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Richard Ford

Excerpt

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## SECTION I.

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## I. GENERAL VIEW OF SPAIN.

THE aggregate monarchy of Spain is composed of many distinct provinces, each of which in earlier times formed a separate and independent kingdom; although all are now united by marriage, inheritance, conquest, and other circumstances under one crown, the original distinctions, geographical as well as social, remain almost unaltered. The language, costume, habits, and local character of the natives, vary no less than the climate and productions of the soil. Man, following, as it were, the example of the nature by which he is surrounded, has little in common with the inhabitant of the adjoining district; and these differences are increased and perpetuated by the ancient jealousies and inveterate dislikes, which petty and contiguous states keep up with such tenacious memory. The general comprehensive term "Spain," which is convenient for geographers and politicians, is calculated to mislead the traveller. Nothing can be more vague or inaccurate than to predicate any single thing of Spain or Spaniards which will be equally applicable to all its heterogeneous component parts. The north-western provinces are more rainy than Devonshire, while the centre plains are more calcined than those of Barbary; while the rude agricultural Gallician, the industrious manufacturing artisan of Barcelona, the gay and voluptuous Andalucian, are as essentially different from each other as so many distinct characters at the same masquerade. It will therefore be more convenient to the traveller to take each province by itself and treat it in detail; accordingly we shall preface each province with a few preliminary remarks, in which will be pointed out those peculiarities, those social and natural characteristics which particularly belong to each division, and distinguish it from its neighbours. The Spaniards who have written on their own geography and statistics, and who ought to be supposed to understand their own country and institutions the best, have found it advisable to adopt this

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arrangement from feeling the utter impossibility of treating Spain as a whole. There is no king of *Spain*; among the infinity of kingdoms, the list of which swells out the royal style, that of "Spain" is not found; he is King of the Spains, *Rey de las Españas*, not "*Rey de España*." The provinces of Castile, old and new, take the lead in national nomenclature; hence "*Castellano*," Castilian, is synonymous with Spaniard, and particularly with the proud genuine older stock. "*Castellano a las derechas*," is a Spaniard to the backbone; "*Hablar Castellano*," to speak Castilian, is the correct expression for speaking the Spanish language. Spain long was without the advantage of a fixed metropolis, like Rome, Paris, or London, which have been capitals from their foundation, and recognized and submitted to as such; while here, the cities of Leon, Burgos, Toledo, Seville, Valladolid, and others, have each in their turn been the capitals of the kingdom, and the seats of royal residence. This constant change, and short-lived pre-eminence, has weakened any prescriptive superiority of one city over another, and has been a cause of national weakness by raising up rivalries and disputes about precedence, which is one of the most fertile sources of dissension among a punctilious people. Madrid, compared with the cities above mentioned, is a modern place; it ranks only as a town, "*villa*," not a city, "*ciudad*." It does not even possess a cathedral. In moments of national danger it exercises little influence over the Peninsula; at the same time, from being the seat of the court and government, the centre of patronage and fashion, it attracts from all parts "*los pretendientes*" and those who wish to make their fortunes. The capital has a hold on the ambition rather than on the affections of the nation at large. The inhabitants of the different provinces think indeed that Madrid is the greatest and richest court in the world, but their hearts are in their native localities. "*Mi paisano*," my fellow-countryman, does not mean Spaniard, but Andalusian, Catalonian, as the case may be. When asked where do you come from? the reply is, "*Soy hijo de Murcia—hijo de Granada*," "I am a son of Murcia—a son of Granada," &c. This is strictly analogous to the "Children of Israel," the "Beni" of the Spanish Moors, and to this day the Arabs of Cairo call themselves *children* of that town, "*Ibn el Musr*," &c. This being of the same province or town creates a powerful feeling of clauship—a freemasonry; the parties cling together like old schoolfellows, or the Scotch. It is a *home* and really binding feeling. To the spot of their birth all their recollections, comparisons, and eulogies are turned; nothing to them comes up to their particular province, that is their real country. "*La Patria*," meaning Spain at large, is a subject of declamation, fine words, *palabras*—palaver, in which all, like Orientals, delight to indulge, and to which their grandiloquent idiom lends itself readily. From the earliest period down to the present, all observers have been struck with this *localism*, as a salient feature in Iberian character. They never would amalgamate, never would, as Strabo said, put their shields together, never would sacrifice their own local private interest for the general good; on the contrary, in the hour of need, they had, as at present, a constant tendency to separate into distinct juntas, each of which only thought of its own views, utterly indifferent to the injury thereby occasioned to what ought to have been the common cause of all. Thus the virility and vitality of the noble people has been neutralised; they have indeed strong limbs and honest hearts, but, as in the Oriental parable, "a head" is wanting, to direct and govern: hence Spain is to-day, as it always has been, a bundle of small bodies tied together by a rope of sand, and, being without union, is also without strength, and has been beaten in detail. The much-used phrase *Españolismo*, expresses rather a "dislike of foreign dictation," and the "self estimation" of Spaniards, *Españoles sobre todos*, than any real patriotic love of country.

