



A Traveller of the 17th Century.

By Lady Verney.

SIR RALPH VERNEY, of Claydon House, Buckinghamshire, member for Aylesbury in the Long Parliament, had espoused the popular side in the first years of the civil war.

He was opposed to Archbishop Laud, and belonged to a strongly Protestant party who were yet devotedly attached to the Church of England. His refusal to sign the Covenant drove him into exile, and he spent several years on the continent.

He took his pleasures sadly, especially after his wife's death, but being an exact and methodical man of business, he bestowed as much pains upon his travelling and sight-seeing, as he had formerly given to his Parliamentary duties, and to the management of his estates in Buckinghamshire and Berkshire.

Being often consulted by other English exiles about the ways and means of making the grand tour in Italy, he made notes of his own experiences for the information of his friends.

SIR RALPH'S ITINERARY. 1653.

"From Paris to Lions you pay 5 pistolls 5 Lievres, and five Sols a pound for the Valece; the lesse you carry the better, for the smalest things will weigh heavy at that rate before yot get to Italie. At the meale before you come to Lions the messenger presents you with a Plate on the Table, if you see the French lay downe a Pistoll a peice it is to entrapp younge ones, old Birds must not bee caught with such chaffe, a crowne a piece is very faire. You will finde the Lion d'Ore a better Lodging then the Escu de France, and cheaper, heere you pay 40, at the other 50 sols a day.

From Lions you goe downe the River Rhone to Avignon, strive to procure some freinde to make the Bargaine for a Boate with those irrationale seacalves the Boatemien, who live on strangers' necessities; 6 or 8 crownes are the ordinary prises for the Boate. You may lie at Avignon either at the Louve or Mule at 40 sols the Day, both good Inns. From thence to Marselles 3 daies journey. Wee gave 13 Lievres a man with the messenger, that defrayed us

for diet and Horses. At Marselles the Inn of noate is the Mule, 40 sols a Day, and good diet. Enquire for on Mr. Danniell Codgell a Scotchman, but the English Consull, who will direct you, and Bargan for you to Canne or Nice, and strive to oblige you by his curtecies. At Cannes of two evils choose the least, and goe to the Post, where bargain for your supper, and Lodging ; its a place for a man to exercise patience in, especially amongst those troopes of Boatemen, who raise a tempest in the House, and shipwreck there consciences and your purces, before they set out, give noe more for the Board then five pistolls, and you will not have it cheaper.

Provide your selfe with meate, Wine, and Bread, for you will pay unreasonable rates for it in the marritime Townes. Besides set sentinell by turne over your viaticum or else the hungry sea men will bee your tasters. Suffer them not to hoyst upp Sale, for you pay for them rowing, and let them not lanch too fare into the sea, for feare of Pirates, and soe you goe to Genoa. Lie there at one Zaccharies ; an Englishman if you can get it cheaper then a peece of 8 a day, you doe better then your freindes before you. Hee will shew you the Towne, and make up the money in service of you ; if you are loath to part company, or dislike his as too deare, goe to the Tower, where you pay by the piece, as you shall cheapen it.

From hence in Boate to Ligorne ; enquire of Zacherie for on Franck, a fellow that speakes English, able, and honest (for one of that profession) and since the Winter is advanced, if you strike in at Lerissa, which is halfe the way, I conceive you will doe very well, therefore you must make Bargaine for your Boate accordingly. At Lerissa, if you take horse you goe to Pisa all good way. You are treated generally through all Italie thus :—for your dinner you pay 3 Lievres and at supper 4 lievres, that is lievres of Italie, 3 Lievres of Italie being as much valeu as a cardieu of France, and noe more.

At the post from Pisa to Ligorne in coach, halfe a peece of 8 a man, and noe more, you will bee there in 3 howers.

At Ligorne at Monsieur Pobit the Frenchaman's ordinary, a piece of 8 the day, but you eate well for your money. From Ligorne if you designe for Florence you goe in coach to Pisa (being noe other way to passe) where faile not to see the duke of Florence's Garden of Simples, and his gallarie of rareities of all sorts.

From Pisa to Florence in coach, perhapps for a crowne and halfe a man.

Florence a deare Towne for strangers ; you cannot bed lesse then a crowne a day, therefore goe to seign^{ra} Anna's house, who entertaines her countrymen like Princes, both for chamber and diet, and none but English that she receives. If Florence please you for the Winter, goe into Pension ; she takes ordinarily 20 crownes a month, thats according as you shall agree.

From Florence to Sienna with the Vitorino. Seign^{re} Francesco will bargain for you, who is the husband of Seign^{ra} Anna. Sienna is a cheape place to live in, and you have the convenience, either of Pension, or to provide your selfe. The last is more gentile, convenient, though somewhat troublesome, yet cheaper then the pension, which is but 10 crownes a moneth, chamber and all. The Laingage is good, but the Brave Master which was Sig^{ro} Franciosini is dead, the Italian tongue can speake noe more, or least wise very faintly, towards what it did when he was livinge.

From Sienna to Rome with the Procaccio six crownes a man for horse and diet. The Spring is best to goe thither in, because you will meete with Raines at Rome in the Winter, that last six weekes together, but when you are there, you may try pension or camera Locanda as it shall please you most.

After the Holy Weeke, goe if you please for Naples ; a noble, rich kingdome, but a bad people. The Spaniard at Naples, you will finde curteous, the Italian cloudy and jealous. Heere it is that you will see the wonders of nature, as at Florence the miracles (as I may say) of art. After you have fully satisfied your Eyes, enrich your minde, in this jorney, you may returne by Lauretto, Venice, Millan, goe over the Alpes into France ; and as I have presumed to bee your way-marke, soe you have my hearty wishes for a saife returne."

(From the Verney MSS. at Claydon House.)

