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In Four Volumes

Addison, Joseph

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Monaco, Genoa, &c.

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mountains. It is to Rome a scene, that it has always probably given occasion to such Chimerical relations; for it is perhaps of this place that



And this the pale assembly of the dead:
Oh in the wind is heard a plaintive sound
Of melancholy ghosts that hover round:
The sad ring blow-men off with horror pierce

MONACO, GENOA, &c.

I know there is nothing more undetermined among the I earned than the Voyage of Cyprus; some confining it to the Mediterranean others extending it to the great Ocean, and others ascribing it to a world of the



ON the twelfth of *December*, 1699, I set out from *Marseilles* to *Genoa* in a *Tartane*, and arrived late at a small *French* Port called *Cassis*, where the next morning we were not a little surprized to see the mountains about the town covered with green *Olive-trees*, or laid out in beautiful *Gardens*, which gave us a great variety of pleasing prospects, even in the depth of winter. The most uncultivated of them produce abundance of sweet plants, as *Wild-Time*, *Lavender*, *Rosemary*,

Balme and *Mirtle*. We were here shown at a distance the *Desarts*, which have been rendred so famous by the *Penance* of *Mary Magdalene*, who, after her arrival with *Lazarus* and *Joseph of Arimathea* at *Marseilles*, is said to have wept away the rest of her life among these solitary rocks and

mountains. It is so Romantic a scene, that it has always probably given occasion to such Chimerical relations; for it is perhaps of this place that *Claudian* speaks, in the following description.

*Est locus extremum pandit qua Gallia luttus
Oceani prætentus aquis, quæ fertur Ulysses
Sanguine libato populum movisse Silentium,
Illic Umbrarum tenui stridore volantium
Flebilis auditur questus; simulachra coloni
Pallida defunctasque vident migrare figuras, &c.*

Cl. In. Ruf. L. 1.

A place there lyes on *Gallia's* utmost bounds,
Where rising seas insult the frontier grounds.
Ulysses here the blood of victims shed,
And rais'd the pale assembly of the dead:
Oft in the winds is heard a plaintive sound
Of melancholy ghosts, that hover round;
The lab'ring plow-man oft with horror spies
Thin airy shapes, that o'er the furrows rise,
(A dreadful scene!) and skim before his eyes.

I know there is nothing more undetermined among the Learned than the Voyage of *Ulysses*; some confining it to the Mediterranean, others extending it to the great Ocean, and others ascribing it to a world of the Poet's own making; though his conversations with the dead are generally supposed to have been in the *Narbon Gaul*.

*Incultos adiit Læstrigonas Antiphatenque, &c.
Atque hæc ceu nostras intersunt cognita terras,
Fabula sive novum dedit his erroribus orbem.*

Tib. L. 4. El. 1.

Uncertain whether, by the winds convey'd,
On real seas to real shores he stray'd;
Or, by the fable driven from coast to coast,
In new imaginary worlds was lost.

The next day we again set sail, and made the best of our way 'till we were forced, by contrary winds, into *St. Remo*, a very pretty town in the *Genoese* dominions. The front to the sea is not large, but there are a great many houses behind it, built up the side of the mountain to avoid the winds and vapours that come from sea. We here saw several persons, that in the midst of *December* had nothing over their shoulders but their shirts,

shirts, without complaining of the cold. It is certainly very lucky for the poorer sort, to be born in a place that is free from the greatest inconvenience, to which those of our northern nations are subject; and indeed without this natural benefit of their climates, the extreme misery and poverty that are in most of the *Italian* governments would be insupportable. There are at *St. Remo* many plantations of Palm-trees, though they do not grow in other parts of *Italy*. We sailed from hence directly for *Genoa*, and had a fair wind that carried us into the middle of the gulf, which is very remarkable for tempests and scarcity of fish. It is probable one may be the cause of the other, whether it be that the fisher-men cannot employ their art with so much success in so troubled a sea, or that the fish do not care for inhabiting such stormy waters.

————— *Atrum*

Defendens pisces hyemat mare —

Hor. Sa. 2. li. 2.

While black with storms the ruffled ocean rolls,
And from the fisher's art defends her finny shoals.

We were forced to lye in it two days, and our Captain thought his Ship in so great danger, that he fell upon his knees and confess'd himself to a Capuchin who was on board with us. But at last, taking the advantage of a side-wind, we were driven back in a few hours time as far as *Monaco*. *Lucan* has given us a description of the Harbour that we found so very welcome to us, after the great danger we had escaped.

