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THE CASTLE OF ST. ELMO, IN NAPLES.

THERE are three principal Fortresses in the City of Naples, known by the names of the *Castello Nuovo* (New Castle,) the *Castello dell' Uovo* (Castle of the Egg,) and the *Castello di S. Elmo* (Castle of St. Elmo). The first two are intended to protect the city from attack by sea; the third completely commands it from the land-side, and is intended rather as an instrument of power in the hands of the government to restrain the turbulent populace, than as a means of defence against external enemies.

The *Castello dell' Uovo* stands on the site of a villa which once belonged to the Roman Lucullus, and then rested on the main land. An earthquake, however, is said to have separated it, when William the First, second king of Naples, built a palace there. The present fortress communicates with the land by a mole; the rock on which it is situated resembles an egg in shape, and the castle thence derives its name. The *Castello Nuovo* is a fortress of great size and strength, adjoining the Mole, and completely protecting the harbour. It was once the residence of the kings of Naples, and it communicates, by a subterranean way, with the royal palace. It contains the arsenal, and within its first line of fortifications is a triumphal arch, erected in honour of Alphonso of Arragon.

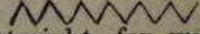
The *Castello di S. Elmo*, *S. Ermo*, or *S. Erasmo*, (by which various names it is known,) is the most remarkable of the three. It stands on a high rock to the north-west of the city, which it completely commands. The citadel was erected by Charles the Fifth, and its lofty walls and the huge fosses excavated in the rock, contrast strikingly with the smiling scenery around. It is seen in the distance in our engraving, as it appears from the commencement of the Mole, rising above the buildings of the city. Immediately in front of the view, is the *Castello Nuovo*. The remainder of the scene is curious, conveying some idea of the easy and indolent manner in which the occupations and business of life are carried on, in this luxurious and enervating climate. Our readers will perceive the exquisite regard to comfort, which is paid by the gentleman who is undergoing the operation of shaving on the beach. Even the individuals at work on the boat, are sitting at their labours. Forsyth, in his *Travels in Italy*, thus describes the appearance of the Mole on holidays, which, he says, seems an epitome of the town, and exhibits most of its humours. "Here stands a Friar preaching to a row of *lazaroni*: there Punch, the representative of the nation, holds forth to a crowd. Yonder, another orator recounts the miracles performed by a sacred wax-work, on which he rubs his *agnuses* and sells them, thus impregnated with grace, for a grain a piece. Beyond him, are Quacks in hussar uniform, exalting their drugs and brandishing their sabres, as if not content with one mode of killing. The next *professore*," (for they are all so styled,) "is a dog of knowledge, great in his own little circle of admirers. Opposite to him, stand two jocund old men, in the centre of an oval group, singing alternately to their crazy guitars. Further on, is a motley audience seated on planks, and listening to a tragi-comic *filosofo*, who reads, sings, and gesticulates, old Gothic tales of Orlando and his Paladins."

