This news being brought to Venice, excited an univerſal indignation against the Turks; and the ſenate reſolved to de­fend to the utmost this valuable part of the empire. Ex­traordinary ways and means of raising money were fallen upon : among others, it was propoſed to sell the rank of nobility. Four citizens offered 100,000 ducats each for this honour ; and, notwithstanding ſome opposition, this meaſure was at last carried. Eighty families were admitted into the grand council, and to the honour and privileges of the nobility. What an idea does this give of the wealth of the inhabitants of Venice ?

The siege of Candia, the capital of the iſland of that name, is, in ſome respects, more memorable than that of any town which history, or even which poetry, has recorded. It lasted 24 years. The amazing efforts made by the republic of Ve­nice astonished all Europe ; their courage interested the gal­lant ſpirits of every nation : volunteers from every country came to Candia to exerciſe their valour, to acquire know­ledge in the military art, and assist a brave people whom they admired.

During this famous siege, the Venetians gained many im­portant victories over the Turkiſh fleet. Sometimes they were driven from the walls of Candia, and the Turkiſh garriſon of Canéa was even besieged by the Venetian fleets. Great slaughter was made of the Turkish armies ; but new armies were ſoon found to ſupply their place, by a govern­ment which boasts ſuch populous dominions, and which has deſpotic authority over its subjects.

Mahomet the fourth, impatient at the length of this siege, came to Negropont, that he might have more frequent op­portunities of hearing from the vizir, who carried on the siege. An officer, sent with dispatches, was directed by the vizir to explain to Mahomet the manner in which he made his approaches, and to assure him that he would take all poſ­ſible care to save the lives of the ſoldiers. The humane em­peror anſwered, That he had sent the vizir to take the place, and not to ſpare the lives of the ſoldiers; and he was on the point of ordering the head of the officer who brought this message to be cut off, merely to quicken the vizir in his operations, and to ſhow him how little he valued the lives of men.

In ſpite of the vizir’s boasted parsimony, this war is ſaid to have cost the lives of 200,000 Turks. Candia capitula­ted in the year 1668. The conditions on this occasion were honourably fulfilled. Morsini, the Venetian general, march­ed out of the rubbiſh of this well-diſputed city with the ho­nours of war. The expence of ſuch a tedious war greatly exhausted the reſources of Venice, which could net now re­pair them ſo quickly as formerly, when she enjoyed the rich monopoly of the Asiatic trade.

This republic remained in a state of tranquillity, endea­vouring, by the arts of peace and cultivation of that share of commerce which ſhe still retained, to fill her empty exchequer, till ſhe was drawn into a new war, in the year 1683, by the inſolence of the Ottoman court. The Venetians had for ſome time endeavoured, by negociation and many concilia­tory repreſentations, to accommodate matters with the Turks; and though the haughty conduct of their enemies afforded ſmall hopes of ſucceſs, yet ſuch was their aversion to war on **the** preſent occasion, that they still balanced, whether to bear thoſe inſults or repel them by arms; when they were brought **to** decision by an event which gave the greatest joy to **Ve­**nice, and astonished all Europe. This was the great victory gained over the Turkiſh army before the walls of Vienna by Sobieſki king of Poland.

In this new war, their late General Morsini again had the command of the fleets and armies of the republic, and ſustained the great reputation he had acquired in Candia. He con­quered the Morea, which was ceded formally to Venice, with ſome other acquisition, at the peace of Carlowitz, in the last year of the last century.

During the war of the ſuccession, the state of Venice obſerved, a strict neutrality. They considered that diſpute as unconnected with their interests, taking care, however, to keep on foot an army on their frontiers in Italy, of ſufficient force to make them reſpected by the contending powers. But, ſoon after the peace of Utrecht, the Venetians were again attacked by their old enemies the Turks ; who, be­holding the great European powers exhausted by their late efforts, and unable to assist the republic, thought this the fa­vourable moment for recovering the Morea, which had been ſo lately raviſhed from them. The Turks obtained their object ; and at the peace of Passarowitz, which terminated this unſucceſsful war, the Venetian state yielded up the Morea ; the grand ſeignior, on his part, restoring to them the ſmall iſlands of Cerigo and Cerigotto, with ſome places which his troops had taken during the courſe of the war in Dalmatia. Thoſe, with the islands of Corfou, Santa Maura, Zante, and Cephalonia, the remains of their dominions in the Levant, they have since fortified at a great expence, as their only barriers against the Turks.

Since this period no essential alteration has taken place in the Venetian government, nor has there been any eſſential increaſe or diminution in the extent of their dominions. They have little to fear at preſent from the Turks, whoſe atten­tion is ſufficiently occupied by a more formidable enemy than the republic and the Houſe of Austria united. Besides, if the Turks were more diſengaged, as they have now stripped the republic of Cyprus, Candia, and their possessions in Greece, what remains in the Levant is hardly worth their attention.

The declension of Venice did not, like that of Rome, proceed from the increaſe of luxury, or the revolt of their own armies in the distant colonies, or from civil wars of any kind. Venice has dwindled in power and importance from cauſes which could not be foreſeen, or guarded against by human prudence although they had been foreſeen. In their preſent situation, there is little probability of their attempting new conquests ; happy if they are allowed to remain in the quiet possession of what they have.

We have already mentioned the situation of Venice, the capital of this republic. Its appearance at a distance is very striking, looking like a great town half floated by a deluge. Betwixt the city and the Terra Firma are a great many ſhallows, on which at low water you may almost every where touch the bottom with a pole ; but all poſſible care is taken to prevent their becoming dry land. On the ſouth side of the city are alſo ſhallows ; but on these there is a greater depth of water. The channels betwixt them are marked out by stakes or poles, which on the approach of an enemy would certainly be taken away. The city is divided by a vast number of canals, on which ply the gondoliers, or watermen, in their black gondolas or beats. The streets are very clean and neat, but narrow and crooked. There are no carriages, not ſo much as a chair, to be ſeen in them. Though the city, by its situation and the great number of steeples towering above the water, strikes one with admira­tion at a distance, yet when he is got into it, it does not anſwer his expectation ; for excepting the ſquare of St Mark and a few other places, there is nothing grand or beautiful in it, at least in compariſon of many other cities of Italy. Of the canals, that called *II Canale Maggiore,* or the “ great canal,” is by far the largest and longest, and conſequently the most beautiful. Here races are ſometimes run for prizes in the gondolas. On its banks are alſo ſeveral stately houſes. Over these canals are a great number of handſome bridges