of one arch, but without any fence on either side : they are alſo built of white stone, with which the streets are all paved, except the Rialto over the great canal, which is all of marble, and cost the republic 250,000 ducats, the arch being 90 feet wide. The canals in ſummer emit a bad ſmell, from the great quantities of filth continually running into them. The finest gondolas are thoſe in which the foreign ministers make their public entries, being richly decorated with gilding, painting, and ſculpture. The number of islands on which the city stands, according to ſome, is 60 ; according to others, 72. The circumference is about six Italian miles; and it takes up about two hours to make the circuit of it in a gondola. The inhabitants are ſuppoſed to be about 150,000 including thoſe of the islands Murano, La Guideca, and thoſe who live on board the barges. There are near 200 ſprings of fresh water in the city; but the water of many of them is ſo indifferent, that the principal families preſerve rain-water in cisterns, or are ſupplied with water from the Brenta. The most remarkable places in the city are the ducal palace, the ſquare and church of St Mark, who is the tutelar saint of Venice; the mint, public library, grand arſenal, several of the palaces of the nobles, churches, convents, and hoſpitals. In theſe last is a prodigious collection of the finest paintings; Venice, in this respect, even ſurpassing Rome itſelf. The diversions of the Venetians are chiefly maſquerading, eſpecially during the carnival and other festivals ; ridottos, operas, plays, which are generally wretched perform­ances, and concerts of vocal and instrumental music. Du­ring their festivals, debauchery, riot, and licentiousneſs, are carried to the greatest height. The courtezans here, we are told, are abſolutely lost to all ſenſe of modesty and com­mon decency. The grand ſcene of all, the shows and follies of the festivals, is the ſquare of St Mark, in which bulls are ſometimes baited. In the doge’s palace all the high colleges hold their assemblies ; but we are told by ſeveral travellers, which ſeems very strange, that the stairs are no better than a privy. In this palace is a ſmall arſenal, furniſhed with arms against any ſudden insurrection of the people, together with a state-priſon, a great many exquisite paintings, and ſeveral curiosities, among which are ſome *claustra castitatis.* One side of it is towards St Mark’s ſquare, and the lower gallery on that side, with the hall under the new procuratie facing it, are called the *Broglio,* where the nobility and none elſe, at least while they are preſent, are allowed to walk. The ſquare of St Mark is the greatest ornament of the city, and hath the form of a parallelogram. In this ſquare, besides the church and palace of St Mark, are two towers, on one side of which is a curious clock; and the other has stairs so constructed that one may ride up on horſeback. Oppo­ſite to the ducal palace is the public library of the common­wealth ; containing a large collection of books and manuſcripts, with ſome fine paintings, statues, and curiosities. Hard by St Mark’s ſquare is the zecca, or mint :. from zecca the gold coin called *zecchino* takes its name. One of the ſmallest pieces of money at Venice is called *gazetta ;* and the first newſpapers published there, on a single leaf, having been sold for that a-piece, all kinds of newſpapers were from thence styled *gazettes.* The grand arſenal is two and a half Italian miles in circuit, and contains vast quantities of naval, and other warlike stores: ſome pretend that it could furnish arms for 10,000 horſe and 100,000 foot : here are the trophies of Scanderbeg and others, with the helmet of Attila, &c. The rope walk is 444 common paces in length, and the ropes and cables are valued at 2,000,000 of silver ducats. In the foundery none but braſs cannon are east ; and 100 men are generally at work in the forges. The ſalt-petre works here deserve a traveller’s notice: there is a vessel filled with wine and water four times a-day, where the workmen, though 1000 *or* more, may drink as much and as often as they pleaſe. Cloſe to the Rialto is the bank. The trade of the city at preſent is far short of what it was formerly. Their chief manufactures are cloth ; eſpecially ſcarlet, silks, gold and silver stuffs, brocades, velvets, and paper, of which, and wine, oil, fruit, ſweetmeats, anchovies, and ſeveral sorts of drugs uſed in physic and painting, the exports are still considerable. Venice has neither walls, gates, nor citadel, to defend it ; its situation ſupplying the want of all theſe. In the treaſury of relics is the protocoll, or original manuſcript, as they pretend, of St Mark’s goſpel ; it is rarely ſhown ; and the writing, by length of time, is ſo defaced, that the greatest connoisseurs in manuſcripts cannot deter­mine whether it was wrote in Greek or Latin. Besides what is properly called the city, there is a multitude of little islands lying round, which are covered with buildings, and make each of them a kind of ſeparate town ; the most considerable of which is that called *Guideca,* or the “ Jews Quarter,” which is large and populous ; with St Erotmo, St Helena. St Georgio, Chiosa, Il Lido de Palestrina, Il Lido de Malamocco, and Murano : theſe islands are a sort of fence to the city, breaking the violence of the waves. To distinguish them from others, the Jews here must wear a bit of red cloth in their hats. The gardens in this city are few and inconsiderable. In the island of Murano are made thoſe beautiful looking-glasses, and other glaſs-works, for which Venice is ſo much noted : here the family of Cornaro hath a palace, with a gallery of paintings, little short of an Italian mile in length. The salt-works in the island of Chioſa are of great benefit to the Venetians, and yield a very considerable revenue. There are ſeveral other ſmall islands about Venice besides thoſe we have mentioned ; but they are inconsiderable.

As to the government of this state, it was, as above rela­ted, at first vested in conſuls, afterwards in tribunes. About the beginning of the 8th century, a doge or duke was elec­ted, and veiled with unlimited power; but in 1171, the power of the doge was much abridged, and a council of 240 perſons, compoſed of commons as well as nobles, was ap­pointed. Soon after, under duke Marino Morosini, the present form of electing the doge was introduced. In 1295, the government became aristocratical ; the privilege of sit­ting in the great council being then confined to the nobility, in whom alone the ſupreme authority at preſent is veiled. The number of nobles amounts to about 2000. All thoſe are members of the ſenate ; but, according to their antiqui­ty, ſome are accounted more honourable than others. One claſs, and that the lowest, consists of the posterity of thoſe who, in the necessitous times of the commonwealth, purchaſed their nobility for 100,000 ducats. The nobles have the title of *Excellency ;* and wear, at least when in the city, a black furred gown reaching to their heels, with long caps and periwigs. Some of them are ſo poor, that they are fain to beg of the rich. At the head of the government is the doge, whose office was once hereditary and power abſolute ; but the former is now elective, and the latter very much circumſcribed : indeed he. is no more than a gaudy slave, loaded with fetters, which one would think could not be much the lighter for being gilt ; yet ſo much is the human heart captivated with external pomp and pageantry, that the of­fice, for the most part, is eagerly sought after : but ſhould one otherwiſe inclined be choſen, he cannot decline it, without exposing himſelf to banishment and confiſcation of his effects. Though the power of the doge is very ſmall, his state and re­tinue are very ſplendid : his title is that of *Serenity,* and his office for life : he is ſaid to be a king with regard to his robes, a senator in the council-houſe, a priſoner in the city, and a pri­vate man out of it. The yearly revenue of his office is about