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T R A V E L S  
THROUGH  
SEVERAL PROVINCES  
OF  
SPAIN AND PORTUGAL, &c.

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U R A V E L S

THROUGH

THE

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*Wm. Smith 1804*  
*For W. A. Cotton M.S.*

T R A V E L S

THROUGH

SEVERAL PROVINCES

O F

SPAIN AND PORTUGAL, &c.

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B Y

RICHARD CROKER, Esq.

CAPTAIN IN THE LATE 99th REGIMENT OF FOOT.

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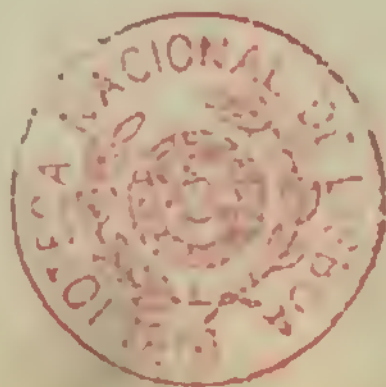
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To the Most Noble  
**JOHN JAMES HAMILTON,**  
 Marquis of **ABERCORN** in Great  
 Britain, Earl and Baron of **ABER-**  
**CORN** and Baron of **PAISLEY** in  
 Scotland; also Viscount and Baron  
**STRABANE** in Ireland, and Baron  
**MOUNTCASTLE** and **KILPATRICK**  
 and Baronet of the same King-  
 dom; and Viscount **HAMILTON** in  
 England.

**M Y L O R D,**

**I**T may seem an extraordinary  
 circumstance, that this book, pre-  
 tending to little more than the  
 amusement of an hour, should bear  
 the honor of your Lordship's name :

It



it is therefore necessary to say, that the motives, and not the merits, of the publication were the objects of your Lordship's patronage. These will be found not unworthy the acknowledged liberality of your Lordship's character.

I am, with the utmost gratitude and respect,

Your Lordship's,

Most faithful,

and obliged Servant,

R. C.

## ADVERTISEMENT.

**I**N the course of a varied life, now advanced, no circumstance has happened to the Writer of these sheets more extraordinary than that he should have become the author of a Book.

The incitements to this undertaking were forcible and urgent; and the Author has considered this publication, in some respects, a duty.

It may be necessary to add, in extenuation of their faults, that these Letters were prepared for the press in the intervals of leifuré which an  
office

office of considerable business has afforded.

If this Book answers the purposes of its publication, the author is sensible that it must be attributed to the liberal kindness of his friends, to whom he feels himself in the highest degree obliged.

Custom-house, London,  
Nov. 12, 1798.

TRAVELS



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T R A V E L S  
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SEVERAL PROVINCES  
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LETTER I.

DEAR SIR,

Hilsea Barracks,  
July 5, 1780.

I AM flattered and obliged by the desire you express of my correspondence during my absence from England, and consider it an additional proof of the friendship with which you have long been pleased to honor me.

B

Much

Much entertainment it probably will not afford you; a summer voyage to a Southern climate promises little variety of adventure. In truth, it may be considered as by no means the interest of the voyager, that his letters should produce extraordinary gratification. To adopt the phraseology of the log-book, flattering breezes and pleasant weather, though the friendly means of conveying him to the desired port, afford little amusement by the recital; whilst strong gales, with heavy squalls, lightning, and thunder, with their dreadful consequences at sea, produce a scene of confusion and distress, that affords to the pen of Description the means of gratifying the curiosity, and interesting the feelings of the reader. These



means of gratification are most dearly purchased by the anxiety and sense of danger to which the miserable passenger is exposed. To-morrow we embark; but are first to be reviewed by general Monkton.

Our appearance, according to the times, will not discredit us. We have no reason to feel concern at our departure from Hilsea-Barracks: these are, through situation, unhealthy, without comfort or convenience; the vicinity of Portsmouth renders it difficult to procure the necessary articles of living. I have not experienced in England so disagreeable a situation.

I feel an indifference as to the chance of climate, and future events,



which may, perhaps, be justly considered the soldier's best security; but this indifference is as to myself only.

The welfare of my family and friends, that I leave behind, is the object of my most anxious concern. That they may long enjoy every blessing is the most fervent wish of,

Dear Sir,

Your most affectionate friend,

R. C.

LET-

## L E T T E R II.

DEAR SIR,

Ship Morant,  
St. Helen's, July 7, 1780.

THE regiment yesterday embarked from Portsmouth, as the Newspapers say, in high spirits, after having been inspected, and approved, by the Reviewing General. The Lieutenant Colonel's company, and mine, are on board The Morant, a large Jamaica Merchant Ship.

By the generous politeness of the Committee of Jamaica Merchants, and the great attention of Mr. Allen, their Secretary, all kinds of provisions and liquors have been laid-in for the officers in great abundance; so that,



in the military phrase, we have nothing to do but to hang up our hats.

Our destination is for Jamaica: the regiment has been raised for the immediate service and defence of that Island, at a very great expence to the planters and merchants, which, I hope, and doubt not, will be amply repaid by the attachment and services of the corps.

The ship is roomy; neither officers nor privates are crowded, and we have a prospect of a healthy and pleasant voyage. We are now busied in forming regulations to preserve health and good order among our people during the voyage. These are at all times necessary, but more especially



especially so when we are destined for Southern climates: the influence of these regions, baneful to the natives of Europe, too often baffles all precautions, and thins the ranks by disease and death; but, when these are neglected, safety is hopeless.

Our departure is now to be wished, and there is reason to believe, that it will not long be delayed.

I have this moment received notice, that it will be necessary for me to proceed to London to-morrow.— This is an unpleasant occurrence.— My mind was made up to my situation, and I had transferred my views and prospects to the other side of the Atlantic. But I must submit; my

stay, I trust, will be short; at my  
return to the ship you shall hear from  
me: in the mean time, believe me,  
most faithfully,

Yours, &c.

R. C.

LET-

## L E T T E R III.

DEAR SIR,

Ship Morant,  
British Channel, July 27, 1780.

**I** RETURNED to The Morant from my London excursion on the thirteenth. Since that time nothing has happened worth your notice. What time could be spared from the necessary attention to duty has been spent in the little amusements within our reach. We have visited the Isle of Wight more than once; but always returned to the ship in the evening. Thus have passed our days, until this morning, when the firing of a gun, and the loosened fore-top-sail of the Commodore's ship, announced



nounced our speedy departure: in a moment every thing was bustle and exertion. At seven o'clock we were under sail, with a very large fleet, consisting of five East India ships, the trade for the Mediterranean, ordnance store-ships, and transports with troops for the West India islands, under convoy of The Buffalo and Inflexible men of war; Thetis, Southampton, and Alarm, frigates.

The morning has been remarkably fine. The appearance of an hundred and fifty sail of ships getting under weigh; the modulated voices of the seamen, as they laboured at the windles—the casual sight of our friends on board other ships, as they passed—the beauty of the land prospects

spects around us, all conspired to render this scene various and amusing beyond description.

A gentleman and lady, with a female attendant, came on board this morning, as passengers to Jamaica. Their appearance and manners promise an agreeable addition to our party.

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29th, off Plymouth.

WE have had a most pleasant passage down Channel. The sea has been so smooth that our fair passengers have not yet experienced the least inconvenience. Yesterday morning the Commodore made the Southampton's signal to chase a small schooner, which  
proved



proved to be a French privateer. She attempted to escape by running in shore near Dungeness, when a shot from the frigate sunk her; the people were saved. The fleet came to off this port at noon; and The Ramillies, Capt. Moutray, who commands the fleet, has just now joined us. The signal is made again to make sail. An opportunity offers of sending this letter on shore, which, if delayed a minute, will be lost. Adieu.

R. C.

LET-



## LETTER IV.

DEAR SIR,

Ship Morant, at Sea,  
August 4, 1780.

WE have had constant fine weather, and favourable winds, so that it has been scarcely necessary to alter a fail. The East India ships sail so heavily, that the whole fleet have been obliged to bring-to, and wait for them some hours every night. This has considerably retarded the progress of our voyage. The provision for the soldiers is in general tolerably good; but the beer, that was taken on board at Portsmouth, is execrable—this is more unfortunate; as we find that, the ship being partly laden on account of the merchants, the beer and water together

gether are but sufficient; and, if the beer was started, as has been proposed, and any circumstances should happen to prevent our putting into Madeira, we shall be in danger of wanting water. This unlucky matter has given us serious concern for the lives and health of our people. Articles of provision in a bad state are the seeds of those diseases, by which our seamen, but oftner our soldiers, perish. The avarice of the contractor destroys by ten thousands; the sword and climate, by thousands only.

The four crout, sent on board for the preservation of the health of the soldier, is so extremely putrid, that we are under the necessity of throw-

ing



ing it overboard on the cask being opened. Every means of securing cleanliness and free air are adopted. The soldiers are daily exercised with the ship's guns. This, it is to be hoped, will keep the scurvy at a distance.— Nothing is so inimical to health in long voyages and Southern climates, as the total inactivity of mind and body, into which the landsman, of necessity, falls, for want of employ. The heat enervates him, and every day the malady increases, until it becomes the source of that dreadful disease, the Sea-scurvy, which puts on various appearances, and is terrible in all. In the voyage of Lord Anson, nearly the whole of the landsmen, and a great proportion of seamen, perished by this disorder. A strong  
proof



proof, that the seat of this disease is the mind, is the suddenness of the cure, as circumstances change: on entering a harbour, or even approaching the land, an almost instantaneous recovery takes place; and what is effected by the powers of the imagination is ascribed to the virtues of a handful of herbs, or the salubrity of the land-air. As the disease of the mind is cured, the body instantly shews the effects.

The Asiatick, on the contrary, who, in the degree of heat natural to him, exerts activity unknown to the inhabitants of a Northern climate, on approaching our wintery world, feels every nerve frozen, his blood thickens, his faculties become torpid—

torpid—he resigns himself to despair—and dies without the appearance or symptoms of disease.

Providence seems to have formed every man and animal with a constitution and disposition adapted to the climate in which he was destined to dwell—Man only counteracts the designs of his Creator.

We were yesterday witnesses to the melancholy solemnity of the funeral of the Captain of The Inflexible man of war—minute guns were fired from all the ships of war and those in the service of government, and every naval and military honor paid.

C

We



We fell-in with the British Channel Fleet this day at noon—and proceed under their protection—the presence of so fine a Fleet gives security and spirits to every one. We cannot expect that they will long remain with us—and as little notice is given of separation, I shall prepare my letter for their conveyance, by subscribing myself,

Your most affectionate Friend,

R. C.

LET-



## LETTER V.

DEAR SIR,

On Board the Burgogne French Man  
of War, at Sea, August 12, 1780.

IF instances of the *varium et mutabile* attached to the military life were wanting, this that I now announce to you might be considered as no common circumstance. When I wrote my last letter we were under the protection of the grand British Fleet, proceeding with favorable winds towards our desired port, and had reason to hope that we were in little danger from the enemy. At the time of writing this, we are prisoners on board a French man of war, our future fate and fortune most uncertain; but I will set down

in order the circumstances of this sudden change, which will probably bring more variety into my Narrative, than I had either promised or intended.

The next day after the date of my last letter the British Fleet left us to pursue our way; taking with them The Inflexible and Buffalo men of war, and Alarm frigate, part of our convoy. On the 7th we met with the Lisbon Fleet, bound to England, under the convoy of Commodore Johnstone; the eighth was spent quietly as usual; our new colours, being planted on the quarter-deck, made a gay appearance; about nine in the evening we brought-to for the heavy-sailing ships to come up—and



at one in the morning, by signal from the commodore, made sail and proceeded—at day-break one of the servants came into the cabin, and reported that there were many ships in sight, that made signals by rockets and fires.