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## 2. SPANISH MONEY.

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However the natives of the different provinces of Spain may differ among each other, there are many things which, as regards an Englishman travelling through the Peninsula, still hold good in every part; accordingly money, passports, roads, post-offices, modes of travelling by land or steam, inns, general advice as to preparations and precautions, necessarily must take precedence in our Hand-book. In treating of these, each in their order, we shall never omit, when the opportunity offers, to introduce any remark, proverb, expression, or circumstance, which may tend to a better understanding of the character of the people, which, after all, is the best information with which a stranger can be provided.

## 2. SPANISH MONEY.

The first step will be to follow "Honest Iago's" advice; "Put money in thy purse;" for an empty one, and a lame mule, are beggarly companions to pilgrims whether bound for Rome or Santiago, *Camino de Roma, ni mula coja ni bolsa floja*. The money is practically the same all over the Peninsula; wherever there may exist any local coins they are small, and scarcely come within the traveller's notice. There is no paper money; it is entirely composed of specie,—of gold, silver, and copper, and is in good condition, the whole coinage having been renewed and simplified by Charles III. about 1770. Accounts in Spain are usually kept in reals, "*reales de vellón*," which are worth about 2½*d.* English. They are the piastres of the Turks, the sestertii of the Romans.

*Copper Money*—"Monedas de Cobre."—The lowest in denomination is the *maravedi*. This ancient money of Spain, in which government accounts used to be kept, has undergone many changes in value, which have been investigated by Saez and Wyndham Beawes. It at present is almost an imaginary coin, of which about fourteen and a fraction make an English penny. The common Spanish copper coins are the

<i>Maravedi</i> ,	of which 34	make the <i>real</i> .
<i>Ochavo</i>	=	2 <i>maravedis</i> .
<i>Cuarto</i>	=	4 "
<i>Dos cuartos</i>	=	8 "

As a general rule, the traveller may consider the "*cuarto*" as equivalent to a French sou, and something less than our English halfpenny. It is the smallest coin likely to come much under the traveller's observation. Those below it, which are in value fractions of farthings, have hardly any defined form, and cannot be described; among the lower classes every bit of copper in the shape of a coin passes for money; thus, in changing a dollar into small copper, by way of an experiment, it was found, during the latter years of the reign of Ferdinand VII., that among the multitudinous specimens of Spanish mints of all periods, Moorish, and even ancient Roman coins, were given and taken as *maravedis* in the market-place at Seville.

The silver coins, "*Monedas de plata*," consist, generally speaking, of five classes, which are thus conveniently divided in value:—

The <i>Real</i>	1	2	4	10	20
<i>Dos reales</i>		1	2	5	10
<i>Peseta</i>			1	2½	5
<i>Medio Duro</i>				1	2
<i>Duro</i>					1

The *real* is worth somewhat more than twopence farthing; the *dos reales*, or two reals, somewhat less than fivepence, and may be considered as equivalent

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to the half franc, and representing in Spain the sixpence in England. The *peseta* comes very nearly to the French franc. Of these and the "*dos reales*" the traveller should always take a good supply, for, as the Scotchman said of sixpences, "they are canny little dogs, and often do the work of shillings." The half dollar varies, according to the exchange, between two shillings and half a crown. The traveller will find the *dos reales*, the *peseta*, the half dollar, and dollar to be the most convenient pieces of Spanish silver money.

