, except a small apartment to read the newspapers twice a week ; no club to play a rubber of whist, or library to lounge in. The *société littéraire*, as it is called, was the only place of reunion, and the sole pastime, playing at *ecarté*, which, as we have observed, proved rather a costly amusement to our countrymen.

As a capital, Brussels is the dullest and most monotonous city in Europe. There is not a single object to gratify the eye, except the Park, which in summer is certainly a delightful

shady promenade. The rides in the neighbourhood are also agreeable, but there is no drive for carriages off the abominable rough pavement, except in the Allé Verte, which is damp, and on this account unpleasant during six months in the year. At this moment (May 1829) the Flemish *Macadam* is improving this Corso, by throwing the mud out from the canal which is cleaning. This saves the labour and expense of transport, as the ride is within a few feet of its banks. But such a barbarity was probably never before committed, and is the more extraordinary as it is the direct way to the royal palace at Laeken; but as the family generally drive four horses, they accomplish the *trajet* in safety and with little delay. Owing to this impediment the drive has been shut up for several months, but will shortly be passable, when it has had a few months of the sun. On Sundays this Corso is the favourite promenade of the *beau monde* in their best equipages, and perhaps there is no city of the same size in Europe where so many handsome carriages were to be seen. The royal family frequently paraded with six horses, attended by their household, and many of the inhabitants turned out splendid equipages, four in hand. The ride is a mile in

length, and was often filled with four ranks of carriages. There are also alleys for saddle horses and pedestrians. In a hot evening it is a cool and refreshing promenade, but would be greatly improved by gravel. Economy, however, is the great study of the Belgians, and a gravel walk is unknown, although the Meuse produces abundance of the finest *materiel*.

THE HOTEL DE VILLE OF LOUVAIN.

By some inadvertency, the short account we had written of this beautiful specimen of Gothic architecture was omitted in the sketch of that city. We have given a lithographic print of its transept. As a whole, it is esteemed to be one of the most perfect and elaborately executed Gothic structures in existence, and is held in the highest estimation by all connoisseurs, and the citizens are justly proud of this pre-eminence. It was begun in 1440, and said to have been finished in ten years ; but this appears quite incredible from its great size, and the extraordinary richness and variety of the sculpture. During the last century, however, large sums were expended on its repair ; and, lately, it has undergone considerable cleaning and retouching, and may at present be considered as perfect as ever. Unfortunately its effect is greatly diminished, as well as the Col-

legiate Church of St. Peter's, by a number of wretched houses which approximate it on all sides. It has five towers; and, on descending the hill to the city from Brussels, it has the appearance of a huge ship.

TABLE OF COINS.

FLANDERS (1829.)

	Francs.	Cen- times.*	100th parts.	£	s.	d.
The new silver florin <i>des Pays</i>						
<i>Bas</i> , now in circulation, is						
worth	2	11	64	or	0	1 8
The silver $\frac{1}{2}$ florin, or 50 cents.	1	05	82	or	0	0 10
Ditto $\frac{1}{4}$ do. or 25 do.	0	52	91	or	0	0 5
Ditto $\frac{1}{10}$ do. or 10 do.	0	21	16	or	0	0 2
The copper cent. resembling a						
farthing, of which 100 make						
a florin, 1 cent.	0	2	29	or	0	0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Guillaume (gold) double of 20						
florins,	42	32	80	or	1	13 4
Guillaume (ditto) single of 10						
florins,	21	16	40	or	0	16 8
N.B.—An English shilling is 1 franc, 25 centimes (French),						
or 59 cents, but will not pass currently. A franc passes for 47						
cents. †						

The above is reduced into English money, at

* A centime is the 100th part of a franc.

† Napoleon altered the value of the franc, making it pass for 11 Flemish sous.

the rate of 12 florins, or 25 francs 39 centimes and 68 100th parts to £1 sterling, which is about the standard exchange.

It is to be regretted that the new silver florins, having been made with too little alloy, have been bought up by the French in great quantities, and their five-franc pieces introduced instead, so that there is not enough of the new coinage left to form the circulating medium.

The old Flemish florin *courant*, an imaginary coin, is of much less value than the florin *des Pays Bas*, but is still very much in use in commerce, and makes 20 old Flemish sous, which, however, are all called in, and nothing now remains of the old coin but plaquets of $3\frac{1}{2}$ Flemish sous, being, in French money, 30 centimes, or 15 cents "*argent des Pays Bas*," when they pass singly.

N. B.—A Flemish ell or *aune* is 27 English inches.

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