

## Werk

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the Spanish yoke, and elected for their King the Duke of Braganza, who took the name of John IV. in whose family it has ever since remained independent of Spain. Her present Majesty's name is Mary Frances Isabella, who acceded to the throne in the year 1777.

S P A I N.

Length 700 } *miles.* between { 36° and 44° North Latitude.  
Breadth 500 } { 3° and 10° East Longitude.

**B**OUNDED west, by Portugal and the Atlantick ; north, by the Bay of Biscay and the Pyrenean mountains, which divide it from France ; east and south, by the Mediterranean sea, and the Straits of Gibraltar.

Spain is divided into 14 districts, in which are 139 towns, and 21,083 villages and boroughs.

*Rivers.*] The Deuro, the Tagus, the Guadiana, the Guadalquivir, all which fall into the Atlantick ocean, and the Ebro, the ancient Iberus, which falls into the Mediterranean.

*Capital.*] MADRID, situated on a branch of the river Tagus, containing 140,000 inhabitants. CADIZ, situated on the Atlantick, a little to the northward of the Straits of Gibraltar, is the great emporium of Spain, and contains 80,000 inhabitants.

*Wealth and Commerce.*] The advantages of Spain, as to climate, soil, natural productions, rivers, navigation and foreign possessions, which are immensely rich, ought to raise this monarchy high above all other powers of Europe. Yet the reverse is the case : Spain is but thinly peopled—has but little commerce—few manufactures—and what commerce it has, is almost entirely in the hands of strangers, notwithstanding the impediments thrown in their way by the government.

Spain produces excellent oranges, lemons, almonds, figs, grapes, pomegranates, dates, pistachios, capers, chestnuts, tobacco, soda, saffron, honey, salt, saltpetre, wines

wines of a rich and delicious flavour, cotton, rice, corn, oil, wool, silk, hemp, flax, &c. which, with proper industry, might be exported to an amazing amount. And yet all the exports of Spain, most articles of which no other country can supply, are estimated at only £.3,333,333 sterling. Spain does not produce corn enough for its own consumption, and is under the necessity of importing large quantities.

*Government.*] Spain is an absolute monarchy. The provinces of Navarre, Biscay and Arragon, have preserved some of their ancient privileges. The King's edicts must be registered in the court of Carliste, before they acquire the force of laws. The crown is hereditary both in the male and female line. By a law made in 1715, female heirs cannot succeed till after the whole male line is extinct.

*Religion.*] The Roman Catholick religion, to the exclusion of all others, is the religion of the Spanish monarchy; and it is, in these countries, of the most bigotted, superstitious and tyrannical character. All other denominations of Christians, as well as Jews, are exposed to all the severities of persecution. The power of the court of Inquisition, established in Spain in 1578, has been diminished, in some respects, by the interference of the civil power. It is supposed that the clergy of this kingdom amount to 200,000, half of whom are monks and nuns, distributed in 3000 convents. The revenue of the Archbishop of Toledo is 300,000 ducats. There are in the kingdom of Spain, 8 Archbishops, 46 Bishops; in America, 6 Archbishops and 28 Bishops; in the Phillippine isles, 1 Archbishop and 3 Bishops. All these dignities are in the gift of the King. Fifty-two inferior ecclesiastical dignities and offices are in the gift of the Pope.

*History.*] The first inhabitants of Spain were the Celtæ, a people of Gaul; after them the Phœnicians possessed themselves of the most southern parts of the country, and may well be supposed to have been the first civilizers of this kingdom, and the founders of the most ancient cities. After these followed the Grecians;

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