The dollar of Spain is well known all over the world, being the form under which silver has been generally exported from the Spanish colonies of South America. It is the Italian "*Colonato*," so called because the arms of Spain are supported between the two pillars of Hercules. The ordinary Spanish name is "*Duro*." They are often, however, termed in banking and mercantile transactions "*pesos fuertes*," to distinguish them from the imaginary "*peso*" or smaller dollar of fifteen reals only, of which the *peseta* is the diminutive.

The "*Duro*" in the last century was coined into half dollars, quarter dollars, and half quarter dollars. The two latter do not often occur; they may be distinguished from the "*peseta*" and "*dos reales*" by having the arms of Spain between the two pillars, which have been omitted in recent coinages; their fractional value renders them inconvenient to the traveller until perfectly familiar with Spanish money. The quarter dollar is, of course, worth five reals, while the *peseta* is only worth four; the half quarter dollar is worth two reals and a half, while the *dos reales* is only worth two.

The coinage is slovenly: it is the weight of the metal, not the form, to which the Spaniard looks. Ferd. VII. continued for a long while to strike money with his father's head, having only had the lettering altered: thus early Trajans exhibit the head of Nero; and our Henry VIII. set an example to Ferd. VII. When the Cortes entered Madrid after Salamanca, they patriotically prohibited the currency of all coins bearing the head of the intrusive Joseph; yet his dollars being chiefly made out of church plate, gilt and ungilt, were, although those of an usurper, intrinsically worth more than the *legitimate* duro: this was a too severe test for the loyalty of those whose real king and god is cash. Such a decree was worthy of those senators who were busy in expelling French words from their dictionary instead of Frenchmen from their country. The wiser Chinese take Ferdinand and Joseph's dollars alike, calling them both "*devil's head money*." These sad prejudices against good coin have now given way to the march of intellect; nay, the five-franc piece with Louis Philippe's clever head on it, bids fair to oust the pillared *Duro*. The silver of the mines of Murcia, is exported to France, where it is coined, and sent back in the manufactured shape. France thus gains a handsome per-centage, and habituates the people to her image of power, which comes recommended to them in the most acceptable likeness of current coin.

The *gold coinage* is magnificent, and worthy of the country and period from which Europe was supplied with this precious metal. The largest piece, the ounce, "*onza*," which is generally worth more than 3*l* 6*s.*, puts to shame the diminutive Napoleons of France and sovereigns of England; it tells the tale of Spain's former wealth, and contrasts strangely with her present poverty and scarcity of specie.

The *gold coinage* is simple:—

<i>Duro</i>	1	2	4	8	16
<i>Dos duros</i>	1	2	4	8	
<i>Doblon</i>		1	2	4	
<i>Media-onza</i>			1	2	
<i>Onza</i>					1

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2. SPANISH MONEY.

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The ounce in Spain, when of full weight, is worth sixteen dollars. The value, however, of any individual piece is very uncertain. These large coins were mostly struck from twenty to fifty years back, and are much worn by time, and still more by the frequent operation of *sweating*, to which they are constantly exposed at home and abroad, by the fraudulent. They in consequence are seldom of their legal weight and value: many have been so glaringly and evidently clipped and reduced, that no one will take them at sixteen dollars. Those which are under legal weight ought to be accompanied with a certificate, wherein is stated their exact diminished weight and value. This certificate may be obtained in the principal towns from the "*contrastador*," or "*fiel medidor*," the person who is legally authorized to weigh those gold coins which are supposed to be light, and his place of abode is well known. The debased coin, accompanied with this document, is then taken for whatever it is thus recognised and ascertained to be worth. All this, however, leads to constant disputes and delays, and the stranger cannot be too cautious when he takes money from Spanish bankers or merchants, to see that these great coins are of correct weight. It is generally far preferable, except when residing in large towns, to take the smaller gold coins instead of the ounces; to the former, objections are very seldom raised. We would particularly advise the traveller, who is about to leave the high road and to visit the more rarely frequented districts and towns, to have nothing to do with any ounces whatever; for when these broad pieces are offered for payment in a small village, they are always viewed with distrust. Nor even if the "*Venteros*," the innkeepers, be satisfied that they are not light, can so much change as sixteen dollars be often met with, nor do those who have so much ready money by them ever wish that the fact should be generally known. Spaniards, like the Orientals, have a dread of being supposed to have money in their possession; it exposes them to be plundered by robbers of all kinds, professional or legal; by the "*alcalde*," or village authority, and the "*escribano*," the attorney, to say nothing of the tax-gatherer; for the quota of contributions, many of which being apportioned among the inhabitants themselves of each district, falls heaviest on those who have, or are supposed to have, the most ready money: hence the difficulty the traveller will find in getting change, which, whether feigned or not, is at least real, as far as he is concerned and inconvenienced thereby.

