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Contributors

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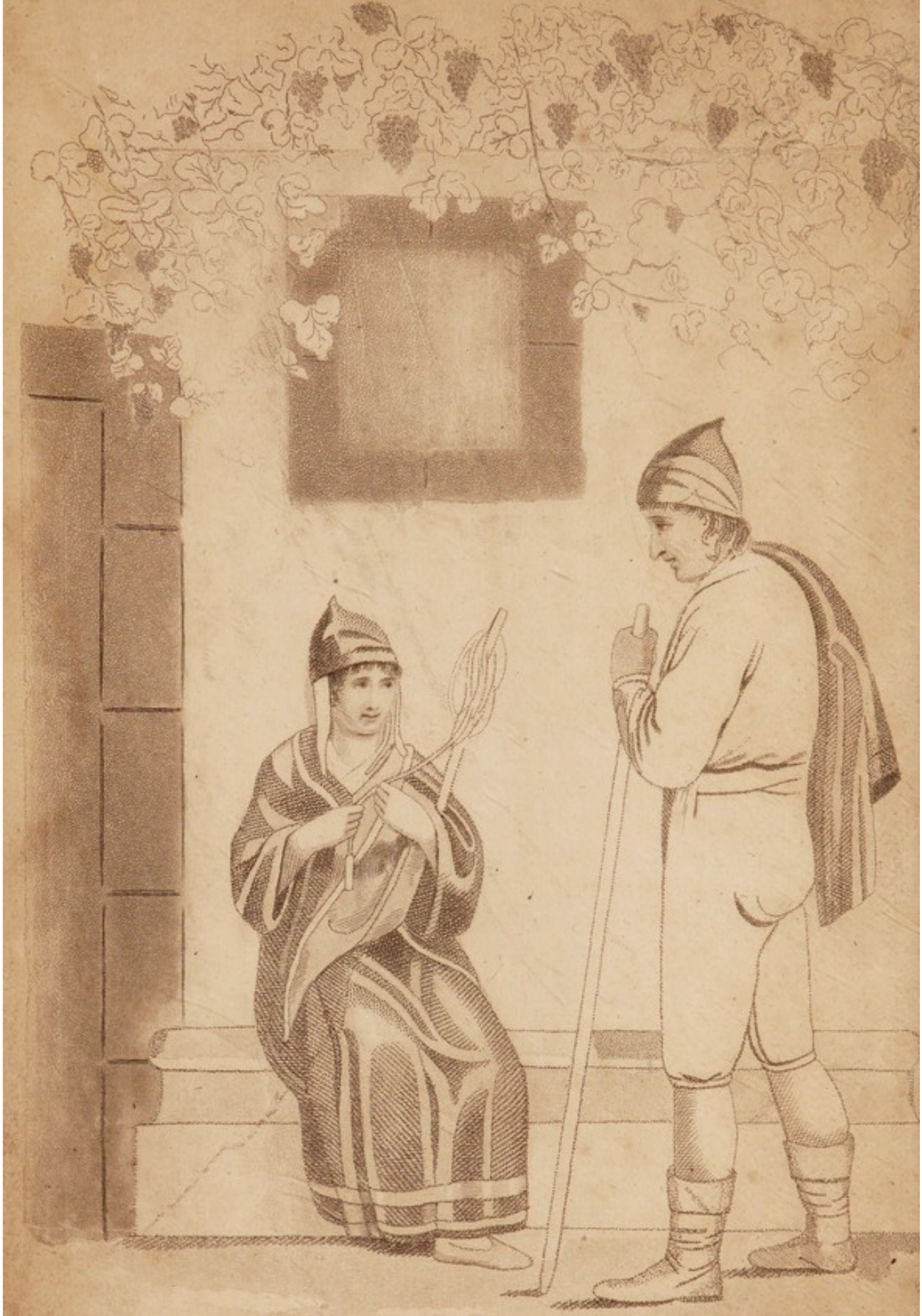

E. Mitchell, fc.

DRESS OF THE COUNTRY PEOPLE IN MADEIRA.

ACCOUNT

OF THE

ISLAND OF MADEIRA.

By N. C. PITTA, M. D.

EXTRAORDINARY MEMBER OF THE ROYAL MEDICAL SOCIETY OF EDINBURGH, PRESIDENT OF THE ROYAL PHYSICAL SOCIETY OF THE SAME CITY, AND PHYSICIAN AT MADEIRA.

Named from her woods, with fragrant bowers adorn'd,
From fair Madeira's purple coast we turn'd:
Cyprus and Paphos' vales the smiling loves,
Might leave with joy for fair Madeira's groves;
A shore so flowery, and so sweet an air,
Venus might build her dearest temple there.

CAMOEN'S LUSIAD. CANTO 5th.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR LONGMAN, HURST, REES, ORME & BROWN;
AND FOR JOHN ANDERSON, EDINBURGH.

1812.

C. Stewart Printer, Edinburgh.

TO

HIS EXCELLENCY

D. DOMINGOS DE SOUZA COUTINHO;

AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY FROM THE

COURT OF PORTUGAL,

TO THAT OF GREAT BRITAIN;

COUNT OF FUNCHAL;

&c. &c. &c.

IN TESTIMONY OF

Profound Respect for those high attainments, and amiable qualifications, which have endeared him to all his countrymen; and for that ardent zeal for the Independence of his native Country, which, in the present crisis of European affairs, is equally essential to its successful defence, and to the emancipation of the Continent:

THIS WORK

Is most respectfully inscribed,

By his most obedient Servant,

THE AUTHOR.

ADVERTISEMENT.

The following work was composed during the period of studies preparatory to graduation, as a Doctor of Medicine at the University of Edinburgh. I have been induced to publish it by the great interest, which political circumstances have, of late years, given to Madeira; by that attachment which, as a Native, I feel for this delightful Island; and by there being no complete account of it hitherto published. I regret that the scantiness of the materials which it was in my power to obtain, leave the work with many imperfections; for the excuse of which I rely on the liberal reader.

ADVERTISEMENT.

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ACCOUNT, &c.

SITUATION AND FIGURE.

THE Island of Madeira is situate in 32 degrees, 37 minutes and 40 seconds, north latitude, and in 16 degrees, 56 minutes longitude, west of Greenwich. It is about 240 miles N. by E. from Teneriffe; 360 miles from Cape Cantin, on the coast of Africa; and nearly 300 miles N. from the Isle of Ferro.

In figure, Madeira is an oblong irregular quadrangle; of about 150 miles in circumference: its greatest length from E. to W. being

55 miles, its greatest breadth from S. to N. 16 miles, and its least breadth 9 miles *.

* A packet regularly sails from Portsmouth for Madeira at the beginning of every month, and affords the safest mode of conveyance and the best accommodation. In all cases, those who apply earliest have the choice of cabins; and for this reason a friend should as early as possible fix every thing with such accuracy that no room can be left for future cavil. It may not be improper here to observe, that, if the person going out be a female, she should be accompanied by a maid-servant, who should not perhaps be in the bloom of youth, nor above the office of superintending the kitchen.

To prevent sea-sickness, no general rule can be offered. Some advise, to struggle as much as possible against it, by being continually on deck in an erect or sitting posture. Others, on the contrary, prefer a horizontal posture, till frequent and short experiments enable them to remain erect. At all events, eating should by no means be attempted, till the repugnance to it in some degree subsides; or voyagers should only begin with such quantities of food as will be least likely to affect the stomach.

Persons of property easily procure letters of credit on Madeira; but the exchange is so much to their disadvantage, that it is always desirable to bring guineas or dollars with them.

DISCOVERY.

ALTHOUGH it is supposed that this Island was known to the ancients, it nevertheless remained undiscovered by the moderns for many subsequent ages.

In the glorious reign of Edward the Third, says Francisco Alcaforado, Robert a Machin, or Macham, a gentleman of the second degree of nobility, whose genius was only equalled by his gallantry and courage, beheld and loved the beautiful Anna d'Arfet *. Their attachment

* Mr Clarke says the name of this lady has been supposed by some writers to have been Dorset, corrupted by a foreign orthography into D'Orset, and thence into D'Arfet. It may have been D'Arcy.

was mutual; but while the pleasing indulgence of ardent hope gratified, it also betrayed, the secret of their passion. The pride of the illustrious family of d'Arfet was insensible to the happiness of their daughter, and they preferred the haughty demands of ambition to the gentle supplications of love. The feudal tyranny of the age was friendly to their cruelty; and a royal warrant seemed to justify the pride of her parent. The consolations of an ingenuous mind supported Machin under confinement, and enabled him to seek after redress, without yielding to despondency.

On his release from prison, he learned that the beloved cause of his persecution had been compelled to marry a nobleman, whose name he could not discover, but who had carried her to a castle which he possessed near the city of Bristol. The friends of Machin made his misfortune their own; and one of them had the address to introduce himself into the service of the afflicted Anna, under the character of a groom. The prospect of the ocean

during their rides, suggested or matured a plan of escape; and the hope of a secure asylum counteracted the imagined dangers of a passage to the coast of France. Under pretence of deriving benefit from the sea air, the victim of parental ambition was enabled to elude suspicion, and without delay embarked, along with her lover, in a vessel procured for the purpose.

Anxiously bent on the successful completion of this design, Machin was alike insensible to the unfavourable season of the year, and to the portentous signs of an approaching storm, which in calmer moments he would have duly observed. The gradual rising of a gale of wind, rendered the astonished fugitives sensible of their rashness; and as the tempest continued to augment, the thick darkness of night completed the horrors of their situation. In their confusion, the intended port was missed, or could not be attained, and their vessel drove at the mercy of the winds and waves. In the morning, they found themselves in the midst of an unknown ocean, without skill to determine

their situation, and destitute of knowledge or experience to direct their course toward any known land.

At length, after twelve anxious mornings had dawned without sight of land, with the earliest streaks of day, an object dimly appeared to their eager watchfulness in the distant horizon; and when the grey haze, which had alternately filled them with hope and despondency, was dissipated by the rising sun, the certainty of having discovered a shore was welcomed by a general burst of joy. A great luxuriancy of trees of unknown species, was soon observed to overspread the land, whence unknown birds of beautiful plumage came off in flocks to the vessel, and gave the air of a pleasing dream to their unexpected deliverance.