I immediately suspected the worst, and was soon on deck—our people got under arms, and prepared for defence; but, as the day advanced, resistance was found to be vain, as we were surrounded by the combined Fleet of France and Spain.

At this time I was particularly struck with the masterly and gallant manner, in which The Ramillies effected her retreat—she appeared to

be surrounded by the ships of the enemy, on which, as she passed them, she kept up a continual fire from both sides of the ship. It was now good day-light, when we found ourselves within gun-shot of two of the enemy's line of battle ships. The master of our vessel earnestly desired us to make no resistance, and to strike immediately; which we certainly should have had no objection to do, as there appeared no possibility of escape, but we had not as yet disposed of the colours of his Majesty's Regiment—as soon as this was effected, we surrendered. By this time the ship had been struck by several shot; by one of which, a Serjeant's wife of the regiment was unfortunately killed, whilst she lay in her hammock;



hammock; a boat soon came to take possession from The Burgogne, a French seventy-four gun ship, to which we had struck, and we had the mortification to see a French sentry posted at the door of the cabin. The Lieutenant Colonel was taken on board The Burgogne, and I had but a short time to consider what was best to be done. My first want was that of a servant, which was soon supplied by the recommendation of one of my Serjeants—to this servant I delivered the whole of my baggage.

I then dressed myself in a new suit of regimentals, determined to be introduced to my chance acquaintance with the best advantage.

Our lady passenger and her fair attendant gave themselves up to tears and affliction. The best was to be hoped for them. I introduced them to the French officer, who commanded the ship—he was civil, though not of the most prepossessing appearance or manners—he promised, that every possible attention should be paid to their safety and convenience; which promise, I have the pleasure to hear, has been faithfully performed.

It was now ten o'clock; much had been done in the course of a short time. When notice was given me that my company was expected on board the man of war, I was soon along-side, and, ascending the ship's  
side,



side, met with an unexpected acquaintance—a man in the uniform of a French marine, on seeing me, exclaimed, *Oh, mon Capitaine!*—I instantly recognized him—and his story is this.

Some years since, when I was on the recruiting service in Cornwall, three stout Frenchmen landed at Falmouth from a Lisbon Packet.

Those men were of that order, which is known in the army by the name of *Grand Tour Men*. This description of people exists only in the restless and volatile genius of the French nation. A Grand Tour Man passes through the services of the different Princes of Europe, enlisting and deserting as convenience or  
whim

whim directs. Those men were at the end of their resources, and obliged to beg—the war with France not having at that time commenced, a gentleman observed to me, that, as far as figure went, they would not be bad recruits—after having consulted Colonel Townsend on the subject, I received them by his direction. Of these Mr. Pistoneau, the gentleman to whom I introduce you, was one—he marched with me to Chatham Barracks, and was soon after drafted into the fifty-eighth regiment at Gibraltar. His manners and conduct were exemplary, whilst he was under my command. Gibraltar was too confined a field for the genius of Mr. Pistoneau; having staid there some time, he dressed himself



himself in the clothes of an officer, made free with his horse, and presented himself in the Spanish camp at St. Roque; here he was not long easy, again changed his situation, and became a marine on board the *Burgogne*.

I was introduced by Lieutenant Colonel B. to Monsieur le Brigadier Marin, the Captain of the ship; who received me with great politeness. My sword was offered and returned with the old observation on the fortune of war—and, in the present melioration of European warfare, the bitterness of captivity seemed to be nearly past. We sat down to an early dinner, at a table covered with a profusion of meat of various kinds.

A large

A large company were present, consisting of all the officers of the ship, the British Military, and the chaplain, a friar, who, in his appearance, is nearer to my idea of Father Paul in the Duenna, than any of his representatives that I have seen.

But I cannot resist the inclination that I feel to introduce to you Monsieur le Brigadier Marin—conceive the figure of a round old man of five feet, dressed in a blue camblet coat, &c. &c. the whole of which would really be a bad bargain to a Jew at half a crown—his wig was of that order denominated, in an English country town, *a cut wig*; his hat and shoes were from age and circumstances of a whitish colour, and



and his linen marvelously black—such were the dress and appearance of Monsieur le Brigadier—and his officers were little better dressed than himself. In our situation, after having secured a dinner, it was prudent to endeavour to provide a bed, and in the crowded state of the ship this did not seem to be an easy acquisition. We hoped, and rather expected, that the politeness of the officers of the Ship would have induced them to afford us cabins; but the evening approaching, and no symptom of that sort having appeared, it became necessary to come to an explanation. This we have done by the means of a Swiss Gentleman, a lieutenant of our regiment, who has been of great use to us as an interpreter—the

answer

answer we received was, that there was an apartment for all the English; as these consisted of masters and mates of Ships, and passengers of various descriptions, the assortment pleased us not.

After some negotiation, permission was granted, with no very good grace, to the Lieutenant Colonel and myself, to place mattrasses on a bench in the grand chamber or upper cabin—there we have been 'for two nights without a possibility of taking rest, from the never-ceasing conversation of the French officers—fortunately on the evening of the tenth my servant came on board with my baggage—or my situation would have been more unpleasant than it is.

Notice



Notice is this moment sent, that the prizes are about to separate from the Fleet, and that an opportunity presents of sending letters.

Remember your Friend in captivity, and believe me sincerely,

Yours, &c.

R. C.

LET-

## L E T T E R IV.

DEAR SIR,

Burgogne, at Sea,  
August 17, 1780.

I SHALL continue to write as circumstances happen, although there is at present no great probability of my letters reaching you soon. Of our unfortunate fleet, consisting of about seventy sail, one ship, the British Queen, from London to Jamaica, escaped, with some few vessels of lesser description; never surely was surprize so complete: it can only be accounted for, by the Commodore's reliance on the intelligence he had received, that the Combined Fleets were in the harbour of Cadiz. On  
the



the first day of August: the intelligence was true, but they failed on the second day of that month.

To-day we have heard with pleasure the account, that El Rayo, a Spanish eighty-gun ship, considered an excellent sailer, and two French line of battle ships, that were detached in pursuit of the men of war of our convoy, have returned without success. The officers of this ship tell us, that the Spanish ship came near the Ramillies; but, on her shortening sail and preparing to engage, the Spaniard left her. The French lose no opportunity of depreciating the conduct and character of their ally.

D

The

The combined fleets now consist of thirty-two sail of the line, and several frigates; of these two are Spanish three-deckers, one of which, the Santissima Trinidad, mounts one hundred and thirty guns, and is the largest ship in Europe.

The Burgogne was of the fleet that last year alarmed us in the British Channel. We are assured, that this ship lost four hundred men by sickness during that cruize, and that the other ships of the fleet were in no better condition.

The combined fleets sail in three divisions, and would not be an unpleasant spectacle, were we in other circumstances.—Take now the account



count of our manner of living on board.

We get up rather early, and meet at breakfast about eight—this consists of tea and coffee; bread and butter; sometimes one of the officers of the ship takes a cup of tea with us, but this happens rarely. Breakfast is to a Frenchman a solitary meal—he takes his bread and grapes, sometimes wine, strolling about—at eleven, by the sound of a small bell, we descend to the *grand chambre*, or lower cabin, where is provided a great variety of meats, of which large but not select pieces of roasted beef always make a part. All, except the British officers, drink a species of Spanish wine, called Benecarlo, well known in England,

as it is usually brought there for the purpose of brewing Port. For us the Brigadier produces some bottles of *Vin de Bourdeaux*, and also a very pleasant white wine of Provence, the produce of a vineyard on his own estate.

As no wine is taken after dinner, and we generally rise before the meat is removed, it is necessary to make good use of our time. Coffee is immediately served in the *chambre de conseil*, and sometimes *liqueurs*. Parties are then formed and whist, picquet, backgamon, and other games, fill up the time until five, when the bell again summons, and another meal, equal in quantity and variety to the former, succeeds. After this,  
nothing



nothing is left but walking the deck, or conversation, as the lights which are produced admit not of reading or writing—they consist of two lamps only in the *grand chambre*, so that most of us are inclined to retire early.

I have, with some difficulty, carried two points of some consequence to my convenience.

The first related to my servant, whom I found on the deck, the morning after he had been brought on board, in most woeful plight; his bed had been the boards of the deck, and some Frenchmen, in the night, had plundered his pockets, and stolen his hat. Enquiry and remonstrance were on this occasion equally vain; a leather cap was found

for him, but that was also missing the next morning. As his head appeared to be in some danger, I applied to Monsieur Marin for his admittance into the cabin, to attend me, and succeeded : he was also taken into the steward's mess, generally not the worst in the ship.

The other matter concerned our lodging in the *chambre de conseil*; which, however unpleasant to us, it seems, was not less so to the officers of the ship; and, after the manner of the French, we were very politely advised, for our own convenience, to go below; but, as the former objection still continued, no notice was taken of this hint, though sufficiently intelligible.

One



One of the lieutenants, the only person of the ship who spoke English, was therefore sent to me, to ask what objection I had to sleep below with my countrymen, as he phrased it. This brought on a conversation, in which he thought proper to question me, whether I recollected the situation in which I was on board that ship, and what measures I intended to take, if our going below should be insisted on? To the first, I answered, that, if I had been inclined to forget for a moment that I was a prisoner, his behaviour would compel me to recollect it. To the second, that I had no doubt of obtaining the Brigadier's permission to sleep on the deck, which I had determined to do, rather than to go below. Had I been

taken at my word, it would have been an aukward circumstance; but the matter took a more favourable turn, the carpenter received orders to fit cots, to hang in the *grand chambre*, not only for us, but for all the British officers; and the affair ended to our satisfaction.

Pistoneau, my recruit, has shewn great attachment and gratitude. As he superintends the management of the poultry, he has offered me any that I may have occasion for. As his friendship can be of no use to me, I have rendered it serviceable to the master and mate of our late ship, who have been treated but indifferently. I mention this as an instance



stance that even a Grand Tour Man may possess good qualities.

On board are two companies of the French regiment de Bassigny, or thirty third, acting as marines. The officers are gentlemanlike men; the soldiers stout, clean, and well appointed.

I had been amusing myself this morning with the sight of a vast number of bonitos, a large fish, frequent in those seas, which accompanied and played round the ship. Some of the sailors endeavoured to strike them with spears, but without success, when an alarm was given that a man was overboard. Our first question was, "Is he an Englishman?"

man?" All ran to the stern gallery, where we saw a poor Frenchman struggling with his fate. All efforts were made to save him, but in vain.

We continue to cruize off Cape St. Vincent, making the land of the Cape every evening. On a hill stands a convent, in a very pleasant, but solitary, situation. The country seems to be sandy and thinly inhabited.

Some of our young men complain of the dulness and want of novelty in their situation. To one of these, cursing his fate, the Swiss lieutenant that I have already mentioned made an observation that pleased me. This gentleman has been very many years a subaltern officer, and, of course,

*multa*



*multa miserrima vidit.* In this, perhaps best school, he has learned patience and prudence. "Ah!" said he, "of what do you complain? You have every thing that you want, and nothing to pay: I wish that it was my fate always to live thus."

My letters, I fear, are too long. I forget that, though I have little else to do but to write, you have many better avocations than to read such letters as these of

Your assured Friend,

R. C.

LET-

## LETTER VII.

DEAR SIR,

Burgogne, at Sea,  
August 21, 1780.