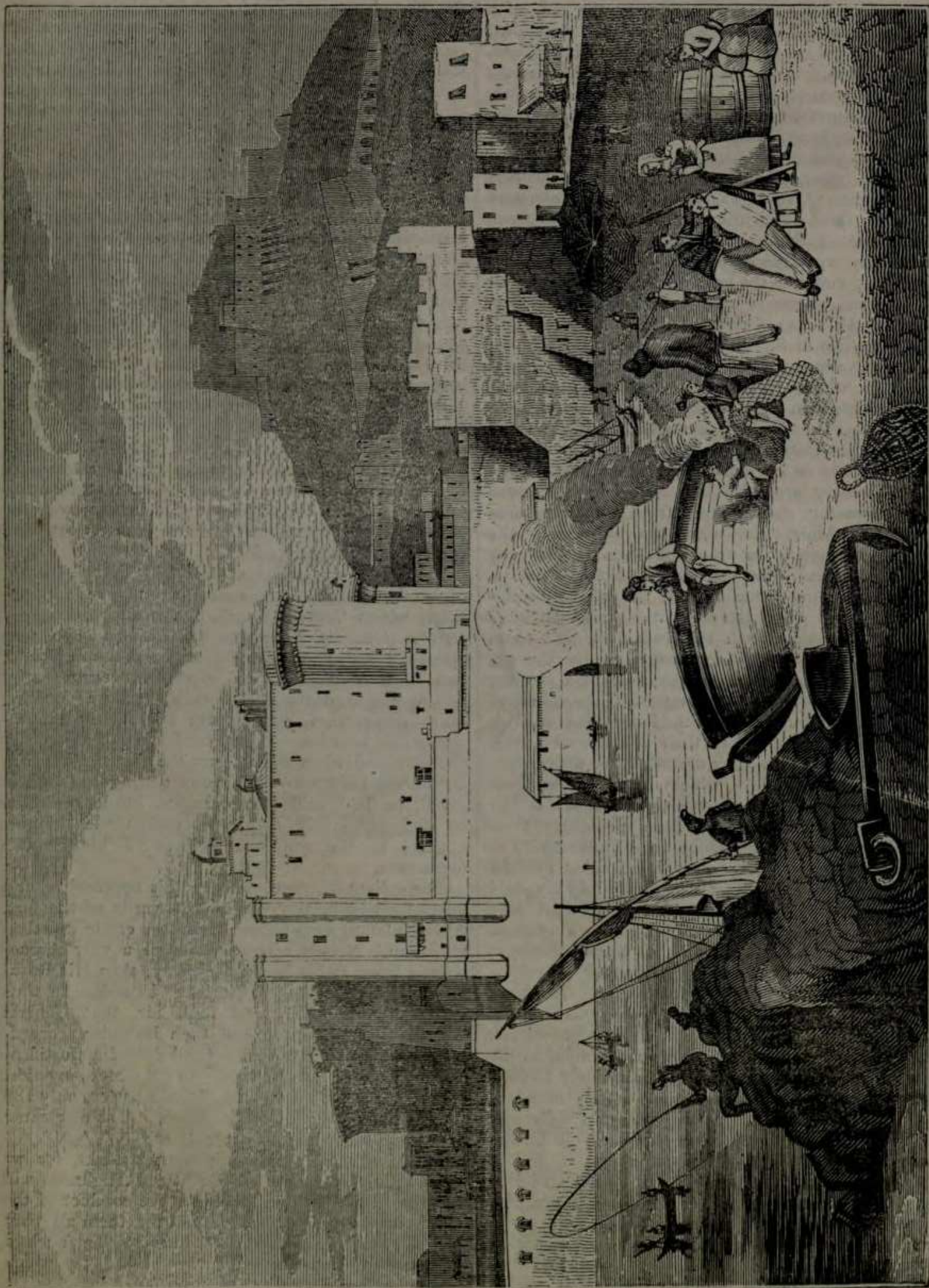
The CASTLE of St. ELMO was the scene of an interesting event towards the close of the last century, when the continued and shameless encroachments of the French Revolutionists had excited the indignation of the other powers of Europe, and Lord Nelson's splendid victory of the Nile had somewhat roused

their fallen spirit. A new coalition was the result; and the winter of 1798-9, was spent in preparations. The court of Naples, however, more sanguine and less cautious than the other confederates, was unable to restrain its impatience; and as Nelson had repaired to that city to refit his fleet, his presence increased the confidence of the government. The French were attacked in December, and compelled to quit Rome. The Neapolitan army, under the command of the Austrian General Mack, followed them, but was soon defeated and dispersed. Early in January, 1799, the French entered Naples, and publicly announced that the Neapolitan monarchy was destroyed, and a republic established in its stead, which, with that fondness for classical names which so distinguished their revolutionary æra, they styled the Parthenopean Republic. The royal family had previously escaped, having been conveyed away by Nelson, at the close of the preceding month, to Palermo.

During his stay at that port, Lord Nelson matured a plan for the blockade of Naples, and the seizure of the islands in its bay. The execution of this design was intrusted by him to his much-loved friend Captain, afterwards Sir Thomas, Troubridge, at the particular desire of their Sicilian Majesties, who, in the belief that they must be safe with so great a hero, had extorted a promise from Nelson that he himself would not leave them. Eight ships proceeded on this service, to carry into effect their admiral's instructions; and, early in April, Troubridge was in complete possession of the islands Procida, Ischia, and Capri. The invaders soon evacuated Naples, and retired to Capua, taking the precaution to leave a strong garrison in the castle of St. Elmo. To reduce this fortress was the next object; and for this purpose, Captain Troubridge landed in June with the English and Portuguese marines of the fleet, and summoned it to surrender.

The castle was manned with 800 French troops, under the command of General Mejan, a rude republican, whom Captain Troubridge summoned to surrender, but his summons not being obeyed, he opened a battery within 700 yards of the fort, and, two days afterwards, he erected a second, only 200 yards from the castle walls, and was making every preparation for a nearer approach. In proportion as he advanced, the confidence of the enemy abated; and when Mejan saw the distance between himself and his assailant's guns getting so fearfully small, he laid aside the arrogant insolence which he had previously displayed, and made humble appeals to the generous feelings of his English opponents.

The gallant seaman continued his approaches, and opened a new battery within 180 yards of the fort. A capitulation soon followed, and the castle was then given up. Nelson afterwards wrote a very characteristic letter to his present Majesty, then His Royal Highness the Duke of Clarence, in which he thus spoke of this affair. "I find, Sir, that General Koehler does not approve of such irregular proceedings as naval officers attacking and defending fortifications. We have but one idea,—to get close along-side. None but a sailor would have placed a battery only 180 yards from the Castle of St. Elmo. A soldier must have gone according to art and the  way. My brave Troubridge went straight, for we had no time to spare. Your Royal Highness will not believe that I mean to lessen the conduct of the army, I have the highest respect for them all; but General Koehler should not have written such a paragraph in his letter; it conveyed a jealousy, which I dare say is not in his disposition."



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