The boat was hoisted out to examine the new found island, and returned with a favourable account. Machin and his friends accompanied their trembling charge on shore, leaving the mariners to secure the vessel at an anchor.

The wild but rich scenery of the adjacent country, possessed great charms for guests who had just escaped from apparently inevitable destruction. An opening in the extensive woods, which was encircled with laurels and other flowering shrubs, presented a delightful retreat to the tempest-worn voyagers; a venerable tree, of ancient growth, offered its welcome shade on an adjoining eminence; and the first moments of liberty were there employed in forming a romantic residence, with the abundant materials which nature supplied all around.

The novelty of every object they beheld, induced curiosity to explore their discovery; and they had spent three days in wandering about the woods, when the survey was interrupted by an alarming hurricane, which came on during the night, and rendered them extremely anxious for the safety of their companions, who had been left in charge of the vessel. The ensuing morning bereft them of all prospect of being ever enabled to get away from the island: the vessel had broke from her moorings by the violence of

the storm, and was wrecked on the coast of Morocco, where all on board were immediately dragged into slavery.

The distressed Machin found this last calamity too severe for his terrified and afflicted companion to endure. Her susceptible mind and tender frame, overcome by the severity of the scenes she had passed through, and oppressed by a consciousness of having deviated from her duty, sunk under the afflictions of her situation. From the moment it was reported that the vessel had disappeared, she became dumb with sorrow, and, after a few days of silent despair, she expired.

This heavy stroke was too much for the inconsolable lover to support: though watched over with the utmost solicitude by his afflicted friends, all attempts to administer consolation were entirely fruitless, and he expired on the fifth day after the death of his beloved mistress. With his parting breath, he earnestly enjoined his surviving companions, to deposit his body under a ven-

erable tree, in the same grave which they had so recently made for the victim of his temerity; and where the altar which had been raised to celebrate their deliverance, would now mark their untimely tomb.

Having performed this painful duty, the surviving companions of these unfortunate lovers fixed over the grave a large wooden cross, on which they carved the inscription which Machin had composed to record their melancholy adventures; and added a request, that if Christians should at a future period visit the spot, they would in the same place erect a church, and dedicate it to Christ. Having thus accomplished the dictates of humanity and friendship, the survivors fitted out the boat, which had remained ashore from their first landing, and put to sea with the intention of returning if possible to England; but either from want of skill, or owing to currents and unfavourable winds, they likewise were driven on the coast of Morocco, and rejoined their former shipmates in slavery among the Moors.

According to Alcaforado, John Gonsalves Zargo, a gentleman of the household of Don Henry, being sent out by that prince upon an expedition of discovery to the coast of Africa, made prize, in the year 1420, [1418, *or* 1419, *if the following statements be correct*] of a Spanish vessel filled with redeemed captives, on their way from Morocco to Spain. In this vessel, there was one John de Morales, an experienced and able pilot, whom he detained as a person acceptable to his master Don Henry. Morales, on being informed of the cause of his detention, entered freely into the service of the prince, and gave to Zargo an account of the adventures of Machin, and of the situation and land-marks of the newly discovered island; all of which he had learnt in the prisons of Morocco from certain English captives *who had accompanied* Machin, in his expedition *.

* This story is reported in a manner somewhat different by Galvano. According to him, about the year 1344, one Machin, an Englishman, meaning to retire into Spain, fled from his country, with a lady of whom he

It is without doubt extraordinary that Madeira should not have been rediscovered at the same time with Porto Santo, an island only 15 miles distant from it, and first visited by the Portuguese in the preceding year 1418. However,

was enamoured; but the vessel in which the lovers were embarked, was driven by a storm to the island of Madeira, then altogether unknown and uninhabited. The port in which Machin took shelter is still called Machico. His mistress being sea-sick, Machin landed with her and some of the people, and the ship, putting to sea, deserted them. Oppressed with sickness and with grief at seeing herself in this hopeless state of exile, the lady died; and Machin, who was extremely fond of her, constructed a chapel or hermitage dedicated to Jesus the Saviour, in which he deposited her remains; and he engraved both their names and the cause of their arrival, on a rude monument which he erected to her memory. He afterwards constructed a boat or canoe, which he hollowed out from the trunk of a large tree, in which, without the aid of oars, sails, or rudder, he, and those of his companions who had been left on shore along with him, passed over to the opposite coast of Africa. He was made prisoner by the Moors, who presented him to their king, by whom he was sent prisoner to the king of Castile.

immediately after the discovery of Porto Santo, a colony was settled there, and the colonists for some time, observed a heavy black cloud suspended toward the South West, which at all times was perfectly stationary, but which they believed to be an impenetrable abyss.

It has justly been observed, that an objection arises against this history which is not easily removed. We are, *in the text*, told that, immediately after the death of Machin, his companions sailed over to Morocco, and that Morales was in prison at the same time with them. Now supposing the discovery by Machin to have been made about 1344, as related by Galvano, from the Castilian Chronicles, Morales must have been no less than 76 years a prisoner, when redeemed and detained by Gonsalves in 1420. Herbert places the adventure of Machin in 1328, which would increase the captivity of Morales to 92 years. Alcaforado places the event in the reign of Edward III. of England, which began in 1327 and ended in 1378. Even supposing it to have happened in the last year of Edward, Morales must have remained 42 years in captivity; which is not only highly improbable, but is even contrary to the sense of the historian, who supposes but a short period to have elapsed between the two events. Besides, the records quoted by Galvano *(see the preceding part of this note)*, are

Certain it is, that, on the first of June 1419, John Gonsalves Zargo, and Tristam Vaz Taxeira, officers in the Portuguese navy, employed by Prince Henry, and, it is also said, John de Morales, their pilot (detained by the former, perhaps either in this or a preceding voyage) sailed from Algarve. In a few days, they reached the island of Porto Santo, then governed by Bartholomeo Perestrelo; and leaving it, they, in a few days more, approached the object of their voyage--this mysterious spot presenting the appearance of a perpetual black cloud.

said expressly to assert that Machin went himself into Africa, whence he was sent to the king of Castile. This last circumstance may have been invented by the Spaniards, to give them a better title to the Island of Madeira: but the former objection remains in full force. It can only be obviated by supposing, *either*, that Morales advanced a falsehood in asserting, that he had the account of this discovery from the English themselves, instead of learning it from the other slaves, among whom the tradition might have been current for many years after the event; *or*, that Alcaforado may have mistaken the report of Morales in this particular.

In defiance of the superstitious dread which the very extraordinary appearance of the island had occasioned among the crew, Zargo and Taxeira sailed southward, passing the point of St Lawrence, which they named from their ship; and, entering a spacious and beautiful bay, where they cast anchor, they ventured to land upon its shores.—Accompanied by two priests, they disembarked, on the second of July, at the very spot, it is said, of the sepulchre of Machin and his mistress; and, having performed the ceremony of returning thanks to heaven for the fortunate discovery of the island, there took possession of it.

When Madeira was first discovered, it was literally an entire wilderness; groves of trees, chiefly of cedar, and some of them of very great size, reaching to the sea-shore. After bestowing considerable attention upon the soil and other circumstances of this island, which was utterly destitute of inhabitants, Zargo and Taxeira returned to Portugal with the welcome intelligence; and gave so favourable a report of

the extent, fertility and salubrity of Madeira, that Don Henry determined to colonize and cultivate it. Accordingly, he divided it into two captainships: that of Funchal, he gave to Zargo, and that of Maxico, to Taxeira, who, with Zargo, had discovered Porto Santo.

In the year 1420, Zargo began the plantation of Madeira; and, being much impeded in his progress by the immense quantity of thick and tall trees, with which it was then every where encumbered, he, to facilitate the clearing of the surface for cultivation, set the wood on fire. The wood is reported to have continued burning for seven years, and so great was the devastation as to occasion much inconvenience to the colony for many years afterwards, from the want of timber.

Don Henry, however, appears to have been a prince of most enlarged and liberal views; not only capable of devising the means of making maritime discoveries, which had never been thought of before his time, but also of estimating

their value when made, and applying them to purposes the most useful and important for his country. Reflecting upon the reported fertility of the soil, and the excellence of the climate of Madeira, and with the judicious foresight of a philosopher and politician, considering both in relation to the most valuable productions of similar climates and soils, he wisely conceived and suscessfully executed the idea of introducing the cultivation of the sugar cane and the vine into this new colony. For these purposes, Portugal readily supplied him with vines, and with people conversant in their management; but he had to procure sugar canes, and persons experienced in their cultivation and in the process of manufacturing sugar from their juice, from the island of Sicily, into which that article of culture had been introduced by the Arabs.

ASPECT OF THE COUNTRY.

It has often been observed that no sooner does the passenger come within view of Porto Santo, a comparatively trifling island, than he instantly conjectures it to be Madeira. Abreast, however, of Porto Santo, Madeira appears as one great mountain, whose summit is hidden in the clouds. Reaching the Desertas, which, from the view the traveller has of them appear like a single island, he is undeceived of his first error; but sometimes it is, only to be led into another. At length, the island of Madeira itself fully appears, while the others still continue in view. He then discovers that these, which he before considered as high lands, are, comparatively speaking, plains.

The first view of Madeira represents it as rocky, barren and uncultivated. It is indeed formed of lofty mountains, of hills, and fruitful vallies, which generally rise with a slow ascent; the highest points of land being about a mile above the level of the ocean.

In the centre of the highest mountains when viewed from the East, is an opening somewhat resembling a crescent, which is often visible when the middle part of the mountain is covered with clouds. The magnificence of this appearance has reminded some travellers of Virgil's description of heaven—

"Panditur interea domus omnipotentis Olympi," &c.

These mountains, whose tops are generally covered with clouds, present in the distance the most picturesque appearance. Near to their summits are forests of wild timber of various kinds unknown in Europe. Under these, are woods of chesnut and pine of immense extent. The lower sides of the hills are covered with vines; and there the prospect exhibits a conti-

nual succession of vineyards that flourish in the utmost perfection. The vines are trained and supported by poles, which form rows of colonades and arches, sometimes reaching even to the summit of the hills: twining their flexible branches in arbours over head, they form an umbrage impervious to the rays of the sun. The rich colouring of these vineyards forms a very strong and beautiful contrast to the town of Funchal below.