HAVING walked on the quarter-deck for some time this afternoon with Monsieur le Brigadier Marin, amidst various groups of sailors, soldiers, &c. &c. some employed at cards, some eating their messes of beans and oil, and others in less respectable modes, so as to impede the passage along the deck of this very large ship; not one individual shewing any mark of respect or attention to the Captain; I was naturally led to consider the difference of internal management and discipline observed on board a British and French ship of war.



war. This difference seems more extraordinary, as it is contradictory to the genius and government of each respective Nation.

The British system of government is mild and free; yet, on board a British ship of war, the strictest discipline prevails. Every rank has its distance; and subordination is exactly preserved. The Captain, the Lieutenants, the Midshipmen, and Warrant Officers, all feel their consequence and superiority. Every Officer, Petty-officer, Seaman, and Marine, has his allotted post and duty. No useless hand impedes or discourages the general union and service. The plan is so perfect, that the least deviation from it discovers itself, and is immediately

mediately corrected. The Captain's table is almost always hospitable; his officers are his frequent guests, by invitation; improper familiarities are sedulously discouraged; every individual seems to know his proper post, and to maintain it.

The French government approaches to despotism; and has been found, in some instances, severe: but on-board a French ship there is not even the appearance of discipline or order; every man follows his own invention in his own way. As these ships are more numerously manned than British ships of equal rate, the mischief is increased in proportion.

After



After the deduction of about half the number of the crew, as sailors, marines, and cannoniers (a very useful order of men on board ships of war, and an improvement well worth the attention of the British Admiralty), the remainder are a mere rabble, food for powder, useful only *fabas consumere*.

To this want of necessary order it is owing, that a landsman sent on board a French ship of war seldom becomes a seaman. To the consequent abundance of useless hands may be ascribed the great disproportion of killed and wounded in actions between ships of equal force; and that, invariably, against the French. All ranks of officers seem to be  
 thrown

thrown together. The Captain receives an allowance to support a table, where all officers, from the Captain to the Midshipman, live together. This induces a degree of familiarity by no means favorable to the discipline of their navy. I am told, that the allowance of the Captain is extended to officers that happen to be taken and continue prisoners on board his ship. This is liberal.—In the explanation of signals, certainly of great consequence on board all ships of war, but particularly difficult in the French navy from their infinitely various and complex nature, *la Jeunesse*, the Captain's boy, is generally the first to give an opinion; and his opinion seems to have more weight than that of any other person in the ship.



ship. To this contrasted conduct we owe, in no small degree, the pre-eminence and superiority of the British navy.

To the method of manning ships by pressing, much is also due. I am convinced that it would be impossible to form an adequate number of seamen for the service of the navy by any other means. When the ship of the merchant has performed her voyage, the crew are taken into the navy. The merchant must find other men, before his ship can again proceed to sea. From the necessity of the case, the number of apprentices is greatly increased; young and active men, encouraged by the bounty and wages that are

E                      offered,

offered, leave the plough and the loom, to brave the ocean and its dangers. The ships of the merchant are so thinly manned in time of war, that landsmen must render themselves useful; consequently soon become, in some degree, seamen: these, in their turn, are removed to the navy, where discipline and example finish what the necessity of the merchant service had begun. By these means a new race of seamen is continually brought forward; and the longer the war lasts, the greater number of this useful body of men is formed for the public service. I am aware that this practice has been considered as bearing hard on the feelings of individuals; nor can the harshness of the measure be justified,

4

but



but from the necessity of war, in the present state of Europe, as the means of self-defence; but, placing for a moment the *Res publica* out of the question; it must be allowed, that seamen of necessity get their living on board ships, that their provisions are better, and more liberally supplied, in the king's service, than in that of the merchant; their labours and hardships are less severe, and their profits, taking in the chance of prize money, perhaps, not very unequal; that, to give an option to these habitually inconsiderate men is putting a dangerous weapon into their hands, which generally turns against themselves. Abuses certainly exist in the management of this service;

but to object, is easier than to remedy.

I have to-day, with Monsieur le Brigadier, visited this ship between decks; a very considerable part of it appears to be adapted to culinary purposes. It is astonishing what attention is here paid to the article of eating. Every kind of viand is provided for the *grand chambre*; even veal, pigeons, and rabbits—soft bread is baked twice in a week; and, as I am told, served to all the ship's company. It has been observed, that Englishmen take more animal food than Frenchmen; the contrary is so evident here, that it is our general opinion, that, taking the messes together, the French exceed us, in that particular,



particular, in the proportion of three to one at least.

The allowance of salted provision to the ship's company is very small. Dried French beans, or caravances, stewed and mixed with oil, highly seasoned with garlick—these, with bread, make the chief part of their diet.

We still continue to cruize off the Cape of St. Vincent, in good health and tolerable spirits; and I remain,

Your most faithful,

R. C.

E 3

LET-

## L E T T E R VIII.

DEAR SIR,

Burgogne, at Sea,  
August 23, 1780,

OUR cruize, there is reason to believe, draws near its period. To-day I took the liberty to ask Monsieur Marin his opinion on this subject. His answer was nearly this, "Our fresh provisions will last until the end of the next week : Few ships of the fleet are better provided in that respect than the Burgogne. I think that about that time we may enter a port." This morning a turtle was discovered floating, asleep on the water : a boat being put over, it was taken, and brought on board. It was of the Hawks-bill kind, and weighed about

fifty



fifty pounds. This species is not considered very good meat, and, when served at dinner, proved of a disagreeable fishy taste, and was not highly commended. The Hawksbill turtle is common in these and the Mediterranean seas. I had never eaten of it before. The green turtle is so much superior in delicacy, that in the West India Islands this kind is rarely used.

We have gone through a ceremony which we did not expect. Monsieur Marin, after having thrown out some hints of a suspicion that the colours and military chest of the regiment were concealed on board the ship, declared a necessity of examining the baggage of the British officers. This

has been done : but neither colours nor military chest have been found. In the conduct of this business some amusement was discovered at my expence. The Serjeant Major of the regiment had desired, at the time of our being taken, that I would permit my name to be placed on a chest belonging to him, as he hoped that it might be the means of securing it from plunder : this I willingly consented to, and had really forgotten the circumstance, when a chest of a most unwieldy bulk and appearance was brought on the quarter-deck in my name. Nothing had yet been seen so well calculated for the security of public or private property ; it was therefore fairly to be supposed that the booty was there. With much difficulty



ficulty it was opened, and its contents examined, when there appeared a great variety of gowns, petticoats, and other articles of female apparel. This was considered by the Frenchmen as a very good joke, and afforded much entertainment.

We have contrived to lose the little cash we brought on board, to the officers of the ship, who are greatly superior to us in games of skill. The knowledge of these games form a part of their education; and the practice, no inconsiderable portion of their ways and means. I mean not a reflection; a person in the habit of play, cool, temperate, and skilful, must succeed when opposed to a casual adventurer. A French officer

officer seldom declines high play, at any game, either of skill or chance.

My next letter will probably be from Cadiz, which is supposed to be the destination of the fleet.

Believe me truly yours,

R. C.

LET-



## L E T T E R IX,

DEAR SIR,

Burgogne, Harbour of Cadiz,  
31st of August, 1780.

ACCORDING to the prediction of Monsieur le Brigadier Marin, the fleets bore away on the twenty-sixth, and we that day took our leave of Cape St. Vincent. During the time of their cruize in that latitude the combined fleets made two prizes only, both brigantines bound to Gibraltar.

On the 29th, the fleets entered the harbour of Cadiz ; in the bay lie the remains of two Spanish ships of the line, which were taken in the action between Sir George Rodney and Admiral

miral

miral Langara, afterwards driven on shore in a gale of wind, and lost. This is a capacious harbour. The entrance is narrow, and well guarded by forts and batteries. Above it stands the city of Cadiz, the emporium of the Spanish trade in Europe. Its walls and towers make an appearance of great strength; but unluckily we are obliged to submit to the mortification of viewing them at a distance, as the Conde O'Reilly, Captain General of Andalusia and Governor of Cadiz, has directed that no British officer from the combined fleet shall land on the island, or enter the city of Cadiz. Some of our folks have waited on Admiral Don Juan Cordova, to desire his permission to land at Cadiz: they were politely received, and



and assured by the Admiral that it was not his wish to detain them on board the ships; that his command extended no farther than to the fleet; he consequently had no other power but that of recommending the measure, which he would immediately do.

There has been also a report, that the British officers will be sent to Gibraltar, on their parole; but this deserves little attention: there is great reason to believe, that the Governor of that fortress would not receive them on that condition; idle hands being neither desirable nor useful in a besieged garrison. We hope better things. We, however, feel, in some respects, the advantage of the vicinity  
of

of Cadiz : the table, in addition to its usual plenty, is supplied with excellent fish and very good fruit. As soon as the ship was at anchor, boats came alongside with grapes in hampers for sale ; but these were not admitted to be brought on board the ship ; probably from experience that the use of them affects the health of the people : by special permission a hamper was purchased for us, the price a *pesetta*, about ten pence. These grapes were white, and very excellent. The hour of dining on board is changed from eleven to two. This gives to the officers of the ship and troops the opportunity of going on shore and returning to dinner—most of them do this daily. Very unlike the customs of British officers  
in



in similar circumstances ; who, when once landed at Cadiz, would not have again seen the inside of the ship, unless their duty required their presence on board, or the state of their finances would not admit of their continuance on shore. The Frenchman, on the contrary, dresses, parades the streets, visits the coffee-houses, and returns on board ; his whole expence, probably, not more than six pence. It remains to be accounted for, why the levity of a Frenchman is seldom discovered where his purse is concerned : of an Englishman, more frequently in that respect than in any other.

We have received several visits from brother-officers on board other ships.

ships. From their universal testimony it is but justice to declare, that the Spanish and French officers have conducted themselves in the most civil and attentive manner towards the officers, prisoners on board their respective ships.

To the women their behaviour has been in the highest degree praiseworthy. These were all suffered to remain on board the ships taken by the French, in the protection of their husbands, fathers, or any other relative; and this without distinction, whether officer, soldier, or passenger. The Spaniards received them on board their ships, and treated them with the utmost kindness and respect. The excellent conduct of Don Juan Moreno,





been ascribed to a sense of gratitude on account of the generous manner in which their prisoners, taken by Sir George Rodney were treated on board the ships of his squadron, and afterwards at Gibraltar. This may, and without doubt ought to have had its proper effect—but, whatever may have been its cause, or from whatever motive it proceeded, the benevolent and liberal conduct of the Spaniards in general is intitled to the highest commendation.

I have just been told, that orders have been received on board, from the Admiral, to land the British officers at Port St. Mary's.

This



This promise of a new scene has given us new spirits and expectations; for, however, well received, or well-treated on board The Burgogne, we shall certainly leave the ship without reluctance. I am sorry that the ill humour of the Conde O'Reilly has prevented me from giving you an account of Cadiz: but in our present situation we cannot have exactly our own way.

With respects to our friends I remain, whether at sea or on shore,

Yours most faithfully,

R. C.

## L E T T E R X.

DEAR SIR,

Arcos de la Frontera,  
September 8, 1780.

CONGRATULATE me on having again found rest for the sole of my foot. We arrived at this city on the fifth of this month, the end of our journey, and probably the place of our residence for a season.

We landed at Puerto de Santa Maria, Port St. Mary's, early in the morning of the 31st of August. Every mark of civility and attention was shewn to us at our departure from The Burgogne by Monsieur le Brigadier Marin and his officers. Endeavours were used to persuade us,  
that



that we were not to expect the same polite treatment from the Spaniards that we had received from them ; it was even hinted, that our arms and baggage would probably be taken from us ; but, as we had by this time learned on all hands the friendly disposition of the Spaniards towards us, these hints gave us little concern.