The lower classes of Spaniards, like the Orientals, are generally avaricious. They see that wealth is safety and power, where everything is venal; the feeling of insecurity makes them eager to invest what they have in a small and easily concealed bulk, "*en lo que no habla*," "in that which does not tell tales." Consequently, and in self-defence, they are much addicted to hoarding. The idea of finding hidden treasures, which prevails in Spain as in the East, is based on some grounds. In every country which has been much exposed to foreign invasions, civil wars, and domestic misrule, where there were no safe modes of investment, in moments of danger property was converted into gold or jewels and concealed with singular ingenuity. The mistrust which Spaniards entertain of each other often extends, when cash is in the case, even to the nearest relations, to wife and children. Many a treasure is thus lost from the accidental death of the *hider*, who, dying without a sign, carries his secret to the grave, adding thereby to the sincere grief of his widow and heir. One of the old vulgar superstitions in Spain is an idea that those who were born on a Good Friday, the day of mourning, were melancholy and spirit-haunted. They were called *Zahori*, and were imagined to be gifted with a power of seeing into the earth and of discovering hidden treasures.

The smaller gold coins obviate all doubts and difficulties of procuring

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change. It may be observed, though they do not often occur, that some have a narrow thread or cord stamped round them; they are then termed "*de premio*," and have a small additional fractional value, and should be avoided by the traveller, as he will never be reminded when paying them away that he is giving more than he ought. These coins, in common with all which are not the simplest and best known, only entail on him probable loss and certain trouble in adding up accounts and making payments.

In addition to these troublesome coins, there are two imaginary ones with which old-fashioned Spaniards perplex travellers when naming prices or talking of values, just as is done with our obsolete guinea: one is the "*Ducado*," which is worth eleven reals, about half our crown; the other is the "*Peso*," the piastre, which is worth fifteen reals. This "*Peso*" requires some explanation, because, although imaginary, the exchange on England is still regulated by it: so many pence, more or less, as the rate may be high or low, are reckoned as equivalent to this "*Peso*;" the exchange on the principal cities of Europe is generally published in all Spanish newspapers. Thirty-six pence is considered to be par, or 48 for the dollar, or "*peso fuerte*," as it is called, to distinguish the *whole* piece from the smaller one. The whole dollar in accounts is marked thus  $\$$ . The exchange generally is against England; our experience places it between 37 pence and 38 pence. The traveller will soon calculate how much he ought to get for his pound sterling. If 36 pence will produce 15 reals, how many reals will 240 pence give?—the answer is 100. This being a round number will form a sufficient basis for the traveller newly arrived in Spain to regulate his financial computation: a hundred reals he may take as equivalent to a pound sterling, although he will be most fortunate if ever he gets so much, after all the *etceteras* of exchange, commission, and money-scrivening are deducted. Money, say the Spaniards, is like oil, and cannot be passed from one vessel to another without some sticking behind, "*quien el aceite mesura, las manos unta*." The usual mode of drawing on England is by bills at 90 days after sight, at a usance and half, 60 days being the usance. The traveller who draws at sight, "*corto*," or at shorter dates, or "*á treinta dias*," at 30 days, ought in consequence to obtain a more favourable rate of exchange. The circular notes of Messrs. Herries and of other London bankers, which afford such general accommodation in other countries of Europe, are only available in some few of the largest towns of Spain. The Peninsula has not been sufficiently visited by travellers to render it necessary to open a more extended correspondence, nor indeed are there bankers except in the largest towns: in the present depressed state of commerce in Spain, which at the best epochs was but passive, the separate trade of banker is seldom required. Money transactions are managed as they used to be a few centuries ago all over Europe, by merchants. The best method is to take out a letter of credit on the principal cities which enter into the projected line of tour, and on arriving at the first of these to draw a sum sufficient to carry the traveller into the next point, where he can obtain a fresh supply; and in order to prevent accidents on the road, the first banker or merchant should be desired to furnish smaller letters of credit on the intermediate towns. Those acquainted with the mysteries of bills and exchanges in London may frequently obtain paper on Spain here, by which a considerable turn of the market may be made in Spain. The best bills are those drawn by such houses as Rothschilds, Barings, Gowers, Gibbs, Martinez, Lloregan, &c. Of foreign coins, the 5-franc piece is the best known, but otherwise there is always some loss and difficulty in changing them. It, however, may be convenient for those who enter Spain from England or France with money of those countries to know the official value given in Spanish currency for foreign coins, which, as usual, is somewhat below their strict value.

