

A  
SYSTEM  
OF  
MODERN GEOGRAPHY;  
OR,  
THE NATURAL AND POLITICAL  
HISTORY  
OF  
THE PRESENT STATE OF THE WORLD.

WITH NUMEROUS ENGRAVINGS.

---

BY JOHN SMITH, LL. D.

---

IN TWO VOLUMES.

BB 2123 2

VOL. II.

---

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR SHERWOOD, NEELY, AND JONES,  
PATERNOSTER-ROW;

By James Gilet, Salisbury Square, Fleet Street.

1811.



and the Ouraton. The river of La Paz bathes the rich valley of that name; that of the Rioja is enlivened by the Tiron, the Rio de Santo Domingo, the Yragua, and the Najera, that fall into the Young Ebro, which, likewise, at Calahorra receives the Zidacos, the Albama at Collera, and the Xalon at Alagon, originating near the eastern borders of this kingdom. The Tormes rises also in Old Castile, midway between Alba and Avila, and the Alberche, from Leon, crosses the southern extremity.

Besides the ordinary productions of Spain, much madder is raised in different parts of this province: but of trees a major part is entirely bare. Much corn is grown, innumerable flocks of sheep wander over its plains in winter, and graze in summer on its mountains, and its frequent herds yield abundance of butter. Of manufactures, that of cloth is unaccountably neglected; at Avila the manufacture of cotton employs 800 persons; linen is made in different towns; and paper at the monastery of El Paular. There are several glass-houses in the kingdom; and tanning is carried on to some extent. Its commerce is trivial for want of canals and good roads. The state of agriculture in the province improves, and continues to mend.

**CITIES, TOWNS.]** On the road from Alava to Madrid, the first town in Old Castile is **MIRANDA DE EBRO**, a small place beautifully situated on both sides the Ebro, over which is a noble bridge of eight arches. It stands half a league from the frontiers of Alava, five leagues S.W. of Vittoria, and is environed by mountains, on whose brow are the remains of different forts by which the approaches to it were once defended. The town was made an earldom in the fourteenth century: it is well built, has a large square, embellished by fountains, and a castle founded on a rock, which gives origin to a stream, copious enough to turn several mills in the immediate vicinage. South of the town the Sierra de Occa presents itself, and the picturesque rocks of Pancorvo, the village of which name lies nearly buried under overhanging crags. At the famous pass of Pancorvo, three leagues from Miranda, for the space of fifty feet the rocks on each side the road approximate so close at top as to be but 12 feet asunder. This is denominated the Garganta, or throat of Pancorvo. Two leagues and a half beyond, and 10 S.W. by S. of Miranda lies

**BRIBIESCA**, a small city surrounded by walls, with four corresponding gates. It is the chief town in the centre of the canton of Burena, a delightful country refreshed by many brooks and rivulets, especially the Occa, which some leagues below joins the Ebro. The banks of this river are planted with elms, chesnuts, and luxuriant orchards, and are enlivened by numerous villages, and an active culture. Bribiesca is only famous for having been the place where an assembly of the Cortes was convoked in 1388, by King John, when the title of Prince of Asturias was entailed on the eldest sons of the kings of Castile. In an adjacent valley are two capacious lakes possessed of mineral properties, called by the country people *Pozo blanco*, and *Pozo negro*, (the white and the black well). **MONASTERIO**, a village, 1½ league southward on the road, is celebrated for its cheese. This village is on the acclivity of a mountain, from whose summit the city of Burgos is distinguished at a distance of four leagues. From this mountain different springs descend, part of whose waters falling into the Ebro glides to the Mediterranean, while the other part, mixing with those of the Douro, is borne to the Western Ocean.

**BURGOS**, an archiepiscopal see, the capital of Old Castile, the residence of the inten-