At this distance the houses, of a vivid white colour, seem so minute, as easily to be mistaken for broken fragments of a chalky beach; and on a nearer approach, they have accurately enough been said to resemble the tomb-stones of an English church-yard.

The vessel, then, in order to avoid being becalmed, stretches southward; next to the south-west; and at last approaches the town, which, as well as the scenery above, grows more and more beautiful.

The anchorage being at some distance from the beach, the town still appears to great advantage; the best houses being the highest, and the number of churches and other public buildings affording a very pleasing variety. By this time, too, the country houses, almost all of which are in view, form a fine relief to the verdure with which they are surrounded *.

Madeira when more closely examined, may be said to consist of one large mountain, whose

* On arriving at the island it is adviseable for the invalid, or his companion or servant, to land, and to leave all letters of introduction, in order to make enquiries concerning accommodation. The private lodging houses, though less exceptionable than public ones, are far inferior to those to which the English are accustomed at home; and the taverns are utterly unfit for invalids. In consequence of this, some families, who intend to reside for a time in the island, bring with them common furniture, as that is with difficulty procured, though houses for temporary residence are not scarce. If the invalid be comfortably accommodated on board, it is certainly best to remain in the cabin, with the ship at anchor, till every thing is prepared on shore.

branches rise every where from the sea towards the centre of the island, and converge to the summits, in the midst of which is a depression or excavation, called by the inhabitants Monte, which is always covered with a fresh and delicate herbage. Many brooks and small rivulets descend from these summits, in deep chasms or glens, which separate the various parts of the island; and the beds of these brooks are in some places covered with stones of all sizes, carried down from the higher parts by the violence of winter rains or by floods of melted snow.

Almost every where, the island presents the most picturesque and enchanting appearance: in some places, huge perpendicular rocks and lofty precipices, contrasted with deep excavations and chasms; in others, prominent ridges and beautiful vallies blended with deep gullies and ravines, containing immense torrents of water and innumerable cascades, afford a highly varied and sublime picture of nature.

CLIMATE.

THE salubrity of the climate of this island, so highly extolled, is greatly to be attributed to the uniformity of its temperature. A regular succession of land and sea breezes, cool and purify its atmosphere during the whole year, and especially during the hottest months.

Hence, a dew-drop seldom falls, except in the higher parts of this island; and deleterious effluvia, which may arise from any source, are dissipated as soon as produced.

The scorching heat of summer, and the icy chill of winter, may be said to be here equally unknown. Spring and Autumn reign together, and produce flowers and fruit throughout the year. Indeed, these may be said to be the only seasons here; as no degree of heat or cold has, in this climate, been found unpleasant.

It is true, that during the months of July and August, which are here the hottest months, the heat does become excessive in low situations: but then it is very moderate on the higher parts of the island, whither the better sort of people retire during that season.

It is also true, that the Sirocco visits the island for a few days at a time, twice or thrice every year. The effects of this wind, on both the animal and vegetable creation, are peculiar. In man, it occasions diminished perspiration, succeeded by languor and general restlessness: in immediate exposure to its influence, the body is felt as if parched, and the air blows on the surface with a warmth like the blast from a furnace.

In the same manner, vegetables become dry and parched, and an interruption is put to their further growth. But, at this time, the lower situations of the island are found the coolest and most bearable.

It is moreover true, that during the coldest months of the year, January and February, the winds generally blow from N. N. E. and, in the mountainous parts of the island, frequent heavy falls of snow are also apt to take place. This severe state of weather, during some seasons, continues to occur occasionally till the end of April. On one or two occasions, the winter has even been distinguished by a severe storm. Still, however, the winter of Madeira may be said to be known only perhaps by a gale of wind, which may drive the vessels in the roads from their anchorage, or by a torrent of rain, which produces a rapid flow of the rivers down the ravines. But, even during such periods, snow is never known to continue above a day in the lower parts. At Funchal, when the tops of the

hills are covered with snow, the temperature is about 64.

The other months of the year are always attended by refreshing land and sea-breezes, which, at stated periods, set in regularly, unless during the prevalence of the hot and suffocating easterly wind, already mentioned.

In the town of Funchal, as in all other low situations, at all seasons of the year, the temperature is, except during the Sirocco, 10 or 12 degrees greater than it is found to be in the higher parts of the island.

During the summer months, the thermometer in the course of the day, ranges from 68 to 76; its medium heat in the shade being from 72 to 74.—In the course of the summer, it sometimes rises to 80 and upwards, and during the prevalence of hot winds, it stands even so high as 84. Indeed, during the Sirocco wind, it has at times risen much higher.

In winter, it ranges from 57 to 65; its medium in the shade being from 60 to 64— In the course of this season, it falls below 57 only when the northerly winds with falls of snow, prevail on the heights. It seldom rises above 65, except when there are easterly winds.

The winters of Madeira may be compared to the summer of England in every thing but the length of days, and those sudden changes from heat to cold to which England is subject.

To afford the invalid a synoptical view of the average temperature he is to expect, during every month in the year, in the island of Madeira, the following table is inserted from the work, on the "Temperature of different latitudes," by Richard Kirwan, F. R. S.

"Madeira, Funchal, lat. 32°. 37'. long. 17°. Mean height of the thermometer for every

month, taken from an average of four years' observations.

January,	64°, 18.	July,	73, 45.
February,	64, 3.	August,	75, 02.
March,	65, 5.	September,	75, 76.
April,	65, 5.	October,	72, 5.
May,	66, 53.	November,	69, 08.
June,	69, 74.	December,	65,

The following is the average temperature of Madeira, compared with that of London, for the whole year, as well as during the coldest and warmest months, which are January and July.

" Taking the average temperature of London at 1000, the heat of Madeira is 1319. In January, 0559; July, 1128.

The hottest time of the day, during the whole year, is between the hours of one and three, P. M. and the coolest period, a few hours after midnight.

During the day the whole range of the thermometer seldom at any season exceeds 2, or at most 4 degrees, and frequently, for several days together, the same degree of heat is indicated *.

* Many invalids, after feeling the benefit of a winter passed in Madeira, are anxious to return to England; and some are even alarmed at the prospect of spending an intensely hot summer, in a country so warm even during the winter. But as the spring in England is frequently a very trying period, it is advisable that convalescents should at least coutinue long enough in Madeira not to arrive in England before the end of June. It is also very unlikely that those who have had the disease in its more advanced stage, should be able, after a single winter spent in Madeira, to bear the succeeding winter in England.

Moreover, the summer climate in Madeira is really of all others the most delightful. The invalid from England will never indeed complain of heat when not in exercise; and that, his own prudence will teach him to avoid during the hot part of a sunny day. In the more elevated situations, a convalescent may often continue even till near Christmas. During this period, he may visit the town as often as the arrival of a vessel induces him to enquire after news, and may return on horse-

The greatest height of the barometer in Madeira is in general 33 inches; its least 29; and its medium is 30.

back, if his lungs have not acquired strength to encounter the fatigues of the hill. From that time, his stay in the country must be entirely regulated by his health and feelings; and if both these are really capable of bearing the coolness of his summer residence, there he certainly may remain, without living in Funchal, till the advance of spring renders it safe for him to return to England.

MINERAL PRODUCTIONS.

THE chain of the highest mountains of Madeira has hardly any volcanic appearance. The clouds often envelope their tops; and from them descend all the streams and rivulets of the island. Their antiquity is marked by the deep chasms these have formed in their descent between the ridges of the rocks, during the long lapse of time they have continued to flow. In the beds of these rivulets, also, are found pebbles of various sizes, and large round masses of silex, such as are usually found in the beds of many similar torrents in the Alps.

The soil, also of the fields and pasturage

grounds in general appears exactly the same as those on the continent, where no volcanic fire has ever been suspected.

It is likewise to be observed, that very little lava of a glassy nature has been discovered in Madeira, nor any perfect pumice stone; circumstances, both of which indicate, that the highest degree of heat has not been suffered here.

Lava, however, having the appearance of basaltes, has been found; and occasionally, as at Machico, a village 12 miles from Funchal, it is in the form of glass embedded in loose earth.

From the excavation of the summit of the mountain, it has, therefore, been imagined, that, in some remote period, a volcano in that situation has produced this lava.

It has also been imagined by some authors, that the bay of Funchal is a segment of a large

crater, the exterior part of which has sunk into the sea: for, in the first place, the shining blue stones upon the beach are all of compact lava; secondly, tempestuous weather always throws upon the shore larger masses of the same blue lava, and also a quantity of cellular substance, approaching to pumice stone in texture, but much heavier, and not fibrous; and lastly, the rock of the Ilheo fort, and of the landing place opposite to it, to the westward of Funchal bay, as well as that upon which some of the other forts are constructed, are evidently perpendicular fragments of the edges of the crater, which, though much worn by the violence of the surge, have hitherto resisted the action of the sea, by having been better supported, or having more closely adhered together. They, moreover, bear not the least resemblance to the neighbouring rocks even a little within shore.

It appeared to Dr Gillan, who accompanied the Earl of Macartney's embassy, that there had been several craters in the island, and that

eruptions had taken place from them at various and very distant intervals. This, he says, was particularly manifest in a place at the east end of the island, where he found the crater of an extinct volcano, at the bottom and round the sides of which were scattered fragments of lava.

The rocks of this island, in general, consist of a blue stone, called by the natives *pedra viva*, which somewhat resembles the whin-stone.

In some parts of the island, too, there is a kind of lime-stone or gypsum, but at too great a distance to be used in Funchal, which has its supply from Porto Santo.

There is also in other parts another kind of stone, which has much the appearance of grey marble, and though little used, takes a very fine polish.

Of free-stone, there are here two kinds in common use; the one of a hard, the other of a soft nature. Of the first, there are two spe-

cies, one white, the other grey, which receive a good polish, and are much used in Funchal. Of the second, there are also two species, one red, the other grey, which being, from the coarseness of their grain, incapable of receiving a good polish, are less in use.

SOIL.

THE soil of Madeira is very rich; and there is such a difference of climate between the plains and the hills, that there is scarcely a single object of luxury growing either in Europe or the Indies, that might not be produced here.