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## 3. PASSPORTS.

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## ENGLISH MONEY.

		Reals.	Maravedis.	Fractions of Maravedis.
The Guinea	. . =	100	14	0·63
Sovereign	. . =	95	21	0·82
Crown	. . =	22	1	0·12
Shilling	. . =	4	13	0·82

## FRENCH MONEY.

The old Louis d'Or	. =	91	4	..
Napoleon	. =	75	30	..
5-Franc Piece	. =	18	33	..
2-Franc Piece	. =	7	20	..
1-Franc	. =	3	27	..
$\frac{1}{2}$ -Franc	. =	1	30	0·50

It is by far the best to come provided with Spanish dollars, which may always be procured in London by those who go to Spain by steam, or at Bayonne by those who enter from France. It will be found convenient, especially in remote and rarely visited districts, for the traveller to take with him a small reserve supply of the gold coins of four and two dollars each. They are easily concealed in some unsuspected part of the baggage, take little room, and pass everywhere without difficulty.

## 3. PASSPORTS.

The French, during their intrusive occupation of Spain, introduced the severe machinery of police and passports, *cartes de sureté*, and all those petty annoyances which impede the honest traveller, who, conscious of meaning no harm, is too apt to overlook forms and regulations, which the dishonest take especial care to observe. These and many other similar regulations, which have neither name nor existence in England, were retained by Ferdinand VII., who saw their value as engines of government, and now the system of passports and police surveillance has become the substitute for the Inquisition,\* which in late years had lost most of its terrors, and certainly was neither made such an instrument of oppression, nor was so much hated by all classes of Spaniards. The Inquisition was quite a Spanish institution; passports and police are French and foreign, therefore doubly odious to Spaniards. Although the name of an Englishman is the best safeguard in the Peninsula, yet in remote districts, and in unsettled times, all foreigners are objects of suspicion to petty authorities: the traveller, when brought in contact with such, should at once hoist his colours and take a high ground, by informing his questioner that, thanks to God, he is an English gentleman; *Señor, gracias á Dios, soy Caballero Ingles*. The Spaniard, feeling that he has done the stranger an injustice, is anxious by additional civility and attention to give satisfaction. Again, if the traveller's papers be not *en règle*, it is in the power of any ignorant or ill-conditioned *alcalde* in the smallest village to detain him, nor can much redress afterwards be expected. The laws on this subject are precise and very severe; and as there is no exemption from their operation, it is better to submit with a good grace to the annoyance, which is one of the penalties of foreign travel, and to which no

\* The person charged with the police regulations of passports, "*cartas de seguridad*," &c., is called the "*zelador*" or "*celador*"—the ancient name given to the official whose duty it was to see that religious ordinances were observed.

custom can reconcile our countrymen, whose birthright is liberty of person and of locomotion: as the thing cannot be avoided, the traveller should early form the habit of everywhere inquiring, *the very first thing on arrival*, what steps are necessary to be taken in regard to his passport and police regulations. Those about to reside any lengthened time in any city are obliged to have a *Carta de seguridad*, or a "*cedula de permanencia*," a permission to reside, which is granted by the police for a certain time, and renewable at its expiration: when actually travelling, the passport is often required to be signed every night. It sometimes will occur that travellers pass the night at some solitary "*ventorilla*," or "*cortijo*," farm-house: under these circumstances it is as well to *viser* the passport themselves, and get any of the inmates to sign it. The habit of complying with these forms of police regulations, once established, will practically give little trouble, and will obviate a world of vexation, inconvenience, and loss of time. The necessary formalities are soon done; and usually great civility is shown by the authorities to those travellers who will wait upon them in person, which is not always required. The Spaniards, who are not to be driven with a rod of iron, may be led by a straw. In no country is more to be obtained by the cheap outlay of courtesy in manner and speech, "*cortesia de boca mucho vale y costa poco*." As a general rule, the utmost care should be taken of this passport, since the loss of it naturally subjects the stranger to every sort of suspicion, and may cause him to be placed under the surveillance of the police. It should be carried about the person when travelling, as it is liable constantly to be called for: to prevent it from being worn out, it is advisable to have it laid down on fine linen, and then bound into a small pocket-book, and a number of blank leaves attached, on which the visas and signatures are to be placed.