*Quaque sub Herculeo sacratus nomine portus
Urget rupe cavâ pelagus: non Corus in illum
Jus habet aut Zephyrus: Solus sua littora turbat
Circius, et tutâ prohibet statione Monæci.*

Lib. 1.

The winding rocks a spacious harbour frame,
That from the great *Alcides* takes its name:
Fenc'd to the west, and to the north it lyes;
But when the winds in southern quarters rise,
Ships, from their anchors torn, become their sport,
And sudden tempests rage within the port.

On the Promontory where the town of *Monaco* now stands, was formerly the temple of *Hercules Monæcus*, which still gives the name to this small Principality.

B 2

Aggeribus

*Aggeribus focer Alpinis atque arce Monaci
Descendens.* — — — — —

Virg. Æn. 6.

There are but three towns in the dominions of the Prince of *Monaco*. The chief of them is situate on a rock which runs out into the sea, and is well fortified by nature. It was formerly under the protection of the *Spaniard*, but not many years since drove out the *Spanish* garrison, and received a *French* one, which consists at present of five hundred men, paid and officer'd by the *French* King. The officer who showed me the Palace told me, with a great deal of gravity, that his master and the King of *France*, amidst all the confusions of *Europe*, had ever been good friends and allies. The palace has handsome apartments, that are many of them hung with pictures of the reigning Beauties in the court of *France*. But the best of the furniture was at *Rome*, where the Prince of *Monaco* resided at that time ambassador. We here took a little boat to creep along the sea-shore as far as *Genoa*; but at *Savona*, finding the sea too rough, we were forced to make the best of our way by land, over very rugged mountains and precipices: For this road is much more difficult than that over mount *Cennis*.

The *Genoese* are esteemed extremely cunning, industrious, and inur'd to hardship above the rest of the *Italians*; which was likewise the character of the old *Ligurians*. And indeed it is no wonder, while the Barrenness of their country continues, that the Manners of the inhabitants do not change: Since there is nothing makes men sharper, and sets their hands and wits more at work than Want. The *Italian* proverb says of the *Genoese*, that they have *a sea without fish, land without trees, and men without faith*. The character the *Latin* poets have given of them is not much different.

Assuetumque malo Ligurem

Virg. G. 2.

The hard *Ligurians*, a laborious kind.

— — — — — *Pernix Ligur.*

Sil. It. El. 8.

Fallaces Ligures.

Auf. Eid. 12.

Apenninicolæ bellator filius Auni

Haud Ligurum extremus, dum fallere fata sinebant.

Æn. 11.

Yet, like a true *Ligurian*, born to cheat,
(At least whilst Fortune favour'd his deceit.)

Vane

*Vane Ligur, frustra que animis elate superbis,
Nequicquam patrias tentasti lubricus artes.*

Id.

Vain fool and coward, cries the lofty maid,
Caught in the train which thou thy self hast laid.
On others practise thy *Ligurian* arts;
Thin stratagems, and tricks of little hearts
Are lost on me; nor shalt thou safe retire,
With vaunting lies to thy fallacious fire.

Dryden.

There are a great many beautiful palaces standing along the sea-shore on both sides of *Genoa*, which make the town appear much longer than it is, to those that sail by it. The City it self makes the noblest show of any in the world. The houses are most of them painted on the outside; so that they look extremely gay and lively, besides that they are esteemed the highest in *Europe*, and stand very thick together. The New-street is a double range of palaces from one end to the other, built with an excellent fancy, and fit for the greatest Princes to inhabit. I cannot however be reconciled to their manner of painting several of the *Genoese* houses. Figures, perspectives, or pieces of history are certainly very ornamental, as they are drawn on many of the walls, that would otherwise look too naked and uniform without them: But instead of these, one often sees the front of a palace covered with painted pillars of different orders. If these were so many true columns of marble, set in their proper architecture, they would certainly very much adorn the places where they stand, but as they are now, they only shew us that there is something wanting, and that the palace, which without these counterfeit pillars would be beautiful in its kind, might have been more perfect by the addition of such as are real. The front of the *Villa Imperiale*, at a mile distance from *Genoa*, without any thing of this paint upon it, consists of a *Doric* and *Corinthian* row of pillars, and is much the handsomest of any I saw there. The Duke of *Doria's* palace has the best outside of any in *Genoa*, as that of *Durazzo* is the best furnished within. There is one room in the first, that is hung with tapestry, in which are wrought the figures of the great persons, that the family has produced; as perhaps there is no house in *Europe*, that can show a longer line of heroes, that have still acted for the good of their country. *Andrew Doria* has a statue erected to him at the entrance of the Doge's palace, with the glorious title of Deliverer of the common-wealth; and one of his family another,