Our baggage was sent on shore with us, except some trifling articles that had been presented to our entertainers. One of the Lieutenants received a fuzee from me, which he seemed to like, with many acknowledgements of obligation. Our servants were also permitted to attend us, which we rather wished than expected to happen. Farewel, Burgogne.

gogne. By the bye, this ship had been built more than forty years; and, if the British fleet had overtaken them, as for some time we sincerely believed, that they would do, she would probably have proved our grave, her condition being such that little hope of her out-living an action could reasonably be entertained. Immediately on our landing we were conducted to the Posada or inn, where most of the British officers from the fleets had already assembled. Soon after Major Butler, nephew of the Conde O'Reilly, arrived, for the purpose of receiving our paroles. Mr. Butler is an Irishman, a Major of dragoons in the Spanish service, and Aid de Camp to the Governor General of Andalusia. All things seemed to proceed



proceed with great cordiality, when it was discovered that a sentry had been unluckily placed at the door of the Pofada. At this breach of military etiquette offence was taken, and your friend Captain M. was the first to declare that he would not sign his parole until the sentry was removed, and an apology made. This Major Butler seemed not disposed to do, though, in other respects, he behaved with polite attention; and there appeared no method of making amends for having placed the sentry at the door of the Pofada, but by sending us to prison. However, after some time spent in argument, Major Butler declared, that the sentry had been placed for the purpose of restraining impertinent curiosity only.

This was very properly considered a sufficient apology; the paroles were signed, the sentry removed, and the matter ended.

This point had scarcely been adjusted when a new difficulty occurred: the Surgeon of the regiment having come forward to sign his parole, was informed; that in the Spanish service a Surgeon was not considered in the rank of a gentleman, and of consequence his parole could not be received. This was a severe stroke to the pride of a North Briton, who had taken the degree of Doctor of Physick. The Doctor remonstrated, and with no small vehemence urged his pretensions, but in vain, until Captain M. who had by this time re-

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covered



covered his usual pleasantry and good humour, exclaimed, " Doctor, retire, and let us fight the battle for you, your appearance is against your argument." This *jeu d'esprit* caused a hearty laugh; and, after some farther conversation, the Doctor's claim was allowed. The Major introduced a greyheaded Irish ensign in the Spanish service, a Mr. Malony, to be our guide and interpreter; and, after having acquainted us that carriages would be ready at nine o'clock the next morning to proceed on our journey, took his leave. Dinner now became an object of consideration; with some difficulty the half of a cold turkey was procured; which furnished a slender meal for half a dozen of us. We had, however,  
luckily

luckily something in expectation : it being Sunday, a bull-feast was to be exhibited, and at half after three we adjourned to the Placa de Toro. The entertainment had already begun. This placa is a large square with boxes six stories high. These were filled with ladies and gentlemen of good appearance and gaily dressed, who seemed highly delighted with the shew, and expressed their approbation by clapping their hands, and other marks of applause : but whether it is that the bull-feasts at Puerto de Santa Maria are comparatively of less consequence than those held at Madrid, Cadiz, or Seville—whether the bulls are less fierce, or the cavaleros less active and enterprising—or whether the accounts which I have  
read



read of these famous exploits have been raised into consequence by the pen of the traveller—I know not; certain it is that this combat did not answer my expectation. The bulls were neither formidable in their appearance nor in their mode of attack; they were teized and tormented into a semblance of intended mischief apparently not natural to them. The horsemen and footmen seemed not to be in that degree of danger which would have interested the spectators for their safety. I am of opinion that a stout English bull would have put those Cavaleros out of their play. Several of these animals were killed, but there was little more entertainment in the manner of their death than if they had been slain by the  
butcher.

butcher. The greater degree of cruelty certainly cannot recommend it. These exhibitions must be considered disgraceful to the Spaniards, as a polite and intelligent nation: there really appears less to be said in favour of them, than of these popular bull-baitings by dogs, not uncommon in the Western counties of England; but it must be always remembered that in Spain those games are attended by the fair, the polite, the accomplished—in England, by the rabble only. It has been said, in favour of these bull-feasts, that they are encouraged in Spain on the same principles that *amateurs* defend the practice of boxing in England, as means of preserving an energetic vigour, an habitual courage in the people.



people. How far this has succeeded in England I will not now enquire; in Spain it cannot be disputed that the bull-feasts, if they ever had that effect, have long since entirely failed in that respect. In truth, courage and brutal cruelty are not so nearly allied. This business ended, about six o'clock, we then moved to the Alameda, a very pleasant public walk in sight of the sea.

Here most of the company from the bull feast assembled; and the appearance of both ladies and gentlemen was highly creditable to Puerto de Santa Maria. The officers of a regiment of dragoons, at present quartered in the city, by the gaiety of their regimentals, yellow faced  
with

with black, added much to the shew of company, both at the Placa del Toro, and the Alameda. We saw several parties of this regiment on horseback in the evening. The men were clean, and well dressed; the horses light, and like the breed of Barbary; both officers and soldiers wear the moustachio. We were now nearly fatigued with the business, and pleasures of the day, and retired to the posada. Thus passed Sunday in one of the most bigoted countries of Europe: so very different are the opinions of different people relative to the manner of keeping the sabbath-day. In a room of the posada, assigned for our dormitory, were several mattraffes, each man took one,



one, and made the best of it for his night's lodging.

I arose early in the morning, and strolled about the city; it is well built, and in appearance, respectably inhabited. It is situated on the north side of the bay of Cadiz, about ten miles from that city. It seems, from the number of vessels at anchor in its vicinity, to possess a considerable share of trade. Cadiz is principally supplied with water from this place.

This city was some days in the possession of the English, in the beginning of this century. Sorry am I to add, that traditional reports by no means favourable to the reputation of our countrymen on occasion.

men  
ment,  
dining-  
room,

At half past nine six very superb coaches, lined with crimson velvet, and nearly as heavy as the Lord Mayor of London's, each drawn by four mules, were at the door of the posada. As many as could find room in these took their places; horses, mules, and asses, were provided for the rest; and, about noon, we arrived at Xeres. The day was extremely hot. The distance is called three leagues; and, from the slowness of our movement, I judge it very little more. At Xeres we found a considerable number of English, the greatest part of the passengers taken in the fleet having been sent to this day. Of these were the gentleman assigned to me who had been our fellow-federal mate on board The Morant.

The



The Lieutenant Colonel and I made them a visit; they were very well lodged, and in expectation of returning to England immediately. We were pressed to dine with them; but we considered it a point of honor to continue with our companions in distress; and, although Mr. B. assured us that Malony had taken us to the worst posada in the city, and that we had a very bad chance of getting a dinner, we stuck to our integrity, and returned to our friends. Mr. Malony indeed had taken upon himself the task of providing; and, though we had no reason to expect an elegant dinner, we had no doubt of a sufficiency of meat. Judge then our astonishment and disappointment, when, being introduced to the dining-

G room,

room, we found, at each end of a long table, a bason, or bowl, containing soaked bread only, and some boiled bones, but of what animal has not yet been discovered: this was the provision for fourteen hungry Englishmen! Malony was called on to account for his conduct; and endeavoured to excuse himself, by alleging the difference of custom in various countries, and, what seemed to have a better effect, by promising two legs of mutton for supper. Petition or remonstrance would, in this case, have been equally unavailing. A considerable quantity of eggs was procured, and every other deficiency made up by wine, which was here good and abundant; Xeres giving its name to the wine of this district, which



which is well known in England by the name of sherry. At supper the legs of mutton were produced; but, being merely the hocks, little satisfaction was given either in quantity or quality. Whether it was that, being out of humour with the meat, we liked the wine the better; or, perhaps, pleased again to have met together, we were all loth to part; we certainly sat till we forgot our captivity, and, mistaking the Xeres posada for a London tavern, called for a bill: it amounted to five hundred reals. This was instantly pronounced on all hands to be a most extravagant charge. Malony, who was by this time sick of his command, and heartily wished himself any where else, was again sent for, and accused

of encouraging the people of the posada to impose on us. A resolution was also made, that the company would not leave Xeres until satisfaction should be made for the injury done them ; and that Mr. Malony might return in the morning to Cadiz, as there was no farther occasion for him, and his conduct should be represented to the Conde O'Reilly. To this Malony pleaded, that, if the gentlemen thought themselves overcharged, they might pay any part of the bill, or no part of it, if they thought proper ; this proposal was by no means acceded to. However, after some deductions, the bill was paid ; and we have since unluckily discovered, that, by not being acquainted with the mode of computation,

tion,



tion, and being at that time too wise to ask for information, we paid reals of plate for reals of vellon, and consequently much more than the charge. I have since been told, that it was not expected that we should pay any part of the expences of our journey ; but, as a gentleman wisely observed, we shall better know how to act the next time that we are taken. The shortness of our stay, and the variety of my occupations, will prevent my giving you any description of the city of Xeres : it is extensive, and appears to be full of inhabitants. As the streets are not paved, and the soil sandy and light, the dust is intolerable, and puts me in mind of the clouds of sand that overwhelm caravans in Arabia Deferta. Sums of

money are here computed in reals vellon, nearly twopence halfpenny English.

It was near noon the next day before we were ready to proceed in our journey. The road to Arcos not being sufficiently wide for the coaches, a considerable number of horses and mules were procured for our conveyance, and that of our baggage.

At the market-place the muletteers appeared with their beasts, expecting, according to the Spanish custom, to be taken up behind the rider; but this suited not the taste of our young men; nor were they better pleased with the slow pace, to which those animals were accustomed. They therefore





ture sufficient for an afs to be found in the extent of many miles. We passed some vineyards; but, as the grapes were now ripe they gave but little variation to the general hue. We made free with the fruit, which afforded an agreeable and necessary refreshment, as we had not met with any house of entertainment, or even a drop of water, on the road. The heat was excessive, the country open, sandy, and without the least shelter. In this part of the province of Andalusia it seldom or never rains between February and November; during that space of time, the horizon is clear, and the sun burning; this will sufficiently account for the present face of the country. I do not recollect to have experienced more  
incon-



inconvenience from heat in any climate than I did in this day.

Having travelled through the flat country about four hours, we left the road, and, turning to the right, ascended some hills. The country that we had yet passed through, though burnt, had the marks of agriculture; and, in general, was covered with the stubble of the last harvest. But we now came to a waste, which probably never felt the plough-share. This continued for some miles, until we came to some olive plantations, and soon after saw the city of Arcos, where we arrived extremely fatigued. The distance from Xeres is computed seven leagues.

I have

I have now brought you to the  
end of our journey, and shall take  
an early opportunity to acquaint you  
with our proceedings here. In the  
mean time, believe me,

most assuredly,

Yours,

R. C.

LET-



## L E T T E R XI.

DEAR SIR,

Arcos,  
Sept. 8, 1780.

FORTUNATE it was, that some of our friends had reached Arcos before us. Those officers who had women under their protection, or were not in health at the time they were taken, were permitted to remain on board the English vessels; those, of course, arrived at Cadiz a considerable time before we did, and, having been dispatched by the Conde O'Reilly to Arcos, had been settled there some time. These gentlemen received us hospitably; and, as our arrival had been some time expected, were prepared for our reception.

The

The billets were ready for us; we were quartered on the better sort of inhabitants; and intimation given, that lodging, fire, and water, were to be provided for us *gratis*.