The most common soil is a kind of pumice stone, of the consistence of soft rock, mixed with a portion of sand and marle; and also a dark red earth, consisting of the two latter ingredients.

Several of the smaller hills consist of a dark red clay with a great proportion of a black or grey sand.

In some places, a black mould of a shingly nature is met with; while, in small flats, at the bottom of declivities, and near the rivers, there is found a stiff clay.

These varieties of soil are all proper for the vine; but, being very poor in some places, they require the frequent assistance of manure; for otherwise the plants soon decay, or produce very scanty crops. It is, however a curious fact, that the lands which produce the best wine, are in general rather poor. Hence, evidently, in the culture of the vine, a great deal must also depend on local situation.

In some of the higher lands, there is a kind of marle, intermixed with layers of stone, which is very pulverisable, and is soon decomposed. When this last soil is properly manured, it an-

swers for a variety of vegetables, especially for the potatoe.

The soil of Madeira was for many years after its discovery extremely fertile, and yielded, in great luxuriance, every production of nature, especially towards the south where the lands are generally more flat; but it must have materially changed since that period, having now been under cultivation for nearly four hundred years; and in this time furnishing a constant succession of crops, with the assistance of little or no manure.

VEGETABLE PRODUCTIONS.

THE corn of this island is of a most excellent quality, large grained and very fine; and, were it not for the vineyards, the island would produce it in greater plenty.

Potatoes have proved, of late years, an useful production, and could still be cultivated to much greater advantage. The sweet potatoe is, indeed, now very generally propagated; is of easy growth; and, like the common potatoe,

forms a cheap and nutritious article of diet. Yams, also, are very easily cultivated: they generally grow in low situations, where there is a plentiful supply of water.

Chesnuts, which grow in extensive woods, on the higher parts of the island, where the vine will not thrive, form an article equally useful. Of these and also of walnuts, some are sent to the English markets.

Of the farinaceous fruits, the cucumber, melon, water melon and pompion are the chief. The last is much used as an article of diet.

Several varieties of pot-herbs are also produced here with the greatest ease, such as succory, fennel, water cresses, samphire, beet, &c.

The onion also grows to the greatest degree of perfection, and to an uncommon size, being extolled for its mildness. Indeed, its growth here is so abundant, as to have rendered it an object of exportation.

Of the apple tribe, Madeira produces the common apple in many varieties, remarkable for their flavour and aromatic taste; also pears extremely fine and in abundance, some of them being uncommonly large; likewise the medlar, the quince, &c.

The orange, lemon, lime and citron grow very large, and in some seasons are found in great plenty.

Of the stone fruits, cherries, plumbs, peaches, nectarines and appricots are in great variety and abundance.

Of the small seeded fruits, the strawberry, the red and white currant, bilberry and mulberry are found in cool situations without any culture. These, with the grape, are the princi-

pal ones of this kind: and on this last most important fruit, we shall presently dwell more in detail.

In the gardens of this island, as well as in the town of Funchal, there are many plants and trees which are natives both of the East and West Indies; particularly the banana, the guava, the pomegranate, and the fig, which flourish almost without culture; as also the mango and pine apple or ananá, which have lately been introduced.

The sugar cane is not so well cultivated now, as formerly. This cane grows to the height of 8 feet, having a jointed stem with leaves springing from the joints. Madeira, however, boasts of being the first situation in the Western world where the arundo saccharifera was cultivated. The sugar manufactured here, although in small quantity, is uncommonly fine, and possesses a peculiar smell, resembling that of violets. It was brought from Sicily soon after the discovery of the island. From Madeira, it was transplant-

ed to the Brazils. In consequence of a severe blight which affected it in this island, its cultivation began to be discontinued, and to give place to that of the vine, as an article of easier management, and more profitable growth. Hence, it has ever since been neglected. Political reasons may have also had some share in its being so completely given up.

Madeira might, in short, be rendered capable of yielding the productions of every quarter of the world, from the advantage of its temperate climate and mild atmosphere. In truth, not only tropical, but also European, and even more northern fruits grow here to the utmost perfection.

The tree which thrives best, and is most generally cultivated in the upper lands, is the pine. It arrives at a considerable size, and is

highly useful for most domestic purposes. Besides, it is not nice in the soil required for its growth, and answers on waste lands.

The chesnut tree is also very common here, and grows with great luxuriance and beauty. Its fruit, moreover, is abundant; and, in times of scarcity, forms a useful substitute for the farinaceous grains.

There is also here a large tree, called by the natives Vinhatigo—the *Laurus indicus* of Linnæus, growing by the river's side or in cool situations, the wood of which cannot easily be distinguished from mahogany. The wood known in England, by the name of Madeira mahogany, is the Vinhatigo.

There are also here two trees called by the Portuguese Mirmulano and Páo branco, the leaves of both which are so beautiful that they certainly would be a great ornament to the gardens of Europe.

The dragon tree is also a native of this island. There are here likewise the wild olive, the laurel, and many others distinguished either for their beauty or use.

The cedar, lemon and orange trees are found in great abundance. They grow to an immense size, are uncommonly beautiful, and yield a very fragrant smell.

The poplar tree here is not less common than the others, and preserves its verdure for a longer period than in Europe.

The majestic palm-tree also grows to a great height, flowers and bears fruit in great plenty, though it never comes to perfection; nor do the seeds, when planted, vegetate. This seems to prove that the plant in Madeira is a female, and that there is no male one in the island by which it might be fecundated. The branches of this tree, when blanched, are used as ornaments in the religious processions of Palm Sunday.

A few trees of the true cinnamon, with three ribbed, scented leaves, and a thin fragrant bark, are thinly dispersed.

Besides the trees already mentioned, which grow on the higher lands of the island, the mountains are also covered with several varieties of brush-wood. The principal of these is the heath, which reaches here to a great size; also the broom, a kind of beech, a species of bilberry, vaccinium, &c.

The myrtle, likewise, is found in great plenty —the roads from Funchal being adorned by their sides with myrtle and box-tree, growing wild; and also the wortle berry shrub, far more considerable in height and luxuriance than any which grows in England.

The island affords a great variety of indigenous plants.

Flowers nursed in the English green-houses, grow wild here in the fields; and, in the hedges are found myrtles, roses, jessamines and honeysuckle in perpetual bloom; while the larkspur, the fleur-de lis, the lupine, violet and the balsam, spring up spontaneously in the meadows, and form a thousand natural parterres of embroidery.

Of the plants, too, styled medicinal, there is a great variety; as the common wormwood, maiden hair, agrimony, winter cherry, lavender, the different species of mint, rosemary, wild

lily, daffodil, &c. The aloe plant is also a common production here, as well as the species of laurel, from which camphire is produced.

The grape, however, chiefly white, is the staple production of this island.

The vine was introduced into Madeira from the island of Cyprus, but at what period it is difficult to learn. Chaptal relates that, "In the year 1420, several European sovereigns were desirous of obtaining wines from the juice of the grapes, produced by their dominions. The Portuguese had introduced in the Island of Madeira, plants from the vine of Cyprus, of which the wine was then reckoned the best in the world; and their attempt succeeded."

It is somewhat to be doubted, however, that it was introduced at so early a period. Some

time must have elapsed before much land could be cleared or prepared for any purpose; and it is natural to suppose that the land so cleared, would, in the first instance, be appropriated to the necessaries, rather than the luxuries of life.

The grape must, at all events, have been then cultivated in very small quantity, as the island was only discovered the preceding year.

CULTIVATION, &c.

SOME of the interior mountainous parts of this island, belong to the crown of Portugal, and are entirely uncultivated; while many other parts, mountainous, declivous and rugged, and several nearly destitute of soil, are incapable of culture.

Though, moreover, the cultivators are indolent, yet they have shewn instances of accidental industry, by, in some places, breaking on the sides of hills, thinly covered with soil, such pieces of scattered rock as contain vegetable mat-

ter; and, the rills, from the heights, being made to flow over them, the fragments comminute and become a fertile mould.

The mountainous parts of the country, and what the natives call Serras, are poor meagre lands, from which they have a scanty crop of rye, once perhaps in four years, when the soil has been previously manured by the ashes of the broom, which has been suffered to grow upon it, in order to be burnt for this purpose. In some such places, also, they grow potatoes by means of the dung they procure from the cattle they feed. There can be no doubt, however, that these lands, though naturally of a poor quality, might be rendered more productive, if a proper mode of cultivation were introduced; and by the same improvement also, it would be possible to rear a greater number of cattle.

One reason, perhaps, why art and industry do so little for Madeira, is, nature's having done

so much. Madeira, were it properly cultivated, might justly be termed the Garden of the world. The serenity of the climate, the fertility of the soil—every thing conspires to render it a terrestrial paradise; and it only requires the nurturing hand of art to give the finishing to a scene on which nature has so profusely poured her choicest treasures.

The principal occupation of the cultivators is the planting and raising of vines; but, as that branch of agriculture requires little attendance during the greater part of the year, they naturally incline to idleness.

The warmth of the climate, which renders great provision against the inclemencies of weather unnecessary, and the ease with which the cravings of appetite are satisfied, must additionally tend to encourage indolence; especially as the regulations of the legislature do not counteract it, by endeavouring, with the prospect of increasing happiness, to infuse the

spirit of industry. The Portuguese government does not pursue the proper methods of remedying this dangerous lethargy. It did, at one time, order the plantation of olive trees here, on such spots as were too dry and barren to bear vines; but it has not thought of giving temporary assistance to the labourers, and has offered no premium by which these might be induced to conquer their reluctance to innovations, and their aversion to labour.

Wheat and barley are likewise sown, especially in spots where the vines are decaying through age, or where they are newly planted. But the crops do not produce above three months provisions; and the inhabitants are therefore obliged to have recourse to other food, besides importing considerable quantities of corn and flour from North America, in exchange for wine. The want of manure, and the inactivity of the people, are in some measure the causes of this disadvantage. They

also receive rice and white lupin from the Brazils and other colonies of Portugal.

The cultivators make their threshing floors of a circular form in a corner of a field, which is cleared and beaten solid for the purpose. The sheaves are laid round about it, and a board of an oblong square form, stuck full of sharp flints below, is dragged over them by a pair of oxen, the driver getting on it to encrease its weight. This machine cuts the straw, as if it had been chopped, and frees the grain from the husk, from which it is afterwards more completely separated.