A passport for Spain may always be obtained at the Foreign-office in Downing-street; the recommendation is a mere form: if the applicant happens to be unknown to any of the clerks of the office, an introduction from a banker, or from any known person of respectability, is sufficient; indeed a simple application by letter is seldom refused. For this passport the very heavy charge is made of *2l. 7s.* Those to whom this is no object will do well to take this passport. It possesses some advantages. The bearer can obtain at once the signature in London of any of the foreign ambassadors, which is advisable, as it stamps a guarantee on the document, which is always respected. Previously to going to Spain this passport should be taken to the Spanish embassy to be *visé*d. The Spanish legation does not give passports to any person except Spanish subjects. There is, however, considerable laxity at their principal sea-ports, where foreigners are constantly arriving; and many persons, especially those engaged in commerce, go to Spain in the steamers without passports; and then, if they wish to travel into the interior, obtain one from the local authorities, which is never refused when applied for by the English consul. This especially holds good with regard to those who visit the coast in their yachts, or in ships of war. Those English who go directly to Gibraltar require no passport; and when starting for Spain they can obtain one either from the English governor or from the Spanish governor of Algeiras: both of these require to be *visé*d by the Spanish consul at Gibraltar, who demands a trifling fee. Travellers who propose taking Portugal in their way to Spain may obtain a passport from Mr. Van Zeller, the Portuguese consul at No. 15, St. Mary-axe; the fee is five shillings: this passport must be *visé*d at Lisbon by the English and Spanish ambassadors previously to entering Spain. Those who enter Spain from France must have their passports *visé*d either at Paris by the Spanish ambassador, or at Bayonne by the Spanish consul. Those who intend to make sketches, to botanize, to geologize, in a word, to make any minute in-



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3. PASSPORTS.

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vestigations, are particularly cautioned to be *en règle* as regards passports, as nothing creates greater suspicion or jealousy in Spain than a stranger making drawings or writing down notes in a book: whoever is observed "*sacando planes*," "taking plans," "*mapeando el país*," "mapping the country,"—for such are the expressions for the simplest pencil sketch—is thought to be an engineer, a spy: at all events to be about no good. The lower classes, like the Orientals, attach a vague mysterious notion to these, to them unintelligible, proceedings; whoever is seen at work is immediately reported to the civil and military authorities, and, in fact, in out-of-the-way places, whenever a stranger arrives, from the rarity of the occurrence, he is the observed of all observers; much the same as occurs in the East, where Europeans are suspected of being emissaries of their governments, as they cannot understand why any man should incur trouble and expense, which few natives ever do, for the mere purpose of acquiring knowledge of foreign countries for his own private improvement or amusement: again, whatever particular investigations or questions are made by strangers, about things that to the native appear unworthy of observation, are magnified and misrepresented by the many who, in every place, wish to curry favour with whoever is the governor or chief person, whether civil or military. The natives themselves attach little or no importance to views, ruins, geology, inscriptions, and so forth, which they see every day, and which they therefore conclude cannot be of any more, or ought not to be of more, interest to the stranger. They judge of him by themselves; few men ever draw in Spain, and those who do are considered to be professional, and employed by others. One of the many fatal legacies left to Spain by the French, was an increased suspicion of men with the pencil and note-book. Previously to their invasion, agents were sent, who, under the guise of travellers, reconnoitred the land. The drawing any garrison-town or fortified place in Spain, is now most strictly forbidden. The prevailing ignorance of everything connected with the arts of design is so great, that no distinction is made between the most regular plan and the merest artistical sketch: a drawing is with them a drawing, and punishable as such. The stranger should be very cautious in sketching anything connected with a barrack, garrison, or citadel, as he is liable, under any circumstances, when drawing, to be interrupted, and often is exposed to arrest and incivility. Indeed, whether an artist or not, it is as well not to exhibit any curiosity in regard to matters connected with military affairs; nor will the loss be great, as they are seldom worth looking at. Again, as to writing down notes, nothing gives more pain to the higher and better classes of Spaniards, and with justice, than seeing volume after volume published on themselves and their country by hasty foreigners who have only rapidly glanced at one-half of the subject, and that half the one of which the natives are the most ashamed, and which they consider the least worth notice. This constant prying into the nakedness of the land and exposing it afterwards, has increased the dislike which Spaniards entertain towards the *impertinente curioso*. They well know and deeply feel their country's decline; but like poor gentlefolks, who have nothing but the past to be proud of, they are anxious to keep these family secrets concealed, even from themselves, and still more from the insulting observations of those who happen to be their superiors, not in blood but in better fortune. This dread of being shown up, sharpens their inherent suspicious, when strangers wish to examine into their ill-provided arsenals, barracks, and the beggarly account of their empty-box institutions; just as Burns was scared even by the honest anti-quarian Grose, so they lump the good and the bad, putting them down as book-making Paul Pry's:

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“ If there's a hole in a' your coats,  
I rede ye tent it;  
A chiel's amang ye takin' notes,  
And faith ! he'll prent it.”

The less said about these *cosas de España*—the present tatters in her once proud flag, on which the sun never set—is, they think, the soonest mended. These comments heal slower than the Spanish knife-gash. “*Sanan cuchilladas, mas no malas palabras*,” under which term they include the telling the *whole* truth, which becomes a libel; for even the fairest account of Spain as she is, setting down nought in malice, will not come up to the self-esteem of the native. “I always doubt,” said the Duke (Dispatch, Dec. 13, 1810), “a Spaniard being satisfied with anything;” but when the sewers of private and the gangrenes of public life are raked up, he resents, and justly, this breach of hospitality. He considers that it is no proof either of goodness of breeding, heart, or intellect, to be searching for blemishes rather than excellences, for toadstools rather than violets; he despises those curmudgeon smell-funguses who find all a wilderness from La Mancha to Castile—who see motes rather than beams in the brightest eyes of Andalucia. The productions of those foreigners who ride and write the fastest, who are unacquainted with the best society in Spain, savour of the things and persons with which they have been brought into contact; skimming like swallows over the surface and in pursuit of insects, they discern not the gems which lurk in the deeps below, however keen to mark and caustic to record the scum which floats at the top. Hence the repetitions of sketches of low life and the worst people, seasoned with road scrapings, postilion information, dangers and discomforts, &c., which have given Spain a worse name than she deserves, and have passed off a conventional caricature for a true portrait.

The safest plan for the curious is to have the object of his travelling and inquiries clearly explained on his passport, and, on his arrival at any town, to communicate his intention of drawing, or anything else, to the proper authority. There is seldom much difficulty at Madrid, if application be made through the English minister, in obtaining a special permission from the Spanish government for drawing generally over Spain. These remarks are less applicable to Seville and Granada than to other towns; their inhabitants are more accustomed to see foreigners, and are aware that the Moorish antiquities are considered objects of interest, though they scarcely feel it themselves. Those travellers who do not go directly to Madrid will seldom have much difficulty, and still less if military men, in obtaining from the captain-general of any province his own passport and permission; some sort of introduction is, however, necessary, and the higher the person from whom this preliminary can be procured the better. The Spaniards act upon their proverb, “*tal recomendacion, tal recomendado*,” “according to the recommendation is the recommended.” The great advantage of travelling with a captain-general's passport is that it is expressed in the Spanish language, which everybody understands, and which rouses no suspicions like one couched in French: another is, that it is a military document; all foreigners are under the especial protection of the captain-general. This high officer, like an Eastern pacha, is the absolute chief in his province, both civil and military, and as he is responsible for the peace, pays very little attention to the strict letter of the law. Quesada and the Conde de España were more absolute kings of Andalucia and Catalonia than Ferdinand VII., “*donde quieren reyes, ahí van leyes!*” “The laws follow the will of the rulers.” Their passport and their signature were obeyed by all minor authorities