My lot fell on the house of Don Christofero Rittomallos: this Don is a corn-factor; he has given me the possession of his best apartment. On the floor is a bed, placed on mats; and sheets bordered with broad lace. An interpreter, who has been sent hither for our accommodation, has informed me, that my landlady was much disappointed in the appearance of her guest; she had, it seems, made interest to have a *Capitano* quartered at her house; and the interpreter assured her that so it was; but the  
old



old Lady believed it not. She said, that a Spanish Captain was *mucho grande, very fat, and wore many rings*. You will not blame her unbelief. This city has been fixed on by the Conde O'Reilly, for the residence of the British military only. He told Captain G. who applied to him for money at Cadiz, that he had chosen it because the British officers should not have the opportunity at Arcos of hurting themselves by their extravagance; and surely no situation in Spain can be better calculated to prevent it. The articles of necessity that may be had here are, beef, mutton, bread, wine, chocolate, and some fruit. Tea, coffee, milk, butter, or cheese, are not to be procured. Here are neither taverns, coffee-houses,  
nor

nor places of public entertainment of any kind. The city is out of all line of communication by travelling.

Our colony consists of twenty-one officers of our regiment, and of ten or twelve belonging to other corps, with a number of cadets who were on their passage to the East Indies, and taken in the Company's ships: these gentlemen thought proper to call themselves British officers, and were for that reason sent hither. Here is also a gentleman, who, I am told, is a West India merchant: he held a commission in the militia of one of the islands, and declared himself a Lieutenant-Colonel. Of this step he will have time and leisure to repent: if he had acknowledged



ledged himself a merchant and passenger, he would have been at this time on his passage to England. English ladies we also have, but in no great number. I compute that, including servants, there may be about an hundred British here.

The morning after our arrival half a dozen of us had a meeting, to consult on some method of living. Colonel Spinosa, an officer who has retired to this city, has presented to the Lieutenant Colonel an house furnished for his use during his residence here. Of this house the Lieutenant Colonel offered a dining-room and the kitchen for the mess: this was readily accepted; and it was agreed, that each member should  
take

take the management weekly; and that his servant should be the cook. The first week has fallen to my lot, not on account of any particular merit of mine, as you will do me the justice to believe; but great dependance was placed on the useful qualities of my servant. We entered on our office the next morning, went to the market for beef, to the gardens for vegetables, produced very good soup and bouillé; and every one was content. With respect to the cookery, there were many difficulties to surmount. A Spanish kitchen furnishes neither pots nor kettles, spit, frying-pan, nor gridiron—a small stewpan serves for all culinary purposes. We had neither dishes, plates, knives, forks, spoons, glasses,



nor cups; and many of these articles could not be procured. In this instance Fortune was our friend—a gentleman of our regiment, in the intention of taking his family to Jamaica, had providently purchased a good assortment of earthen and glass ware for the table. These he parted with; and it was to us an acquisition of great value. Our side-board was now much better furnished than our table. Beef, mutton, bread, and wine, are, however, to be found, although much cannot be said in praise of the first-mentioned articles. The beef is of the colour of mahogany; not quite so hard: but, as the bullock has nothing to feed on but straw and barley, the meat is incredibly tough. The mutton, the flesh of rams, is worse

H

than

than the beef; both must be used the same day the animal is killed, the weather being so exceedingly hot that no provision can be kept to the second day. Precautions are of no use; salt will not preserve it an hour.—Some good vegetables were found in the gardens, particularly cabbages and turnips. Wine is cheap, and sometimes very good. Thus we fare, and our condition is here considered enviable, and an invitation to our table no slight favour.—Printed accounts have been sent to us of the regulated price of the different articles of provision; but, as we are little acquainted with the silver currency, and the copper is beyond our comprehension, these papers have been of little use, and we depend on  
the



the honesty of the seller. The fact is, what can be had for money, and not the price of the article, is generally the question. As cash became scarce, not yet having had time to receive letters of credit from England, we applied to the Conde O'Reilly for a supply; in consequence of which, forty *peso duro*, or dollars, have been paid to each officer without distinction of rank; this amounts to about nine pounds. But money need not here be wanted; the English character stands so high in Spain, that cash is easily procured from Cadiz for bills on London, though the drawers of the bills are strangers, without letters of credit. This seems very extraordinary; but I know that it has lately happened in several instances. I

hope that neither the national credit, nor that of individuals, may hereafter suffer by the generous confidence of the Spaniards in this instance.

The inhabitants behave in the most friendly manner : from the appearance in the streets you would rather suppose yourself in an English garrison, than a Spanish city.

*Adios*, Signior ; and assure yourself that I am, most faithfully,

Yours, &c.

R. C.

LET-



## LETTER XII.

DEAR SIR,

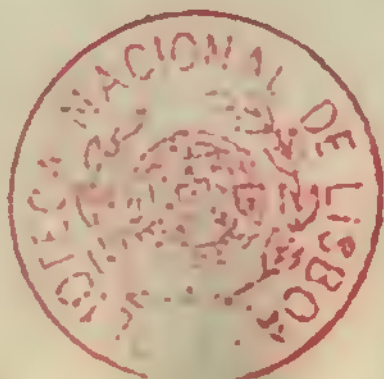
Arcos,  
Sept. 23, 1780.

**A**RCOS della Frontera, the place of our present residence, is a very antient city, in the province of Andalusia; and gives the title of duke to a family of the first rank of Spanish nobility. It is situated on the top of a rocky hill, distant from Cadiz twelve leagues, and from Gibraltar thirty.

This city is governed by a Corregidor and Mayor, both appointed by the King. The inhabitants are about seven thousand; and it has two churches, two convents of monks,

H 3

one



one of the Carthusian, the other of the Franciscan order; and one of nuns. It has also an hospital. The castle of the Duke is antient, but in good condition. The country about it is fertile in corn, open, and generally without trees; some plantations of olive-trees are in its vicinity; these relieve the eye, and give some shelter to the traveller as he passes this desert, for such it at present seems to be; as, from the long drought, neither herb nor grass can be seen.

The Guadalete runs below the city, but its course seems to give neither fertility nor beauty to the scene. Its stream is heavy and fable; its banks rocky and sterile: the fish, I am assured, are not fit for food. The

Huertas,



Huertas, or gardener's grounds, at the bottom of the hill on which the city stands, are fertile and pleasant. Water is conveyed through these gardens, from wells, by the labour of asses and cows. The trees and plants are here in the most flourishing state: some remarkably fine orange trees are full of fruit and blossom.

The Ronda mountains are between Arcos and Gibraltar; their high and broken tops are full in our view, and present a most romantic aspect. Whilst we are here burning with heat, Winter seems there to have re-established her dominion. Wolves, they tell me, are very numerous in these mountains, and they seem to be well

suites to such inhabitants. The eagle, the vulture, and all the larger order of birds of prey have also their residence there. From these mountains the whole province of Andalusia is supplied with ice, immense quantities of which are consumed to cool the water that is used in their evening entertainments—it is sold at this time exceedingly reasonable.

This climate is really burning. The persons and manners of the native inhabitants are influenced by it; they are pale and thin in their persons, with a languid appearance, temperate in the greatest degree in their manners. The custom of taking the *fiesta*, or afternoon's sleep, universally prevails; from twelve at noon

to



to four not a person is to be seen: The English, addicted to their habits in every climate, eat beef and drink wine at three o'clock, to the astonishment of the Spaniards, who say proverbially, that no animal, except an Englishman or a mad dog, would expose themselves to the mid-day heat of such a sun.

I feel very sensibly the inconvenience of my lodgings, being nearly a mile distant from the dining-house.

To this extreme heat may be added the plague of insects and reptiles, always to be found in Southern countries. The bug, the musquito, the sand-fly, the lizard, the ant, unite their efforts to make your life  
mife-

miserable. Strangers suffer more particularly from these.

Some of our women have been dangerously ill from fevers, caused by the venomous bites and stings of these creatures. You would not imagine that such a state of swelling and inflammation as I have seen in several instances could be brought on by these means. We have also been most of us disordered in a greater or less degree; possibly by the water, or, perhaps, too liberal use of the grapes, or other fruit. Such are the pleasant effects of the boasted climate of Andalusia—such the comforts that attend a land of wine and oil. True it is, that the sun is clear, and the atmosphere without a cloud. But  
give



give me the temperature of Old England, with its vapours and fogs, its frequent showers, and even lasting rains. It has been well said, that England has the best climate in Europe; as more hours in the day, and more days in the year, may be employed in the open air, in that country, than in any other.

*O Fortunati, sua si bona norint!*  
 where they may eat their meat without fear of indigestion, and drink their wine without danger of fever, and where the worst to be apprehended from the climate is a wet coat.

But we begin to look forward with hope to the approaching change  
 of

of season, when, influenced by the autumnal showers, Nature will again revive, when the air will be cool, and the earth covered with green.

We hear nothing of the politicks of Europe, or the progress of the war. The Madrid Gazette reaches us once a week, but it rarely contains an article of news, unless the removal of the Spanish Court from one palace to another may be so accounted. This is the only paper of news allowed to be printed in Spain. Lists were however published, by authority, of the ships and cargoes taken by the combined fleets on the 9th of August, several of which we have seen here.

As



As you must have been some time acquainted with our fate, and as the post is regular; I entertain hopes, that we may soon hear of our families and friends. Believe me, nothing will be more grateful to

Your assured friend,

R. C.

LET-

## LETTER XIII.

DEAR SIR,

Arcos,  
October 4, 1780.

I MENTIONED to you, in a former letter, the polite attention of colonel Spinosa to our Lieutenant Colonel: he has extended it to the whole of the English here. Many of us were invited, soon after our arrival, to an evening party at his house, where musick, dancing, and cards, were the entertainments; chocolate, iced water, and biscuits, the refreshments. A young lady, daughter to a gentleman of the first consequence here, danced the *Fandango*, with an old servant of the Colonel. This will probably seem an extraordinary circumstance, from



the generally received opinion of the dance itself; and also, as to the propriety of a gentlewoman dancing with a servant in such company. In the dance, there was nothing to censure; in the dancing, much to praise.

The conduct of the lady, in performing this national dance, as an object of curiosity to strangers, must be considered truly polite; and servants in Spain are, much to the honour of the Spaniards, considered respectable, whilst they behave well. Servants here are more than half friends; they are esteemed part of the family, and their descendants continue to live in it for ages. Nothing, except very bad conduct, induces masters to part with servants attached  
to

to the family ; and you will easily believe that, in such circumstances, this rarely happens.

Madam Spinofa plays and sings; and her mother, a very old lady, still retains her guitarre.

We have been also introduced to another family, of the same name ; consisting of a lady and three daughters, agreeable in their persons, mild and pleasing in their manners.

As the house of the Colonel is open every evening to all English ladies and gentlemen, those among us that are attached to music and dancing need not be without amusement. Some of our ladies, who have the  
means



means of accomodation, invite parties in return ; where the Spanish ladies willingly attend ; and country dances, and a cold supper, after the English manner, make the entertainment.

I wish you to know, that we boast of the presence of an English lady, whose polished manners and amiable disposition, would do honour to any rank or country. Allied to a family of fortune and consequence in England ; she chose to relinquish the advantages of these, to attend her husband in a voyage to the East Indies. The ship in which they embarked was taken ; and the gentleman, being in the military line, was sent from Cadiz to this place. Here he took

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the

the usual chance for a billet, and was by no means fortunate in his lot. Their only apartment is a large room, divided by a curtain. In this humble residence she receives her friends and those of her husband; and both Spaniards and English, who have the good fortune to wait on her, are delighted with their reception. No complaining, no appearance of regretting the want of the splendid apartments to which she has been accustomed; the accomplishments that she possesses, infinitely beyond what can here be found, are never ostentatiously produced, or whimsically withheld. Although every one must wish to see her in a different situation, it will not be easy for her to

appear



appear in a more amiable point of view.