In lands where brooks run from the mountains, the natives make plantations of eddoes, or what they call Inhame, enclosed by a kind of dyke to cause a stagnation of the water, as that plant succeeds best in swampy ground. Its leaves serve as food for hogs, and the country people use the roots for their own nourishment. They cultivate, likewise, by the mar-

gin of these rills, the cane, which grows to the height of twenty feet and higher, and without which they could not make their lattices for the support of the vine and other shrubs.

As to the cultivation of the vine in particular, a free light sandy or gravelly soil, is preferable for it to any other, in consequence of allowing its roots to spread wider, and to draw nourishment with ease from a more extensive surface; while a stiff clayey soil, by opposing its growth, is unfavourable in the same degree.

In Madeira, the vine is generally propagated from cuttings, as the preferable mode of culture, rather than from the seed.

In former times, it was planted with the plough, to a depth pretty much the same as that at which the vine is now planted in France, viz. that of 12 or 16 inches. But from the poverty of the soil, and the frequent droughts, it is now found necessary to plant it to the depth of from 3 to 6 feet, it being protected from the hard ground at the bottom of the trench, by a quantity of loose earth placed underneath.

Water is conducted by wears and channels into the vineyards, where each proprietor has the use of it for a certain time; some having a constant supply of it and others only once or twice a month. As the heat of the climate renders this supply of water to the vines and other vegetables absolutely necessary, it is not without great expence that a new vineyard can be planted; for the maintenance of which the owners must purchase water at a high price from those who possess a more ample share.

It was with great difficulty, that the Madeirans were first persuaded to engraft their vines, and some of them still obstinately refuse to adopt the practice, though a whole vintage is very often spoiled by the number of bad grapes, which, from neglect of this practice, are mixed in the vat, and which they will not throw out, because they encrease the quantity of the wine. This instance of the force of habit is the more extraordinary, as they readily adopted the practise of engrafting with respect to their trees, and it is not uncommon now to see the same tree producing two and three varieties of the same fruit in great perfection.

Wherever, then, the soil, exposure and supply of water, will admit of it, the vine is cultivated. One or more walks about two yards wide intersect each vineyard, and are included by stone walls two feet high. Among these walks, which are about seven feet high, and arched over with laths, they erect wooden pillars at regular distances, to support a lattice work of bamboes,

which slopes down from both sides of the walk, till it is only three feet high, in which elevation it extends over the whole vineyard. The vines are, in this manner, supported from the ground, and the people have room to root out the weeds, which spring up between them. In the season of the vintage, which begins early in September, they creep under this lattice work, cut off the grapes, and lay them into baskets. This method of keeping the ground clean and moist, and of ripening the grapes in the shade, contributes to give the Madeira wines that excellent body and flavour, for which they are so remarkable.

The vineyards are held only on an annual tenure, and the farmer does not even reap one half of the produce; as one half is paid to the owner of the land, and one tenth part to the king; while the same, or its value, is collected with regard to every article of produce in the island; the proceeds of this tenth being applied toward defraying the expences of govern-

ment. Profits so small, joined to the thought of toiling so much for the advantage of others inevitably retards improvement.

Oppressed, however, as the cultivators are, they have preserved a high degree of chearfulness and contentment: their labours are commonly alleviated with songs; and, in the evening, they assemble from different cottages to play on the guittar.

A very great variety of grapes are produced in Madeira, such as the Negra molle, Verdelho, Bual, Bastardo, Baboza, Negrinha, Listram, Malvasia, Ferral, Tinta, Sercial, Muscatel, Alicante, &c. But if this great number of kinds were reduced to Negra molle, Bastardo, Verdelho, and Bual, the wines would certainly be of much better quality; the two former kinds giving chiefly colour and flavour, and the two latter, strength and taste.

MANUFACTURE OF WINE IN PARTICULAR.

From the variety of grapes found in Madeira, it might be concluded, that there would be a corresponding variety of wines; and indeed, from each of the particular species of grapes above mentioned, a particular kind of wine might be obtained. The different grapes, however, are generally all mixed together in making Madeira wine, except the Malvasia, Sercial and Tinta grapes; the first giving a wine, which is superior to any sweet wine; the second, one superior to any dry wine, and much esteemed on account of its scarcity and high flavour; and the last giving a red wine much of the flavour of Burgundy, and which is commonly mixed with the northern wines of the island in order to colour them.

The process of making wine is extremely simple.

The grapes, immediately on being cut, are put into the press, which is a machine of very simple construction, and not unlike the instrument used in England in the making of cyder. It consists of a reservoir, a lever, and a spindle. The reservoir is of a square figure, made of planks of chesnut tree, and supported on feet. The lever goes across the reservoir, extending 5 or 6 feet beyond it, and is connected at its furthest extremity, where is a female screw, with the spindle. At the upper end of this spindle is a male screw, while its other end is fastened, by means of an iron hook, to a ring fixed on a large stone, the size of which is proportionate to that of the press. When the grapes are placed in the reservoir, several labourers enter that part of the machine, and with their feet tread the grapes as long as any juice can be expressed from them. The juice is allowed to run into a vessel placed on one side of the reservoir, through a hole, over which is generally placed a small basket by way of a sieve, in order to prevent any of the husks, seeds, or

stalks from escaping. After this first pressure, or treading, the mashed grapes are collected into one heap: this being surrounded by a cord in close circles, and having boards and pieces of wood laid over it, is then pressed by the lever, which is forthwith sunk upon it, and allowed to remain in that situation till the liquor ceases to flow. The lever is then raised; the boards and cords are taken off; the mass, being broken by hoes, is made to undergo a second treading; and again also it is subjected to the presure of the lever. This process is repeated a third time, for the purpose of procuring what the inhabitants call *agua pé*, a kind of strong beer. In this last process, however, the mass, when broken up, is as dry as a piece of chip; and therefore, previous to treading it, it is necessary to add to it a quantity of water, in the proportion of two barrels to every pipe that has been obtained of juice. This mass is, in order to procure *agua pé*, generally put under the pressure in the evening, and allowed to remain in that situation till next morning, when

this infusion is drawn off, and put into casks for immediate use.

The manner of making Tinta wine from the black grape, is somewhat different—The grapes then only undergo one pressure by the lever, and are afterwards drained through a common sieve, which allows the husks and seeds also to pass, the stalks only remaining behind. The whole is put into a vat open at top; stirred twice a day for about a month; and when the fermentation is finished, it is racked off into casks.

The treatment of the must or unfermented wine, is also simple: it is taken out of the receiving cask, the same day it is prest, and put into others in order to undergo fermentation, which begins almost immediately, and appears by the liquor rising and evolving a considerable quantity of fixed air. The richer the wine is, the stronger is the ebullition, which generally ceases in about a month; but still a certain de-

gree of fermentation continues to go on for some time longer. During two months after its being transferred to these casks, it is twice a day agitated with an instrument for the purpose.

When all fermentation has ceased, and the must has become vinous, it is separated from the sediment, and clarified by white of egg; while the sediment itself undergoes distillation for brandy.

These wines are not all of equal goodness, and are consequently of different prices. The best sweet wine made of the Malvasia* grape, is called in England, Malmsey: it is an exceeding rich sweet wine, and the dearest of any in consequence of its scarcity. The next sort is a dry wine, such as is exported for the London market.

* This wine is called by the natives Malvasia, and derives its name from a town of Turkey in Europe, whence this vine was imported by order of Prince Henry of Portugal.

Inferior sorts are exported to America, to the East, and West Indies.

About 30,000 pipes of the better sorts, which are chiefly from the south part of the island, are exported; and the rest being of an inferior quality, is either mixed with southern wines for export, or is consumed at home. That which is used on the island by the lower class of people, is principally of a weak kind, which will not keep long enough for exportation.

As the islanders derive their means of support solely from the wine which they export, the quantity manufactured is increasing along with the increase of inhabitants.

Madeira wine is reckoned superior to any of the southern wines, and certainly contains a greater proportion of saccharine matter, of alcohol and of aroma, than any of them. The aromatic flavour, however, is not properly evolved; nor, indeed, does the wine acquire its peculiar

degree of activity, till it has lost somewhat of its austerity and acerbity, by the regular application, for a length of time, of some degree of heat and motion, which is best obtained by allowing it to acquire a certain age in Madeira, or by transporting it to a warmer climate, and there depositing it for a longer or shorter period. Hence, has arisen the practice of giving such wines as are intended for British consumption, a voyage to the West Indies, or round the East Indies, China and the Brazils, and of occasionally allowing them to remain in one or other of those climates, for a few years before they are sent to England. The most improved Madeira wines are, consequently, those that have undergone such voyages. Recently, however, hot houses have been erected in Madeira, which effect the same purpose, with less expence.

ANIMAL PRODUCTIONS.

ALL the common domestic animals of Europe are found in Madeira.

The horses are in general small, but sure-footed, and, with great agility, climb those difficult paths, which are the only means of communication in the country. The mules are as numerous and useful.

Black cattle, sheep and goats are in great abundance. The hog, however, was, at one

time, the animal of which the flesh was most relished in the island. These animals, when young, were marked by their owners, suffered to range wild among the mountains, and at last hunted and caught by dogs.

TAME birds, such as turkies, geese, ducks and hens are plentiful; being easily reared, from the quantity of vegetables and fruit with which the country abounds. The animals of the feathered tribe, which live wild here, as the partridge and quail, are more numerous than the wild quadrupeds, and are uncommonly beautiful. Rock and wood pigeons are also plentiful: the latter is of a much larger size, than in other countries, and much esteemed for its delicacy as food.

The black bird is here much admired for the beauty and melody of its note.

Of smaller birds, the island possesses a great variety, of which may be particularly enumerated the chaffinches and canaries. The last are here generally of a greenish colour, though now and then they are yellow. These, as well as goldfinches, are found in the mountains; and of the former, numbers are sent every year to England. The swallow is also here in great abundance, at certain seasons; and also a grey bird with a black head, which the natives call Tutinegro, and which is much admired for the beauty and melody of its note.