ther, that calls him its Preserver. In the Doge's palace, are the rooms, where the great and little Council with the two Colleges hold their assemblies; but as the State of *Genoa* is very poor, tho' several of its Members are extremely rich, so one may observe infinitely more splendor and magnificence in particular persons houses, than in those that belong to the publick. But we find in most of the states of *Europe*, that the people show the greatest marks of poverty, where the governors live in the greatest magnificence. The churches are very fine, particularly that of the Annunciation, which looks wonderfully beautiful in the inside, all but one corner of it being covered with statues, gilding, and paint. A man would expect, in so very ancient a town of *Italy*, to find some considerable antiquities; but all they have to show of this nature is an old *Rostrum* of a *Roman* ship, that stands over the door of their arsenal. It is not above a foot long, and perhaps would never have been thought the beak of a ship, had not it been found in so probable a place as the haven. It is all of Iron, fashioned at the end like a Boar's head; as I have seen it represented on medals, and on the *Columna Rostrata* in *Rome*. I saw at *Genoa* Signior *Micconi's* famous collection of shells, which, as Father *Buonani* the Jesuite has since told me, is one of the best in *Italy*. I know nothing more remarkable, in the government of *Genoa*, than the Bank of *St. George*, made up of such branches of the revenues, as have been set apart, and appropriated to the discharging of several sums, that have been borrowed from private persons, during the exigencies of the commonwealth. Whatever inconveniencies the state has laboured under, they have never entertained a thought of violating the publick credit, or of alienating any part of these revenues to other uses, than to what they have been thus assigned. The administration of this bank is for life, and partly in the hands of the chief citizens, which gives them a great authority in the state, and a powerful influence over the common people. This bank is generally thought the greatest load on the *Genoese*, and the managers of it have been represented as a second kind of Senate, that break the Uniformity of government, and destroy, in some measure, the Fundamental constitution of the state. It is however very certain, that the people reap no small advantages from it, as it distributes the power among more particular members of the republick, and gives the commons a figure: So that it is no small Check upon the Aristocracy, and may be one reason, why the *Genoese* Senate carries it with greater moderation towards their subjects, than the *Venetian*.

It

It would have been well for the republick of *Genoa*, if she had followed the example of her sister of *Venice*, in not permitting her Nobles to make any purchase of lands or houses in the dominions of a foreign prince. For at present the Greatest, among the *Genoese*, are in part subjects to the monarchy of *Spain*, by reason of their estates that lye in the kingdom of *Naples*. The *Spaniards* tax them very high upon occasion, and are so sensible of the advantage this gives them over the republick, that they will not suffer a *Neapolitan* to buy the lands of a *Genoese*, who must find a purchaser among his own countrymen, if he has a mind to sell. For this reason, as well as on account of the great sums of money which the *Spaniard* owes the *Genoese*, they are under a necessity, at present, of being in the interest of the *French*, and would probably continue so, though all the other States of *Italy* entered into a league against them. *Genoa* is not yet secure from a Bombardment, though it is not so exposed as formerly; for, since the Insult of the *French*, they have built a mole, with some little ports, and have provided themselves with long guns and mortars. It is easie for those that are strong at sea to bring them to what terms they please; for having but very little arable land, they are forced to fetch all their corn from *Naples*, *Sicily*, and other foreign countries; except what comes to them from *Lombardy*, which probably goes another way, whilst it furnishes two great armies with provisions. Their Fleet, that formerly gained so many victories over the *Saracens*, *Pisans*, *Venetians*, *Turks* and *Spaniards*, that made them masters of *Crete*, *Sardinia*, *Majorca*, *Minorca*, *Negrepont*, *Lesbos*, *Malta*, that settled them in *Scio*, *Smyrna*, *Achaia*, *Theodosia*, and several towns on the eastern confines of *Europe*, is now reduced to six gallies. When they had made an addition of but four new ones, the King of *France* sent his orders to suppress them, telling the republick at the same time, that he knew very well how many they had occasion for. This little fleet serves only to fetch them wine and corn, and to give their ladies an airing in the summer-season. The republick of *Genoa* has a crown and sceptre for its Doge, by reason of their conquest of *Corfica*, where there was formerly a *Saracen* King. This indeed gives their ambassadors a more honourable reception at some courts, but, at the same time, may teach their people to have a mean notion of their own form of government, and is a tacit acknowledgment that Monarchy is the more honourable. The old *Romans*, on the contrary, made use of a very barbarous kind of politicks to inspire their people with a contempt of Kings, whom they treated with infamy, and dragged at the wheels of their triumphal chariots.

P A V I A,