An odd disappointment happened to some of us a few days since. An English officer, who lodged in the house of a person of the first consideration here, was desired; by that gentleman, to invite some of his friends to celebrate his daughter's name-day, that is, the day of the Saint whose name she bore: the terms of the invitation were, "To drink a glass of water." This, the officer observed, he supposed, was the manner of invitation in Spain; as in England, when you are invited to eat your mutton with a friend, it is taken for granted that there is something else for dinner. We attended on the day

appointed; and were regaled with abundance of dancing and singing; but the refreshment was literally a glass of iced water, with the sugar-biscuit that dissolves in it.

The habitual temperance of these people is really astonishing: I never saw a Spaniard drink a second glass of wine. With the lower order of people, a piece of bread, with an apple, an onion, or pomegranate, is their usual repast.

We have several times been favoured with the company of Spaniards at our usual hour of dinner, who have visited us at that time from curiosity merely. On being invited to do as we did, according to the  
English



English phrase of hospitality, they shook their heads, and declined it, saying, *Bueno por Inglere; malo por Espagnole.* “This may be good for an Englishman; but it would not do for a Spaniard.”

The old couple, in whose house I am a sojourner, never fail to make their appearance, and take their seats, whenever I have company, although they never receive any thing that is offered to them, nor understand a word that is said. With people so abstemious, it will not be considered extraordinary that drunkenness should be held in contempt and abhorrence. Indeed, I have never seen an instance of it among the Spaniards. A friend of mine has got into some disgrace in

this way: In the exercise of his hospitality to some guests that he had invited to dinner, he was so much disordered by a more than usual quantity of wine, and the extreme heat of the weather, that he took my advice to proceed homewards. As we passed the house of the young ladies I have frequently mentioned, one of them unluckily stood at the lattice, and, with her usual polite civility, invited us to enter. This I endeavoured to avoid; but in vain. My friend behaved with caution during the short time he stayed in the house, but not sufficiently so to escape her penetration: she has not seen him since that time; but has frequently mentioned him as “your friend that is out of his mind—that has lost his senses.”

A



A strong proof of Spanish temperance, is the effect that the residence of the comparatively small number of our people have had on the markets. Before we came here, beef was rarely to be found, mutton, two or three days in the week only, and never on the meagre days. Now there is generally beef; always mutton: the market every day, Sundays not excepted.

The butchers do not cut their meat into particular parts, to adapt them to the choice or the taste of the purchaser; but they cut it from the beast as it is called for; and you must take the coarsest parts if these are in turn when you come to the market. Every one is served in turn; the Spanish

Spanish beggar, if he applies first, before the English purveyor: nor will any desire to oblige, or temptation of a better price, induce the butcher to depart from the obstinacy of his ways.

Although the climate, in some degree, renders abstinence necessary, the people have a more imperious tyrant, Necessity, to compel the observance of it. Wonderful it is to me how they procure the requisites of life, reduced by custom as they are. Trade or manufactures they have none. The only instance that I have seen of any thing like industry is in a young shoe-maker in my neighbourhood; he is generally at work, and is married to the prettiest woman that I have seen at Arcos.

The



The Summer drought precludes, in a great degree, the possibility of agricultural labour, which provides food and rayment for the majority of the inhabitants in countries of happier temperature of climate.

The time of ploughing, sowing, and reaping, bears but a small proportion to the rest of the year.

Colonel Spinosa, and another gentleman of fortune, distribute their alms to a very considerable number of the poor weekly. I accidentally passed through the street to-day where these people were assembled; they were, many of them, apparently very old, and generally afflicted with leprosy, scrophula, and other  
cu-

cutaneous disorders of the most inveterate kind. These are probably the effects of the extreme heat of the climate, and the low vegetable diet to which they are accustomed. Never surely were the severest ills to which human nature is subject more horribly portrayed than in this collection of miserable beings; loathsome and incurable disease, helpless and unregarded old age, and hopeless poverty, were here seen in their most abject and extreme state of wretchedness. No ideas equal to this reality ever reached my imagination; and it will not be easy to shake off the impression that the appearance of this groupe has made. I hope, and really believe, that the whole kingdom of Great Britain cannot furnish an equal  
num-



number of equally miserable wretches. In the street did these poor people wait for several hours, exposed to the burning sun, for the sake of receiving a *Quarto* or *Ochavo*; the first about the value of an halfpenny; the last a farthing.

The convents and the hospital add the little else that is necessary to prolong the existence of those more than wretched human beings.

I observe in my walks, that the women and children are now employed in gathering and collecting the fruit of the olive-trees. The olive is not unlike a damascene-plum, either in colour or shape: they leave them on the trees until they are quite ripe,  
by

by which management neither the fruit nor oil are fit for use, except to an Andalufian, the oil being rancid, and the fruit unfit for pickling. The process of extracting the oil is not unlike to that of making cyder by the Devonshire horse-pound. This is also the season of the vintage. Little wine is made in this neighbourhood, the land being chiefly in tillage,

We hear nothing relative to our return. Patience is a virtue; and few have more occasion for the exercise of it than soldiers,

My respects to our friends; and believe me, most faithfully,

Yours,

R. C.

LET-



## L E T T E R XIV.

DEAR SIR,

Arcos,  
Oct. 16, 1780.

WITH the various civilities which we have received from the inhabitants since our residence here, the polite offer of his house or castle to the English officers by the duke of Arcos must be mentioned. This was made through the Corregidor; and has been accepted by several gentlemen who were inconveniently lodged. This house is situated on the top of the hill, and is in habitable order. I continue with my old people, fearing lest I may change for the worse.

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Nothing

Nothing is here so truly inconvenient to strangers as the attachment the people have to the forms and ceremonies of their religion, and the jealousy with which they regard any neglect of, or disrespect to them. The frequent processions of the Host are very troublesome to us. A trumpeter and a man carrying a bell always precede the priest. As soon as the approach of the Host is announced by the sound of these instruments, all persons, whether they are in the house or in the street, on horseback or on foot, instantly fall on their knees, and thus continue until the cavalcade is past. When it was known that heretical people were about to reside here for a season, four soldiers, with bayonets fixed, were ordered to attend and  
guard



guard the proceſſion; theſe march before the prieſt; and at the door, of the houſe where the ſick perſon reſides, the ſoldiers kneel, and preſent their arms. The prieſt walks into the houſe; the ſoldiers continue in the ſtreet, kneeling, until his return.

It is not always poſſible for us to avoid this buſineſs; we are ſometimes ſurprized; and then, as we do not think it neceſſary to perform the whole ceremony, ſtand cloſe to a houſe, uncovered, until the proceſſion has paſſed. This the Spaniards ſeem to think not ſufficiently reſpectful, and ſome unpleaſant diſputes have happened in conſequence. It certainly is a miſtake to ſuppoſe that the Hoſt is carried to people in caſes of extre-  
mity

mity only: we are told, that devotees send for it on very slight occasions; the frequency of these processions is in favour of this report. A gentleman of our party held lately a conversation with an old Spanish woman, and a young one, in a court divided from the street by a high wall, on a subject in which Religion had not the least concern, when the trumpet was heard, as the Host passed through the street, both the women instantly fell on their knees, and continued to pray with much seeming devotion, until the sound was lost; they then got up, and resumed the conversation. Every evening, about sunset, the sound of a bell from one of the churches has an instantaneous effect: the dance is suspended, the music ceases, the  
 cards



cards are laid down; all persons, whether engaged in business or pleasure, abroad or at home, say a prayer; those in the streets, arrested by the sound, stand still and take off their hats. This ceremony continues a very short space of time; the bell ceases, and all return to their amusements or employments. It seems extraordinary, that on these occasions none are observed negligent or scoffing; every person seems to be actuated by the same religious motive. This cannot easily be accounted for, unless by the power the court of the Inquisition has obtained over the minds of these people in all matters of religious concern. The English have generally paid that respect to the religious customs of the country,

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which

which both civility and prudence dictate ; but in this instance, if some young men, from levity or inattention, have continued their walk without notice, the Spaniards exclaim, *Sombrero! Sombrero!* Your hat! your hat! and, if no attention is paid, express dissatisfaction, and sometimes resentment.

On the doors of all the houses are placed printed papers, as religious amulets or charms, which contain these words, *Ave Maria, sin peccado concepida*; and generally a prayer to the Virgin. This is also the usual ceremonial of entrance into the house: the visitor says, *Ave Maria*; the person within, *Sin peccado concepida*. *Rosarios*, or processions of the religious through



through the streets, attended with singers and musical instruments, are frequent both day and night.

In several parts of Arcos are hovels, in which are placed the figures of saints, with lamps always burning: there is a sort of window, through which the image may be seen. Here beggars, and the lowest order of people, generally pay their devotions. In the churches and chapels devotees may always be found, chiefly women past the middle age.

The day of Santa Pastora, a famous saint in this neighbourhood, has been lately observed. A procession, in which was carried a representation in plaster of Paris, neatly paint-

ed, of this patroness of rural life, with her sheep and her goats, took place, from the house of Colonel Spinosa, to the church. Several of us were desirous of attending, and carrying lights in this show. Our services were at first accepted; but on the morning of the day of the exhibition politely dispensed with.

Collections of money for religious or charitable purposes are very frequent. In a procession of young women a few days since, a very beautiful girl indeed brought the charity-box to the window of our mess-room. This had the effect it was undoubtedly intended to produce—a very liberal contribution.

The



The common salutation in the streets is, *Vaya usted con Dios!* “May you go with GOD!” With all these religious appearances and attachments, it is extraordinary to find so little attention paid to the observance of the Sabbath: the markets are open on that day, the plough is at work, and whatever may be found here that can be called labour does not in any degree cease.

We know very little of the religious houses in this city. I have attended the chapel of the Nunnery; and observed, through the lattice, an inconsiderable number of nuns, and those very old; it is probable that the younger part of the society were not permitted to appear.

The Friars of the Carthusian order are rich, and have not shewn the least attention to us: the Franciscans, who are poor, are of course more civil. The latter have invited us to visit their gardens, and apartments or cells. There is little worth notice in the gardens; and their habitations are dismal and wretched; their claims on the world seem to be few, and those of easy attainment. They receive money for the poor, and to their use. Considering the paucity of wants to which these recluse people are subject, it must be believed that the alms are conscientiously applied. Those monks have certainly sacrificed what the world calls the comforts of life; if they have obtained peace in return, happy are they.



An old Captain of our regiment lately died here. As we could entertain no hope of his remains being deposited in sacred ground, we chose a pleasant spot in an olive-ground about a mile distant from hence for the place of his interment. All the English attended; and the funeral service was read by the surgeon of the regiment. As this is the first religious ceremony that has been observed among us since our residence here, it is not surprizing that many Spaniards attended; indeed, I have never seen so many assembled. Some of the lower order seemed disposed to be troublesome; but they were immediately checked, and kept in order, by the respectable people present. I observed many beggars who

attended on this occasion, and held wooden bowls, to receive money, *por las animas*, for the redemption of the souls in purgatory.