The hawsbill turtle is plentiful here, and when kept in fresh water for some time previous to use, is certainly not inferior to the

green species. There are no snakes whatever in Madeira; but the vineyards and gardens in the summer, swarm with lizards, which destroy great part of the grapes and other fruits.

Fish is, in this part of the world, extremely fine, in great variety, and, in favourable seasons, the market is plentifully supplied with them.

Of the larger kind, caught by the line, the most esteemed are, the dourado, pargo, cherne, piscada, bicuda &c; and of the small kind caught by the net and hook, there are many at all seasons in the bays, or harbours, such as the anchovy, the tainha, the salmonet (which is a very scarce and delicate fish,) the sea trout &c. Some, however, come more frequently in shoals, at stated periods of the year, as the

pilchard, mackerel and mullet: herrings and oysters, however, are not found here.

Of fresh-water fish, there is only the eel: the rivers are here too rapid in their course to admit of any other.

Of shell fish, the lobster, crab, shrimp, periwinkle and lamprey, abound here; as also a delicate fish, called by the natives Craca.

Fish, however, are not in plenty enough for the rigid observance of lent. Pickled herrings are, therefore, brought from Gottenburg in English ships, and salted cod from New York and other American ports to supply the deficiency.

REARING OF CATTLE, &c.

MADEIRA generally affords a plentiful supply of cattle; and were proper precautions taken by the farmers, to secure a sufficiency of dry provender, for seasons when grass may be scarce, no want would, at any time, be felt.

The beef here is generally of good quality, and, during the summer months, when provender is abundant, is better flavoured than that of England; but in winter, when the grass is bad, and there is no dry fodder, the meat becomes lean and scarce.

Mutton is not so often reared here as it ought, and is consequently not so good as in Britain. The flesh of the kid is here preferable to lamb, and is generally used instead of it.

Pork here is not equal to that of America or Britain in point of fatness, but is certainly better flavoured.

In this climate, however, all the quadrupeds of Europe might be reared to advantage, and brought to equal perfection as in more northern regions.

INHABITANTS.

THE number of the inhabitants of Madeira is calculated to be about 90,000.

The people of Madeira are of middle stature, and in general athletic, well made and active. As to complexion, only the first families at all resemble the fair inhabitants of northern Europe. This is the inevitable consequence of the influence of climate*.

* See Dissertation on the Influence of Climate, &c. By N. C. PITTA, M. D.

The ladies of Madeira are in general delicate, and have agreeable features. The women, however, suffer more in their health than the other sex, as premature old age is generally the consequence of their early marriages, and numerous offspring. Another source here of injury to females, is the sedentary life they are accustomed to lead; for, except in the summer months, they seldom stir out, unless to go to church, or during a moon-light night: their rigid abstemiousness, also, from animal food, on fast days and during lent, must in some measure injure their health. None of these circumstances, however, in point of injury, operates so powerfully as the adoption of the monastic life. This practice is here common among the younger branches of the first families; and, the veil once taken, they never after are allowed to go without the walls of the convent, which often being a poor institution, and its regulations severe, its wretched inhabitants suffer all the inconveniencies that generally attend want and

poverty, added to a rigorous and monotonous course of religious exercise.

The higher classes in Madeira, both male and female, are inclined to corpulence, and at the same time, much disposed to indolence, attended with a disposition to melancholy, and even a moroseness of temper. Though sober in respect to drinking, they are apt too often to indulge in eating to excess. From this circumstance, joined to the sedentary life they lead, they become subject to a variety of chronic disorders, and also early arrive at a premature old age.

Many of the better people are a sort of *petite noblesse*, which in Britain would be called gentry. It is to be regretted, that, in some instances, their genealogical pride renders them unsociable, and consequently ignorant, and causes a ridiculous affectation of gravity.

The landed property is divided into estates, which are in the hands of a few ancient families, who live at Funchal.

The peasantry, as well as the mass of the people, are distinguished by an olive or tawny colour of skin, and a swarthy complexion. They are, however, well shaped, and of hard, but not disagreeable, features. Their faces are oblong, their eyes dark, and their black hair generally falls in ringlets. Their women are too frequently ill favoured, and want the florid complexion, which, when united to a pleasing assemblage of regular features, gives the more northern fair, the superiority of all their sex. They are in general small, have prominent cheek-bones, dark complexion, and large feet, owing perhaps to the efforts they are obliged to make in climbing the craggy paths of this mountainous country; but the just proportions of the body, and their large and lively eyes, in some measure compensate for those defects.

The country women wear blue petticoats bound with red, a short corselet generally red or light blue, closely fitting their shape, which forms a simple and often not an inelegant dress, and a short red cloak, bound with blue ribbon, with a blue pointed cap: those that are unmarried, tie their hair on the crown of the head, on which some wear no covering.

The labouring men wear wide linen trowsers, a coarse shirt, a blue cap, white boots, short jackets made of blue cloth, and in winter they generally wear long cloaks, which, when it does not rain, they carry over their shoulder.

The country people are sober, inoffensive, economical and capable of enduring much hard labour; in the prosecution of which they are often reduced to great emaciation of body and debility of constitution, and thus a premature old age is brought on. While the men are cultivating their vineyards, their wives and daugh-

ters are procuring subsistence for the cattle, and travelling to a considerable distance, over rugged paths, to the mountains, in order to cut broom for fuel. This they carry in loads to Funchal, and dispose of for their subsistence. Thus, severity of labour, poorness of food, and warmth of climate, make them old in frame, when young in years.

The diet of the country people consists of bread and roots, with a little animal food, and that chiefly salt fish. Their common drink is water, or *agua pé*—an infusion extracted from the husks and stalks of the grapes after they have passed through the wine press, and which, when fermented, acquires some tartness and acidity, but cannot be kept very long. The wine for which the island is so famous, and which their own hands prepare, seldom regales them.

Most travellers who have written on Madeira, have represented the inhabitants as dirty and indolent: if this censure be at all just, it

can apply only to the lower inhabitants of Funchal; the country people being entirely the reverse.

"The temper of the Portuguese," says Dr. Gourlay, "in general is impetuous and irascible; the slightest injury too often transports them to such a pitch of anger, as occasions in them serious disorders. The practice of stabbing, however,—the stigma of the Portuguese nation from time immemorial, is by no means common in Madeira, and if ever it be resorted to, it is only by the lowest classes. No nation is possest of more elegant manners, with a greater degree of courteousness, condescension and contentment, than the Portuguese, although placed under an arbitrary government. To strangers particularly, their kindness and generosity overflow."

It has justly been observed, that the people of Madeira are in general very musical, and extremely gallant. No night passes at Fun-

chal, or in the country, without serenades of guitars. The women are also remarkable for their delicate and beautiful works in wax and in artificial flowers, which are not easily distinguished from those of nature: they are likewise famous for their sweetmeats, pastes, &c.

So far backward, however, are the mechanical arts, that the must is brought to town from the vineyards, where it its made, in vessels of goat-skin, which are carried by men upon their shoulders. They have no wheel carriages of any kind; and in town they use a sort of drays or sledges formed of a plank, which make an acute angle before: these are drawn by oxen, and are used to transport casks of wine, and other heavy goods, to and from their warehouses.

The best houses in this island are very high; and, from their elevated turrets, the inhabitants, by the help of spy-glasses, observe distant ves-

sels, and conjecture their destination and other particulars.

As the vessels approach, faces may be recognised on the deck; and, if they be from the eastward, expectation is excited with regard to the news they may bring. If from Lisbon, the anxiety of the Portuguese is not less for letters than that of the English, when an arrival is from London. In the lattter case, the enquiries after news are universal; reports are as numerous as uncertain; and nothing is accurately known till the papers get into circulation, and each individual resorts to the house whose letters bear the latest date, or at which he is the most intimate. Enquiries, however, do not end with the first reports, or the inspection of the papers: captains of ships, if tolerably intelligent, and still more frequently passengers, are interrogated to explain doubtful passages; to detail such news as, though afloat, are not circulated through the public journals; and even to give their opinions of public affairs, parlia-

uentary speeches and political occurrences. Such of the Portuguese (it has been observed by Dr Adams,) as understand English, are early in their application for a sight of the papers, and frequently translate their contents *ex tempore* to others with a facility, correctness, and even elegance, that surprise an Englishman, however well acquainted with the Portuguese language—with a facility, which the English in vain attempt to imitate, when they translate the Portuguese into their native tongue.

The same writer has observed that " the character of the Portuguese is universally polite, though their manners, to such as are unaccustomed to them, may sometimes appear officious and troublesome. No one meets a well dressed stranger without taking off his hat, and feels offended if his salute *is* [be] not returned. But their civilities are not confined to forms, and there are few but are ready to shew a stranger his way, and give him every other assistance in

his [their] power. Among the poor, a seaman who pleads that he has been left by his ship, and that, in consequence, he is without money and clothes, never fails to be kindly received, and share their morsel with a family who often feel it difficult to support themselves. The rich are not less ready in offices of hospitality, which would be more generally proffered, but that some accidental misconceptions have made them fearful lest their civilities should be misinterpreted, or rather *from an uncertainty* [that they are uncertain] how they may be received."

"By degrees," observes the same author, "the natives have acquired somewhat not only of English dress, but of the English manners. The cocked hat, sword and buckles, have gradually given way to the shoe-string and round hat, except in visits of ceremony, or among officers of the revenue, who are obliged, even to the custom-house clerk, to appear on duty in full dress. Many of the labouring mechanics still continue attached to their long cloaks;

but this is principally to hide the implements of their trade, as they consider it disgraceful to be seen carrying any thing in their hand. Such, therefore, as have an apprentice or labourer to attend them, frequently appear in the English dresses. It is the more proper to remark this, because from the custom of dressing assassins in our English stage in long cloaks, there are few ladies, on their first arrival, but suspect a dagger under every *capote*. Whatever may be the case in other parts, assassination is scarcely known in the island of Madeira."

"Among the higher orders, many gentlemen speak English fluently, and have been educated on Lisbon or in England. Some of the ladies are also not unacquainted with the language, though they are too timid to venture on speaking it: most of them speak French, and some with fluency and ease. Their modes of life are daily more and more anglicized; and there are, in no part of the world, characters more interesting, more affectionate, more sincere, or

more ennobled with exalted notions of true friendship, virtue and candour to the failings of others, than some of the female inhabitants of this island. But it is unnecessary to dwell longer on subjects of this kind,"

LANGUAGE.

