conquerors of the whole of the peninsula. The river Gua- dalette, on whose banks the decisive action took place, is a small stream, about a mile and a half from the city, which at some seasons of the year is nearly dry. It has a stone bridge, about four miles below which are a wharf and storehouses, from which wine and other goods are ship­ped for Port St Mary’s.

Xeres is situated in the lap of two rounded hillocks, which shelter it to the east and the west ; and it covers a considerable extent of ground. The city, properly so call­ed, is embraced by an old crenated Moorish wall, which, though enclosing a labyrinth of narrow, ill-built, and worse drained streets, is of no great circuit, and is so intermixed with the suburbs as to be visible only here and there. The limits of the old town are however well defined by the nu­merous antique gateways. Some of the buildings are of a unique kind of architecture. It once had ten churches, eleven chapels, four hospitals, twenty-one monasteries and convents. It is doubtful how many of these institutions yet survive the convulsions to which Spain has been subjected for the last quarter of a century. The population is dense, being estimated at 50,000 souls ; but the amount is sub­ject to great variations, dependent on the recent or remote occurrence of the last endemic fever generated in its pesti­ferous gutters and its uncleanly streets and lanes.

The environs of this city afford abundant supplies of corn, especially wheat, of oil, and of cattle. It was long celebrated for its breed of horses, reared by a well-endow­ed convent of Carthusian monks, now robbed and nearly deserted ; but the chief produce is the white wine so gene­rally known by the name of Sherry. This wine is collected by the merchants of the city from the neighbouring vine­yards ; but some of them are also wine-growers. The quan­tity annually produced is about 30,000 butts, of 120 gallons each. Of these, rather more than two thirds are sent to Eng­land. The remainder is consumed at home, or sent to the United States of America, to the Havannah, to Mexico, or Buenos Ayres. There are not less than twenty-five great mercantile houses, chiefly engaged in the trade with Eng­land. There is always on hand a large stock of old wines, which are mixed with the new in such a proportion as is suitable for the various markets. The storehouses are above ground, are vast piles of building, having lofty roofs supported on arches, and their walls are pierced with numerous windows, and thus admit a free circulation of air. Some of these storehouses are so large as to be capa­ble of containing 4000 butts. The oldest wines are kept in huge casks, little inferior to the celebrated tun of Heidel­berg, and some of them have wine nominally 120 years old ; but the quantity withdrawn is every year supplied from casks of a later growth ; and when wine is mixed for shipping, a small portion of the oldest is mingled with the new. Much brandy is mixed with all the wine for exportation, and the merchants are commonly the distillers.

XICOCO, or Sikokf, an island, the smallest of the three that compose the empire of Japan. In length it is 100 miles, and sixty in breadth. It is only separated by narrow straits from the island of Niphon on the one side, and Ximo on the other. This island is almost entirely un­known to Europeans, as they are rigorously prohibited from all intercourse with the Japanese empire.

XIMENA, a city of Spain, in the province of Andalu­sia, about twenty-five miles from the British fortress of Gibraltar. It is utterly inaccessible for any kind of wheel- carriages. It was once a place of importance, as it gave the title of king to Abou Melic, the son of the emperor of Fez. In more ancient times, it was a Roman station, as is proved by the walls of the castle, and by numerous inscrip­tions which have been found in its vicinity. The town lies under the shelter of a rocky ledge, which is detached from the mass of the lofty mountains, and is crowned with the ruined towers of an ancient castle, which forms a pic­turesque view from the surrounding country. Ximena is nearly a mile in length, and principally consists of two long narrow streets, one extending from north to south, and the other leading up to the castle : the alleys between them are in steps up the steep side of the impending hill, and can only be reached on foot. The old castle, of Roman foun­dation, but of Moorish superstructure, is accessible only on the side of the town, and in former days must have been impregnable. This citadel is 400 yards in length, and varies in breadth from fifty to eighty yards. It is sur­rounded by a turreted wall, except where the scarped rock has rendered it unnecessary. It has been provided with vaulted tanks and magazines, but from neglect they are in a dilapidated state. It was exposed to great injury in 1811, when it was partially blown up by General Ballasteros, who abandoned it on the approach of the French, to seek a more sure protection under the guns of Gibraltar. The town at the present day is poor, containing about 8000 inhabitants, who are chiefly occupied in agriculture ; but many are employed in the seductive but hazardous trade of smuggling tobacco and other goods from Gibraltar into the interior of Spain. The river Sogarganta runs at the foot of the place, and has on its left bank the ruins of a vast building, erected sixty years ago for the purpose of casting cannon-balls for the siege of the British fortress.

XIMENES DE CISNEROS, Francisco, a celebrated cardinal, was born at Torrelaguna, in Old Castille, in 1437, and studied at Alcala and Salamanca. He then went to Rome; and being robbed on the road, brought nothing back but a bull for obtaining the first vacant prebend; but the archbishop of Toledo refused to grant it, and threw him into prison. Being at length restored to liberty, he obtained a benefice in the diocese of Siguença, where Cardinal Gonzales de Men­doza, who was the bishop, made him his grand vicar. Ximenes some time after entered among the Franciscans of Toledo; but being there troubled with visits, he retired to a solitude named Castanei, and applied himself to the study of divi­nity and the oriental tongues. At his return to Toledo, Queen Isabella of Castille chose him for her confessor, and in 1495 nominated him archbishop of Toledo, which, next to the papacy, is the richest dignity in the church of Rome. “ This honour,” says Dr Robertson, “ he declined with a firmness which nothing but the authoritative injunction of the pope was able to overcome. Nor did this height of promotion change his manners. Though obliged to display in public that magnificence which became his station, he himself retained his monastic severity. Under his ponti­fical robes he constantly wore the coarse frock of St Fran­cis, the rents of which he used to patch with his own hands. He at no time used linen, but was commonly clad in hair­cloth. He slept always in his habit, most frequently on the floor or on boards, and rarely in a bed. He did not taste any of the delicacies which appeared at his table, but satisfied himself with that simple diet which the rule of his order prescribed. Notwithstanding these peculiarities, so opposite to the manner of the world, he possessed a thorough knowledge of its affairs, and discovered talents for business which rendered the fame of his wisdom equal to that of his sanctity.”

His first care was to provide for the necessities of the poor ; to visit the churches and hospitals ; to purge his diocese of usurers and places of debauchery ; to degrade corrupt judges, and place in their room persons whom he knew to be distinguished by their probity and disinterest­edness. He erected a famous university at Alcala; andin 1499 founded the College of St Ildephonso. Three years afterwards he undertook the Polyglott Bible ; and in order to carry on this great work, invited many learned men to Toledo, purchased seven copies of the Old Testament in Hebrew for 4000 crowns, and gave a great price for Latin