

MODERN STATE

OF

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J. Fr. Bourgoing
SPAIN:

EXHIBITING

A complete View of its Topography, Government, Laws, Religion, Finances, Naval and Military Establishments; and of Society, Manners, Arts, Sciences, Agriculture, and Commerce in that Country.

BY J. FR. BOURGOING,

LATE MINISTER PLENIPOTENTIARY FROM FRANCE TO THE COURT OF MADRID.

TRANSLATED FROM THE LAST PARIS EDITION OF

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the river of Arriaza, which is crossed by a stone bridge. We afterwards pass through the villages of Puella and Armiñon; after having cleared a mountain, we have before us a league of straight and good road, constructed like a causeway, which leads us to Miranda. Half way on this road a marble column appears, the inscription on which points out the limits between the provinces of Alava and Castile; a monument perhaps too pompous for the subject.

Miranda, a small town five leagues from Vittoria, is divided by the Ebro into two unequal parts. This river, which formerly served as the south boundary of the conquests of Charlemagne as well as of the French in 1795, is one of those objects which have been magnified by the magic of history, but do not keep pace with their reputation. It is true that at Miranda the Ebro is still very near its source at the foot of the mountains of Asturias; but the Ebro, which traverses from the north-west to the south-east the greatest part of northern Spain, has been to our days almost entirely unfit for navigation. We shall see in the course of this work what has been undertaken for rendering it useful to the provinces through which it passes.

At Miranda the Ebro is crossed by a very fine bridge. We have in front a small stony hill, surmounted by a ruinous castle which does not at all embellish the arid district. Soon afterwards