As the inhabitants of Madeira constitute a Portuguese colony, so the language of the island is precisely that of the mother country.

In the Portuguese language, every vowel and consonant is pronounced—a circumstance which renders its acquisition easy to strangers. As the number, too, of its vowels and consonants is more nearly equal than in Northern languages, its general character is more soft and harmonious. Upon the whole, it approaches so

closely to the Latin language, both in its general structure and individual words, that many Portuguese writers have exercised themselves by composing the two languages at once.

Thus writes a celebrated author, M. S. De Faria, in both languages: "O quam gloriosas memorias publico, considerando quanto vales nobilissima lingua Lusitana, cum tua facundia excessivamente nos provocas, excitas, inflammas; quam altas victorias procuras, quam celebres triumphos speras, quam excellentes fabricas fundas, quam perversas furias castigas, quam feroces insolencias rigorosamente domas, manifestando de prosa de metro tantas elegancias Latinas.

The following hymn to St. Ursula and the Eleven Thousand Virgins is a still better specimen.

Canto tuas palmas, famosos canto triumphos,
Ursula divinos martyr concede favores.

Subjectas sacra nympha feros animosa tyrannos.
Tu Phœnix vivendo ardes, ardendo triumphas.
Illustres generosa choros das Ursula, bellas
Das rosa bella rosas, fortes das sancta columnas.
Æternos vivas annos o regia planta!
Devotos cantando hymnos, vos invoco sanctas,
Tam puras nymphas amo, adoro, canto, celebro.
Per vos felices annos o candida turba;
Per vos innumeros de Christo spero favores.

EDUCATION.

THE elementary branches of education, namely, the Portuguese language, Writing and Arithmetic are tolerably well taught at Madeira. Besides the schools kept by individuals, for the above mentioned purposes, the Prince Regent has established two public ones at his own expence.

As to foreign languages, the English, French, Italian &c. are also taught by private teachers.

For the higher branches of education, a college exists. In it, are taught the Mathematics, the Latin language, Rhetoric and Moral Philosophy. This establishment is supported by the Prince Regent, from whom the Professors receive their salaries, and no fee is paid by the pupils. Thus, the college is free in every sense of the word.

It is to be regretted, that classes of Natural Philosophy and Chemistry, are not added to this establishment.

It is also to be regretted that no means are taken to instruct the lower class of people, in the mechanic arts, for though generally unable to read or write, they are extremely apt in imitation, and ingenious in mechanism.

CITIES, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, &c.

FUNCHAL is the only city in this island, which has also several small towns unnecessary to be enumerated.

The city of Funchal derives its name from *funcho*, the Portuguese word signifying *fennel*, which grows in great plenty upon the neighbouring rocks. By the observation of Dr Heberden, it lies in the latitude of 32° 33′ 33″ N. and longitude 16° 49′ W.—It is situate on the south side of the island, in the centre of a spa-

cious valley, open to the Atlantic Ocean, and surrounded by lofty mountains, gradually ascending to a great height.

Funchal, however, is open only on the south to the sea, and is defended on the N. N. W. and N. E. by immense mountains, which, towards the north, are a mile in perpendicular height above the level of the ocean.

The scattered edifices of Funchal being white externally, form a pleasing contrast with the evergreens and plantations which, at all points, meet the eye.

Funchal contains about thirty thousand inhabitants: the town is, therefore, by no means small.

The streets and houses are, however, irregular. Those of the principal inhabitants are very large, and possess elegant galleries in front; but those of the common people are small.

On entering the town, therefore, it loses much, an Englishman would perhaps say, all its beauty. There are scarcely any regular streets. The large houses are indiscriminately mixed with the small; and the pavement resembles that of the country towns in England. However, though little pains are taken to keep it clean, it cannot be called dirty. Most of the streets are on a declivity, and have currents of clear water running through them, with a rapidity that washes every thing before them. The use of carriages not being general at Madeira, the inhabitants are conveyed in chairs and palanquins.

At Funchal there is a delightful mall, with several rows of handsome poplar and orange trees, at the extremities of which are situate the Cathedral and the Convent of Franciscans, and on its sides, the Infirmary and the Theatre.

The Cathedral is a noble edifice, and is internally ornamented in a most costly style. It

is a stone structure, on each side of which there are four small chapels elegantly ornamented, and at the upper part two larger ones. Of these one in particular, is worthy of notice for its magnificence, the walls being chiefly lined with marble, and hung with fine tapestry and pictures, the altar covered by cloth of gold tissue embroidered with precious stones, and hung round with curtains of silver tissue, the candlesticks of solid silver, four feet high, as also the palisade, and the ceiling beautifully encrusted with mosaic, &c.

The Convent of St Francis, the only one of the island in which men are received, is an elegant building, and very spacious. It has also a beautiful garden. Its church is neat and finished in the modern taste. In this convent, there is a singular curiosity—a small chapel, called the chapel of Ghosts, the whole of which, both sides and cieling, is composed of human skulls and thigh bones; the thigh bones being laid across

each other, and a skull placed in each of the four angles.

The plan of the Infirmary might be adopted in some countries as a model. It consists of many long rooms, on one side of which are the windows: the other side is divided into wards, each of which is just big enough to contain a bed: behind these wards, and parallel to the room in which they stand, there runs a long gallery, with which each ward communicates by a door, so that the sick may be separately supplied with whatever they want without disturbing their neighbours. Excellent, however, as this Infirmary is, it is to be regretted, that it is very badly conducted, especially in the surgical department.

Opposite the Infirmary is the Theatre, which is internally elegant, and has a numerous and respectable establishment of Portuguese and Italian actors.

For women, there are now only two convents on the island. Of these that of St. Clara is simple, extremely neat, and well endowed. That of Merces is a miserable establishment.

On the top of the mountain, there is also a magnificent church dedicated to the Virgin, and each of the remaining parishes has also its appropriate one.

The ground floor of the houses in Funchal is appropriated entirely to wine and other stores; and, in the most public streets, the front of this floor is generally divided into shops. If there be two floors above, the first is usually intended for servants' chambers and other offices. The upper floor is the most lofty, each room being heightened in the centre by a cove of the roof. They have, besides, high turrets commanding views of the surrounding country and of the sea. The older houses have plain plaster walls without any ornament, the ceiling being of wood, because, till lately, no stucco was

introduced sufficiently good to adhere horizontally. The modern, however, and even some of the old houses are now enriched with pannelled walls, and their ceilings are decorated. Formerly the Madeirans were satisfied with lattices instead of glass windows; but such is the increasing wealth, and taste for luxury, that few, excepting the poorest, are found without sashes.

The airy part of the town of Funchal affords the most desirable residence during winter. Those who arrive from England at that season, are generally so pleased with the verdure of the hills, and the softness of the climate, that they prefer a house in the country; but it is to be remembered, that no house being furnished with fire places excepting in the kitchen, nor fitted up with that nicety which the uncertainty of an English climate requires, an occasional cold

day is felt, and the more so in proportion as the situation is more elevated*.

About a mile or two from town, while the sky is for the most part unclouded and of a beautiful tint, the country is covered with vines, excepting here and there a few patches of yams and of the sweet potatoe, and, in other parts, of wheat, whose yellow appearance at an early part of the summer, serves to heighten the ver-

* It is scarcely necessary to remind the invalid, who ventures to visit abroad, that though the evenings are milder here than in many regions farther southward, yet there must ever be a difference between the temperature of a crowded room and the open air; or that these inconveniences are much increased by the nature of English society in Madeira; the parties being always large, and the invitation for dinner, usually not breaking up before supper. If an invalid be seen at one of them, an invitation to others is the consequence, which he can then with difficulty decline. It is perhaps better that an invalid should, till sometime after his arrival, avoid all visits, unless his house be so situate as to induce single people, or small tea parties, to pay their vi-

dure of the surrounding scenery. By the steepness of the mountain, too, all around Funchal, no house, however near, can prevent the one above it from receiving delightful breezes from the sea.

sits to him. Neither must a laudable anxiety of seeing the island be rendered prejudicial to health. The pageantry of religious processions of nuns, ceremonies in the churches or convents, are all, it has been justly observed, attended with a fatigue highly injurious to such as have made so long and expensive a voyage for health. The processions, too, are mostly in the evening, a little before sunset. The invalid is, therefore, invited by some friend to dine at his house where the spectacle may pass; here he meets a large party; waits with an impatience which often produces a degree of irritation in a weak habit; and, at the very worst part of the twenty four hours, exposes himself to the window, after being heated perhaps by a crowded room, and a still more crowded table of hot provisions. The other ceremonies are attended with no further inconvenience, than the length of time the attendance requires, and the unwholesome air the patient must breathe, from the great number of people in the same place.

GOVERNMENT AND LAWS.

THE Portuguese Governor is at the head of all the civil, and the British Commander at the head of all the military affairs of this island.

The Corregidor is the chief civil magistrate appointed by the King of Portugal. He is sent from Lisbon, and holds his place during the King's pleasure, but seldom retains it longer than three years, at the end of which another is appointed. All causes come to him by appeal from inferior courts. A second judge sent from

Lisbon, is called at Funchal Juiz de Fora, and, in the absence of the Corregidor, acts as his deputy. A third judge, permanently resident in Madeira, superintends the interest of orphans.

In Funchal, there is also a number of magistrates of police, who are changed every three months. Their system, however, is badly organized.

In the disposition of property, no father can make one child his sole heir; but must leave to all his children an equal inheritance, except in the case of entailed estates.

With regard to the law of debtor and creditor, the latter can seize property for rent, or other debts, but he cannot imprison the debtor.

As to the criminal law, theft and minor crimes are judged by the criminal court, the Governor, Corregidor and Juiz de Fora pre-

siding. The accusers and defender's advocate and attorney also attend such trials. Those who commit minor crimes, however, are not punished with death, but by confinement or exile.

The Corregidor is generally also appointed as conservador, or judge for the British factory.

MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT.