The heat is now more moderate than it has lately been: some showers have fallen, as an earnest of the approaching change of season; particularly welcome will it be to me, as the excessive heat has brought on me a nervous intermittent fever, which has destroyed my sleep, and affected my spirits. Our Doctor has combated the disorder with the liberal use of the bark, vitriol, and lemon juice, which will probably have its usual good effect. These fevers are tedious in their continuance, always unpleasant, but seldom dangerous.

The



The mention of my indisposition has brought to my recollection a visit that some of us paid, some days since, to Donna Maria Spinosa, a young lady of the family which I have already mentioned in my letters to you. This visit was made to congratulate the family on her recovery from a fever with which she had been some time affected. We were introduced in form; the Lady received us, reclined on a sofa, with a bouquet of flowers in her hand; she was very pale and delicate, having been bled very frequently; for the practice of Dr. Sangrado prevails here with little variation, notwithstanding the admirable book of La Sage. The Spaniards are, perhaps, less disposed than any other nation to be laughed out of their customs. There

There are no letters yet received from England ; nor any thing said on the subject of our return. We have accounts from Cadiz, that General Rainsford has established our credit in a banking-house there ; so that we are in no danger of wanting what money can procure.

In daily hope of hearing from our friends, I remain, with great regard,

Yours,

R. C.

LET-



## LETTER XV,

DEAR SIR,

Arcos,  
Nov. 4, 1780.

THE changing season has produced other advantages besides the moderation of the heat. The table is much better supplied; we procure pork the most excellent of its kind; the hogs are of the small, black, wild sort, and feed in the woods on the acorns of the evergreen oak. These are nearly as sweet as the chestnut; and, at this season, are a very useful and considerable article of food to the poorer class of people.

Walking with a gentleman, some days since, we had the good fortune  
to

to fall in with a large drove of turkeys, on their way to Cadiz for market; we bought four, at a *peso duro* each, and carried them, more than two miles, to Arcos. Since that time, by sending out scouting parties, we have profited by several other droves travelling the same way. They drive very large numbers from Estremadura to Seville and Cadiz at this season of the year; in their road they turn them into the olive grounds, where the drivers assured us the ripe olive was their principal and best food. Fowls may be had; they are small, not good, and very dear. Ducks and geese there are none; nor have I seen a bird of the aquatic kind. Veal and lamb are absolutely prohibited. A calf was procured  
with



with great difficulty, and killed by our people; it was small and lean, and by no means worth the trouble we took to get it. Of game, some few partridges, of the red-leg'd kind, have been found. Hares are very plentiful, and cheap; but the meat dry, and hardly eatable. We have met with an excellent bird here, of the bustard kind; many of these are to be found in the open country near the town; they are extremely shy, and so strong of wing that they may be said to soar above the clouds: our sportsmen have attempted them, both by night and day, in vain; after many trials, they have given up the pursuit, not having succeeded to bring home a single bird. Those that we have bought have all been  
taken

taken in traps. The meat of this bird is of two colours, as in the moor game; it will keep but a very short time, and is extremely delicate. From the arrival of large flocks of goats in the vicinity, milk abounds. Kids may be had, but they are lean, and bad food. Of butter there are two kinds, *monteco de vache*, butter of the cow; and *monteco de puerco*, butter of the hog—absolutely hogs' lard. Of Spanish butter I shall have said sufficient, when I assure you that the quality of the latter is to be preferred.

We have had fruit in great variety; apples, apricots, almonds, grapes, oranges, peaches, melons, pomegranates, nuts of various kinds. The  
apples,



apples, apricots, and peaches, are by no means equal in flavour to those produced in English gardens. The apricot and peach trees are of a very large size. Melons are in great plenty; but I have met with two only that were excellent, or equal to those of English growth in a favourable season: these were of a very large kind. I have preserved the seeds for the benefit of my friends. The Spanish potatoe is not unlike in taste to the sweet potatoe of the West Indies, something between it and the yam. It is my opinion, that in this part of the province of Andalusia all the tropical fruits may be cultivated with success; certain it is, that the degree of heat is sufficient to bring them to maturity. The pine-apple, the plantane,

tane, and banana, particularly the two last-mentioned, on account of their nutritive qualities, would be excellent acquisitions in a country where the inhabitants are content with a little, and desire that that little may be procured as easily as may be: even the long-continued droughts of this climate would be useful to the perfection of these fruits, which would stand much higher, as useful articles of food, than the pomegranate, the grape, or the onion.

Having given you a long account of our meat, I will send you an anecdote relating to our wine, which will shew the opinion Spaniards have of English sobriety and temperance. We have lately found some difficulty  
to



to procure a sufficient quantity of good wine for our use; and, having procured a recommendation to Messrs. Da Costa and company, wine merchants at Xeres, sent to them for a supply of the best wine that could be procured at that place. Some casks were sent; but, on trial, the wine was found to contain so much of the *aqua ardente*, or Spanish brandy, that it was not drinkable. On complaining to the merchants of our disappointment, they told us, that they were extremely sorry that the wine had not pleased us; that they had always understood, that wine could not be made too strong for English gentlemen, and that they had mixed it accordingly for our use. The wine

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was

was sent back to Xeres, and some tolerably good sent in return.

I have observed, in the manner of cultivating their vineyards near this place, that they prune the vine nearly to the old wood, leaving only five or six spurs, according to the strength of the plant, for the production of fruit. This would certainly be a great improvement to the culture of vines in England; as, in a climate not favourable by nature to the ripening of the grape, to suffer the vine to run to wood, as is the general practice, must prevent the growth and perfection of its fruit. The vineyards are also manured with strong dung, a practice not common in England.

The



The ploughs begin to work generally on the corn lands near the town; they are very slight, each drawn by one bullock, and sometimes by an afs. The soil is light and sandy; but, from the long drought, this may be rather said to scratch the land than to plough it; but such is its natural fertility, that, I am told, they obtain good crops under this management. Those that have estates now visit their *Cortijos*, or country houses: they do not continue there long at a time, but frequently go backwards and forwards, in their carriages drawn by mules; in longer journeys, to save their mules, they use bullocks in their calashes: as they are extremely careful of their mules, and allow them to go at a very slow rate,

it makes little difference in the time of the journey.

The kingdom of Andalusia has long been famous for its breed of horses and wolf dogs. These horses are not now numerous: Colonel Spinosa has three, all extremely handsome, spirited, and powerful; one of them, of a grey colour, is the finest animal of the kind I ever saw: these horses are held in great value, and, when sold, bring a very high price; some of them, I have heard, fifteen hundred pistoles. The Spaniards are so extremely jealous of the breed, that the exportation of a horse is by the law a capital offence. The mares are seldom used, but for



for the purpose of treading out the corn.

The wolf dogs are of the mastiff kind, rough haired, strong and very fierce. A wolf seized by one of these dogs, never escapes; for the wolf, though rapacious and blood-thirsty, is by nature a coward. Those dogs are generally found at the entrance of convents and *cortijos*; they need not have a better guard.

We go on singing, dancing, and giving evening entertainments. No Spanish woman can resist the desire she feels of joining the dance, whenever a musical instrument is heard. Before the house in which my friend Captain M. lodges, is a square court,

paved with flat stones, after the moorish manner: his servant plays the flute; in the evening, when we have nothing better to do, we take our seats in the court; the man begins a lively tune; in a short time the girls assemble, the dance begins: passers-by, men and women, English and Spaniards, join for a time, and pass on; others take their places, until, tired with the entertainment, the musick ceases.

The dress of the people at Arcos is universally the old Spanish. The men wear the *capa* and *sombrero*, the long cloak, and large flapped hat. This dress, heavy as it is in this very hot country, they are so much attached to, that an attempt  
to



to abolish it caused a very serious insurrection at Madrid a few years since, and the disgrace and flight of the Marquis Squillace, the prime minister. Some of the young men occasionally in summer wear a jacket of silk, or light cloth, a silk net on their hair, called *redicilla*, and the *montero cap*. Children of seven years old are dressed in the *capa*.

The women all wear the *mantilla* or veil; this is a square piece of silk or stuff, generally black, that covers from the top of the head to the waist, and a petticoat of the same materials; these are always worn in the streets and churches.

The youth and beauty of a woman may be generally ascertained by the close or open manner in which the *mantilla* is worn.

It may be supposed that intrigues are easily carried on, where all women dress alike, and none shew their faces, unless they choose to do it. No woman, however, of any condition, is seen in the street without the attendance of an old female servant. The men generally carry a rusty broad sword under the cloak. It has been strongly recommended to us not to go out without arms, as it is considered dangerous; but we have not heard of any accident that can induce us to think such precaution necessary; the



the people, in general, being sober and well behaved. There are, notwithstanding, many people in the prison, which I can only account for by the slow process of criminal justice; so that a person confined remains in that state for several years, without enquiry, whether he is guilty or innocent.

We hear nothing about our return; and there is reason to believe that this may be the place of our residence during the war.

Certain it is, that in our circumstances we might have been in a worse situation: indeed, we have little reason  
to

to complain, unless of the absence of our friends ; and this it must of necessity be the fate of a soldier generally to lament.

Let them remember me ;

and believe me always

Yours,

R. C.

LET-



## L E T T E R XVI.

DEAR SIR,

Arcos,  
Nov. 16, 1780.

I AM just returned from an excursion to Xeres, having engaged in a walking party to visit that city, our English friends that resided there, and the Carthusian Convent in its neighbourhood. As it was understood that our excursions were limited to the distance of a league from Arcos, it became necessary to apply to the Corregidor for a *passa porto*, which was readily granted. In this paper my name was magnified into *Signior Don Capitano Ricardo Croqué*. We set out early the next morning. The road was sandy; and, as the day advanced,  
it

it became very hot. We met on the road a muletteer, and him only : he asked where we were going ; and, on being informed, gravely observed, that it was *largo passao*, “ a long walk ;” and passed on.

On our arrival at Xeres, we found that our friends had left it some time, and were at Cadiz in their way to England. We proceeded to the Convent, which stands about two miles from the city, where we were favourably received by the Fathers, and entertained with fish, eggs, and fruit. The hospitality of the convent extends to all strangers, whether poor or rich : its landed possessions are very considerable ; these chiefly consist of vineyards ; and a large proportion of the  
 exten-



extensive wine trade of this country is in their hands; they are perhaps the first wine-dealers in Europe; and can produce wine of every vintage for the last hundred years. The wines of Xeres improve both in flavour and colour to a very advanced age. In the evening we intended to take our leave, and return to the city; but the Fathers pressed us so heartily to take up our lodging with them, that we consented; and, after a breakfast of chocolate, very excellent in its quality, returned in the morning to the city. The beds were hard, and the sheets not very white; but we fared as well in that respect as we should have done at the *posada* of Xeres. We strolled about the streets  
and

and churches for some time; these last are highly gilded, with many pictures. As I amused myself in viewing the latter, a mischievous Spaniard pointed out to me some stairs which led to a vault, and pressed me to go down. Expecting to see something extraordinary, I descended; but soon returned: it led me to a cemetery, in which were many bodies. The coffins were broken; and imagination can hardly conceive so horrid a spectacle.

This city seems to stand upon as much ground as Exeter; and, from the number of people moving about the streets, seems to be populous in proportion to its extent. The country about it is chiefly in vineyards



and olive-grounds, its lightness of soil being peculiarly adapted to the cultivation of the olive and the grape.

The cottages in the vicinity are all whitewashed on the outside. This gives a lively appearance in the prospect: it brought to my recollection the cottages in South Wales, which are whitened in the same manner; and, I fear, that they also agree too well in another respect, being perhaps the most wretched habitations in Europe.

