

17. While Gibraltar belonged to Spain, it was considered to be in the diocese of Cadiz and Algeziras, at which latter place (before its annexation to the city* of Gibraltar), it would seem from Portillo, an early Spanish writer, the bishop occasionally resided.

The Rock, however, was never honoured by this prelate's permanent abode, until within these last few years. when a bishop *in partibus* has been appointed by the see of Rome. The ecclesiastical affairs of the catholic church were conducted by a vicar, with subordinate clergymen; and being now without a diocese, having no endowment, no permanent revenue, no benefices, nor even a decent residence for a bishop, it may be doubted whether any advantage has been gained by the appointment of so high a dignitary, to an establishment so small and insignificant.

* By the *city* of Gibraltar is meant the whole district included within a circle of twenty-nine leagues in circumference.