" The rocky shore of the island of Madeira," says Sir George Staunton, " and the violent surge constantly beating on it, form a natural defence against invasion. What art has added at the capital, which extends three quarters of a mile along the beach, and nearly half a mile in depth, consists, as Captain Parish observed, in four small forts. One situated at the eastern extremity of the beach of Funchal, with a perpendicular height rising immediately in its rear. This fort stands so low as to be exposed to the fire of shipping; although an opportunity of-

fered of occupying an height close to it, where might be erected a very commanding work. This fort is called St. Jago. That of St Lawrence, within two hundred yards of the western extremity of the town, is an irregular work, whose greatest length is about one hundred yards, and its breadth nearly as much. It has three small bastions and a battery toward the sea, and flanking the beach. This is occupied as the residence of the governor. A third, called Peak castle, is situated at the north-west angle of the town, upon a hill, distant about half a mile from the shore. It is very difficult of access from the southward; but if the hill above it were once gained, no formidable resistance could be expected from it, as it is completely overlooked. The fourth fort stands upon the Loo rock, higher than the largest ships, but by no means sufficiently so, to warrant the disposition made upon its summit. The guns are crowded together en barbette; and the little parapet, over which they look, appears unequal to resist a cannon shot.

"The beach may further be defended by a direct line of musquetry from a low line built wall, on which a few guns are mounted at intervals, and which has occasional projections that afford small flanks. This line appears inadequate for defence, when troops are covered, in their landing, by men of war; but the constant surge, upon the beach, would prove a powerful assistant in obstructing the management of boats in an attempt to land. It is said that a very convenient landing-place may be found about two miles to the westward of Funchal bay, round the *Pico da Cruz*, perhaps at *Praya*. From hence two roads lead directly to Funchal; one ascending into the valley under the Peak castle, from which it is enfiladed. The other keeps the shore, and would, perhaps, be preferred, as less exposed to the fire of the Peak castle, and as being sheltered, in a great degree, by the intervening buildings, from the fire of St. Lawrence.

"The line wall, extending from the sea to the height on which is situated Peak castle, is not of a better construction than that of the beach, and, being destitute of cannon, would make but a feeble resistance. The Peak castle seems to afford the principal defence; it is well built, and in tolerable repair. Its walls are of a considerable height; but it has no ditch; and it is completely commanded from the rear. About twelve guns are mounted on it, of different calibres and constructions, generally, very old guns of English make. Such, too, are all the cannon of the place; and their carriages are quite out of repair. Most of the merlons are of stone, generally, from two and a half to three feet thick. In the Peak castle there is a small armory, containing about one hundred and fifty stand of arms, and three brass field pieces of English construction.

"The forces on the island are, of regulars one hundred and fifty artillery, and as many infantry; with two thousand militia, who are oc-

casionally under arms. They are formed into two battalions, and are obliged to clothe themselves in uniforms: also, ten thousand irregular militia, who are not so clothed or exercised; but who, on consideration of their being at no expence on that account, are obliged to repair highways, to take charge of signals, and to do duty in the garrisons. They are divided into three districts, each commanded by a colonel; and subdivided into companies, with a captain and lieutenant to each."

Since the above was written, the old fortifications have been greatly repaired and improved; four additional ones have been constructed; the native military force has been encreased; and the whole island is protected by several British regiments.

RELIGIOUS ESTABLISHMENT.

A BISHOP is at the head of the ecclesiastical establishment; and his income is considerably greater than that of the civil Governor. It consists of 110 pipes of wine, and 490 bushels of wheat, which upon the whole, it is said, amounts to five thousand a year. The Dean has about a thousand a year: he presides in the bishop's absence, and also in the chapter, which contains 16 canons.

The secular priests on the island are about two hundred, some of them, as literary men, having graduated at the university of Coimbra, are employed as tutors and as advocates.

The students on the island, as well as the priests, are distinguished from the other inhabitants, by wearing black gowns.

The convent of St. Francis is occupied by the friars of that order : they gradually diminish in number, and only about 40 are at present to be found. It is, however, but justice to quote the observations made by Captain Cook on his visit to them. " We visited," says he, " the good fathers of this convent on a Thursday evening, just before supper-time, and they received us with great politeness and kindness : ' We will not ask you, said they, to sup with us, because we are not prepared, but if you will come to-morrow, though it is a fast with us, we will have a turkey roasted for you'—This invitation, which shewed a liberality of sentiment, not to

have been expected in a convent of friars at this place, gratified us much, though it was not in our power to accept it. We visited also a convent of nuns dedicated to Santa Clara, and the ladies did us the honour to express particular pleasure in seeing us there. They had heard that there were great philosophers among us, and not at all knowing what were the objects of philosophical knowledge, they asked us several questions that were absurd and extravagant in the highest degree: one was, when it would thunder? and another, whether a spring of fresh water was to be found any where within the walls of their convent? It will naturally be supposed that our answers to such questions were not satisfactory to the ladies, yet their disappointment did not the least lessen their civility, and they talked without ceasing during the whole of our visit, which lasted for an hour."

COMMERCE.

THE balance of trade to the island of Madeira is much in favour of the English. Twenty trading houses of great solidity, whose acquired fortunes ultimately centre in Great Britain, constitute the present British factory. Their immense capital, avowed integrity and commercial knowledge, have stifled competition, and left them in the almost entire possession of the trade.

Henry Veitch, Esq. a gentleman of high respectability, is the present British Consul; and,

with meritorious zeal, watches over the interest of the British, who are resident here.

The British merchants in this island, like those at Porto, attach themselves to the cultivators of the vine, and supply them, in advance, with whatever can contribute to their necessities. They are remarkable for their hospitality to strangers; and their houses are open on the slightest recommendation for the reception of travellers on the island, or passengers who stop there, for refreshments in their way to America, West Indies, &c.

REVENUE.

The Judge of the Customs is the collector of the King's customs and revenues, which amount to a very considerable sum.

This revenue arises, first from the tenth of all the produce of the island, belonging to the King, by virtue of his office as grand master of the order of Christ; secondly, from twenty per cent. duties laid on all manufactured goods, and five on all provisions imported; thirdly, from ten per cent. charged on all exports; and lastly, on ten per cent. of property tax.

The greatest part of this sum is applied towards the salaries of civil and military officers, professors &c. and for the maintenance of public buildings, &c.

The duties and taxes, however, produce a revenue to the King of Portugal of near L.90,000 a year; and it might be easily doubled by the produce of the island, if advantage was taken of the excellence of the climate, and the amazing fertility of the soil—an object which is utterly neglected.

DISEASES.

Mild as the climate of Madeira is, its diseases are, doubtless, sufficiently numerous. The most important of them, however, are affections of the chest, and diseases of the skin, with a brief account of which it is alone proper to trouble the general reader.

AFFECTIONS OF THE CHEST.

Catarrh and Pneumonia, under somewhat varied forms, occur at Madeira. But the chief affection of this nature, to which even the na-

tives are occasionally subject, is Phthysis Pulmonalis or Consumption. On its symptoms and treatment it is not necessary here to dwell. It is, on the contrary, my object here merely to point out a circumstance, any mistake with regard to which would be fatal to consumptive persons, who from England visit this island.

To phthysical patients, Madeira is peculiarly adapted, more especially as it is defended from those northern blasts which visit every part of Europe, and even the Mediterranean islands, during the winter; and which, though not frequent, are, when they do happen, sufficient to destroy all the advantages that a residence of several months had produced. Indeed, in all cases of scrofulous consumption, in which the patient does not idly delay, after being advised to leave England, physicians can with certainty promise him a cure.

In all such cases of consumption not too far advanced, the climate of Madeira does

prove a certain remedy. The causes assigned for this constant success are: first, the equal temperature of the climate; secondly, that the lungs are not irritated by any particles arising from an open fire, or by the contraction of the skin from a partial access of air, produced by artificial heat; and thirdly, that the roads being paved, and no wheel carriages used in the most inhabited part of the island, those clouds of dust never arise, which dry weather produces in other parts of the world, and which are always found injurious to weak or diseased lungs. But if Madeira be not repaired to in the earlier stages of the disease, it will be repaired to in vain. In the last stage, neither physical circumstances nor human skill can avail.

Let no one, then, be misled by the absurd and dangerous statement of some*, that because the early stage of consumption is of an inflammatory nature, therefore the climate of Madeira (warm-

* See a Treatise on Consumption by a Dr Sanders.

er, doubtless, than that of Britain) is not to be had recourse to in the early stages. Such persons are ignorant that Madeira is visited not on account of the degree, but on account of the equability of its temperature. It is indeed the winter of Madeira from November to June, as as it is the summer of the South of England, that is best adapted to all stages of consumption.

DISEASES OF THE SKIN.

Elephantiasis is the chief disease of this kind, which occurs among the natives of the lower class at Madeira. This disease alone is here worthy of particular notice, for the purpose, as in the preceding paragraph, of pointing out an error, not indeed dangerous, but extremely ridiculous.

For the cure of this disease, some * have recommended the common lizard. They say

* See Dr Gourlay's Pamphlet on Madeira. In case II.

that this animal acts as a stimulant; but we know that the flesh of reptiles is much less stimulant than that of quadrupeds and birds. In truth, it can only have operated by the fear and disgust its use must have produced; and indeed the symptoms of fear were the only symptoms occasioned. That a man should both perspire and evacuate urine when forced to eat a *raw lizard!* is by no means wonderful: the eating of a raw toad or rat would have produced similar effects. If, however, these physicians can obtain success by such contrivances, it is all very fortunate.

Fortunately, Elephantiasis has nothing contagious in its nature, and forms no source of

he says "I prescribed *for* a *raw lizard* every morning"!!! The Doctor's here saying that he prescribed *for* a raw lizard, may perhaps induce some of our more innocent readers to ask, *What* it was that he prescribed *for* the lizard? and, in the midst of such absurdities, to question whether he prescribed the patient *for* the lizard, or the lizard *for* the patient?

apprehension, in any country, to those who avoid its well known causes.

Diseases of the skin, however, are those solely of the lowest classes in Madeira; and their existence must be ascribed to their improper diet, consisting often of putrid fish, especially during lent, and to the negligence of the police in the inspection of markets.

As diseases of the skin affect the lower classes, so Apoplexy and Paralysis often affect the higher classes, arising, doubtless, from a luxurious mode of living, and an indolent life.

FINIS.