

# Of Portugal.



**P**ortugal is a Kingdom of above five hundred years Erektion, in the Western part of Spain, anciently called Lusitania, taking the present Name from Porto, a Haven-Town at the Mouth of the Dueras, where the Gauls used to Land, and therefore called *Portus Gallorum*, and since *Portugal*,

*Portugal*; or rather from *Portus* and *Cale*, then a small Village not far from it; of old *Portus Calensis*, now *Portugal*. The length of it from South to North is about six score Leagues. The breadth thereof about 25 or 30 Leagues, and in some places fifty. It is seated upon the Ocean.

The Experience of the Inhabitants in Navigation, has caused their Kings to be known in all the four Quarters of the World; where they have had many Kings their Vassals; as also the convenience of bringing into *Europe* the most rare and precious Merchandizes of the *East*. Their Conquests have extended above five thousand Leagues upon the Coast of *Brazile*, and in the *East-Indies*, their design being only Trade. It is true, that of late for several years they have not made any great Progress, or farther Advantage, by reason of their War with *Spain*, and the great Garisons which they are forced to keep against the *Hollander*, which has caused them to surrender some Places into the hands of the *English* upon the Royal Match between *Portugal* and *England*, viz. *Tangier* and *Bombay*.

The Provinces of *Portugal* have all their particular Commodities; they afford among other things store of Citrons, and excellent Oranges.

They have some Mines; for the *Greeks* and *Romans* sought in *Portugal* for that Wealth, which the *Portuguezes* search for in the *Indies*. They are so well Peopled, especially toward the Sea, that there are to be reckon'd above six hundred privileg'd Towns, and above four thousand Parishes. The *Roman Catholick* Religion only is professed there; and those that are of the Race of the *Jews*, are forc'd to baptize their Children.

There are three Archbishopricks, *Lisbon*, *Braga* and *Evora*; and ten Bishopricks; the Archbishops of *Lisbon* and *Braga*, have each of them 200000 Livres Rent. There are Inquisitions at *Lisbon*, at *Coimbra*, and at *Evora*; and Parliaments at *Lisbon* and *Porto*, places of general Receipt of the King's Revenue. Twenty seven Places have their Generalities, which are called *Comarques*, or *Almoxarifates*. The Order of *Christ* that resides at *Tomar*, is the most considerable which they have. The Kings are Grand Masters thereof; for upon that Order depends all their Conquests from abroad. The Knights wear a red Cross, and a white one in the middle, whereas the Knights of *Avis* wear a Green Cross, and those of *St. James* a Red one, who have their Residence at *Palmella* near to *Setuval*. It is said that the Revenue of the Kingdom, setting aside that of the *Indies*, amounts to above ten Millions of Livres.