The *huertas*, or gardeners' grounds, for the supply of the inhabitants, are of considerable extent, and abound with

with esculent vegetables and fruit. The orange-tree seems here to have found its natural soil; it grows to an extraordinary size and height; and, being now full of ripe fruit, gives much beauty to these gardens.

The streets are wide, and much improved by the rain that has lately fallen; they are now tolerable.

This city is fifty miles distant from Seville; to which place we have thoughts of making an excursion, if we can be trusted at so great a distance from our quarters.

Having satisfied our curiosity with respect to Xeres, we turned our faces homeward; and to the right, near  
the



the road saw the city of Medina Sionia; it is seated on the top of a hill, about ten miles from Arcos. This city is very antient, built with white stone, and gives the title of duke to one of the first families of Spanish nobility. The country about it, to a great extent, is the property of the Duke. In its present state it can be of very little value. Corn may certainly be had from this land; though the natural drought of the climate, and want of water, must forbid the expectance of other crops. But the riches of the land are in the number of useful inhabitants: here the province of Andalusia is lamentably deficient.

M

We

We arrived at Arcos in the evening, somewhat fatigued; but not displeas'd with this expedition.

I have not yet had the good fortune to hear from you, or any of my friends.

That you may live many years (a Spanish mode of salutation) is the sincere wish of,

Your obliged and sincere friend,

R. C.

L E T-



## LETTER XVII.

DEAR SIR,

Arcos,  
Nov. 23, 1780.

A CIRCUMSTANCE has lately happened, which has put me much out of humour with Spain and Spaniards. On Tuesday last, some time after midnight, I was awakened by a noise in the street, and a knocking at the door of the house. Soon after a person called on me by name. As my apartment is even with the street, and has a lattice with iron bars, I directed my servant to open the lattice, and see who it was. He immediately returned in a fright; and told me, that there were several soldiers and priests at the door; that the inter-

preter was among them, who directed him to open the door of the house. As I had no idea that this business could in any wise concern me, I bid him go to bed. By this time, however, the street-door was opened, and my room instantly filled, without ceremony, by priests, soldiers, and armed men : among these were the Corregidor and the Interpreter. I now attempted to leave my bed ; but the Corregidor desired me not to disturb myself, but to continue where I was. Having asked the Corregidor to what circumstance I was to attribute this extraordinary visit from him at this unseasonable hour, the Interpreter explained the question to him ; and he answered, that he came by order of the Inquisition. I confess, that at  
that



that moment I was not without alarm, and felt it very possible that I might have used some light or idle words in conversation, which might have been considered criminal in themselves, or made so by misrepresentation. Sensible of the ignorance and bigotry of the people, there was little reason to hope that the situation in which I stood, as a prisoner of war on parole, though privileged in other countries, would secure me here from very unpleasant consequences. I had, however, presence of mind sufficient to ask, whether this visit had been particularly intended to me, or whether officers in the same situation had experienced similar treatment. To this the Corregidor answered, that other officers had been visited in the same

manner. This instantly removed all my apprehensions ; and, after having remonstrated against the rudeness of the intrusion, I asked the Corregidor what his business was with me. He said, that he had directions from the Inquisition to examine my baggage. The trunks were immediately opened, and some books taken out ; but, as these were all English, the Inquisitors gained no information from them. After this ceremony, he asked me if I was a Free-mason ; and, on being assured that I was not, after many apologies took his leave ; but not until I had told him that I considered his conduct as relative to myself highly improper, and to a prisoner of war contrary to the usage of nations. To this it was answered, that the

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order



order of the Inquisition must be obeyed; that the king of Spain does and must submit to it. The Corregidor then left me to finish my night's rest in the best manner I could; and, upon the whole, I was not displeas'd that the matter had gone off so easily.

The next morning, the British officers held a meeting on the subject of these visitations; when it was determin'd to go to the Corregidor in a body. This was immediately done; and being admitted, Colonel B. with great spirit, told him, that we felt our situation, and should behave on all occasions with order and propriety; but, if this unprovok'd insult should be repeated, we were determin'd to resist it, whatever might

be the consequence. The Corregidor again pleaded the omnipotence of the Inquisition, and his obligation to obey the orders he received. These visits, however, have not been repeated. It appears that this very unpleasant circumstance arose from the folly of some young Englishmen, who had put into the hands of the young women of the houses in which they lodged French books of a very improper tendency. This conduct was a breach of hospitality, of which they ought to be ashamed. In searching for these books, some of the insignia of Free-masonry were discovered: these were secured by the Inquisitors, and carried through the streets in a silly procession the next day. If the owners of these had been Spaniards, they



they certainly would have visited the cells of the Inquisition, and probably have made a figure in the next *Auto de Fé*. The antient and mysterious order of Free-masonry is proscribed throughout the dominions of Spain.

The power of the Inquisition was exemplified in the behaviour of our Spanish friends on this occasion; who, though they seemed to be hurt by the circumstance, did not say a word in disapprobation of the conduct of the Corregidor, and always appeared to be uneasy when the matter was mentioned.

This day a considerable number of deserters have passed through this place, in their way to embark for  
Ceuta,

Ceuta, a Spanish fortress on the coast of Barbary, where they are condemned to work on the fortifications: they were confined together by ropes, and led in strings as horses sometimes are in England. These were the most miserable wretches I have ever seen, to whom the name of Soldier has been given; indeed, from those that I have seen of the Spanish infantry, little can be said in its favour. From troops ill paid, badly clothed, and worse disciplined, what can be expected?

The Spaniards keep Ceuta at a very great expence, though it is of no use to them, but as a place of exile for felons and deserters. As it was taken from the Moors, the national  
pride



pride will not allow them to abandon it.

As the season of Winter makes its approaches, the evenings and mornings are cold. The Spaniards feel sensibly this alteration: enervated by the excessive Summer-heats, they bear impatiently this moderate degree of cold; wrapped in their cloaks they complain, *mucho frio*, "it is very cold." But so little attention do they give to their comfort, or convenience, that there is not a single fire place or chimney in the city of Arcos, except in their kitchens. The whole family may be seen with their heads close to a *brazier*, placed in the middle of the room, smoaked and half-suffocated with the fumes of burning charcoal.

This

This vile custom renders the faces of the women more pale, and their skin of a darker hue; so that there is not the least appearance of healthy colour: either in men or women.

Great mortality is usual at this season, the Host is ever parading the streets, and frequent funerals are seen.

The poorer people, weak and languid from the extreme heat of the Summer, and their miserable and unwholesome diet, cannot support themselves in this change of weather; it increases their habitual indolence; they fall without disease, and may be said to die because they will not take the trouble to live.



Although this alteration of season seems to have produced no benefit to the persons of the inhabitants, very different indeed has its effect been on the face of the country; the corn is every where above ground, and covers the land with a verdure pleasant in its appearance, and comfortable in its prospects. After the burning heat of an African Summer, we experience, with satisfaction, the seasonable coldness of a pleasant English October. The showers are moderate, and not frequent; we have fair weather for several days together; but, whilst you suffer from the scowling winds and drenching rains of November, envy us not the favorable climate of Andalusia at this season;

re-

remember, that the happy fire-side is  
your's, blest with the social converse  
of your friends; to them make my  
respects, and believe me always,

Most faithfully yours,

R. C.

LET-



## LETTER XVIII.

DEAR SIR,

Arcos,  
Dec. 2, 1780.

SINCE my last letter to you, we have been surprized with the arrival of a Spanish captain of dragoons: who brought orders from the Condé O'Reilly, that all the British at this place should prepare for their immediate departure from Spain: the officers on their parole, not to serve until they are regularly exchanged. This, you will easily believe, has entirely changed the face of affairs; every one forms his own opinion of the probable advantages or disadvantages that may arise to him from this circumstance; some, far from being rejoiced

rejoiced at the prospect of revisiting England, raise serious objections to it: of these our Lieutenant Colonel and Commanding Officer is the chief. His objections are of the greatest consequence, as none of our regiment will, probably, chuse to leave Spain without his approbation and concurrence. The Colonel objects to return to England, unless the soldiers that were taken with us be also allowed to return, by exchange or otherwise. Certainly the greatest praise is due to the Colonel, on account of the sacrifice he is willing to make, by his attention to the soldiers, and zeal for the service; but, when it is considered that these men have been confined at Exija and Cordova, both at a considerable distance from Arcos; that



that we have scarcely had an opportunity of hearing any thing of them, except by a straggler or deserter accidentally passing this way ; that there is little probability of any communication with them on our part, as the Spaniards have used every means to induce them to engage in their service. As, from these circumstances, it is certain that our continuance here cannot be in any respect useful, I acknowledge that I do not feel the force of the objection.

Others are alarmed at the length, expence, and difficulty of the journey, at this season of the year ; for, though the port of San Lucar is at a very moderate distance, and a passage to Lisbon may thence be

N easily

easily procured, and probably to England, in a neutral vessel, the Conde O'Reilly, with a sort of perverseness that has marked the whole of his conduct towards us, has insisted that we shall be conducted to the frontiers of Portugal, by a very long and circuitous land journey.

I can much less easily forgive his behaviour to the very amiable lady whom I have mentioned in a former letter: she is, at this time, in a state of health that would render travelling in a country where convenience might be found both dangerous and improper. This has been represented to him, and permission desired that she may go to San Lucar with her husband, and there embark for  
Lisbon;



Lisbon; or that they may continue here until she is in a situation to travel with safety. Both these requests have been most ungraciously refused, notwithstanding they were aided by the interest of the Corregidor and Colonel Spinosa.

By this express came also the Conde's answer to Colonel's B's objections; which was merely this, that it was necessary that all the British officers should leave Spain immediately.

Thus the matter has been decided; and nothing remains for us but to prepare for our journey in the best manner we can.

I have lately been so much indisposed with a feverish disorder, that I also doubted to venture on a journey, through an unfrequented country, at this season; but the Conde's message has at once determined me. I am well prepared, with an excellent servant, a field bedstead, good bedding, and warm blankets. We are to move in two divisions; and it is my lot to go with the first.

In a conversation with the Corregidor, relative to the conveyance of the baggage, which, by the forbearance of the Spaniards and French, is very considerable, we were informed that mules might be found in sufficient numbers for that purpose, but  
that



that we must mount the patient burro.

Good things seldom happen unmixed with evil. From what has been hitherto considered a fortunate circumstance, saving the baggage, I foresee much trouble and difficulty in this journey.

Tuesday is fixed for our departure. Our former friend, Ensign Malony, is just now arrived, to take upon himself the office of our guide and patron during the journey. We know not an inch of the route. It will probably be our plan, when we reach the frontiers of Portugal, to get to Lisbon as soon as we can, being the most likely place to find an early

passage to England: The distance to Lisbon is estimated at six hundred miles; a long journey, as we are about to travel.

The Colonel goes with the second division by choice: nearly the whole of the women and children are of this party. It may be apprehended; that in this instance they will be found heavy baggage indeed.

The reason assigned for sending us away is the greatly-increased consumption of provisions: the Conde O'Reilly is said to have declared, that the English in Andalusia eat more beef, and drink more wine, than the camp at San Roque; and I sincerely believe it to be true.

The



The Spaniards tell us of many dangers, by flood and field, that we are to encounter in our journey.

The weather is at present good, and moderately cold. Robbers we need not fear, unless they rob by regiments.

An unexpected difficulty has occurred, which, you will do me the justice to believe, has been seldom experienced by me, and, probably, by few of your military acquaintance; I mean, the inconvenience of carrying our money. One hundred *peso duro* is not more than twenty two pounds, a very small sum to pay the expences of two people to England; even to Lisbon it will scarcely be

N 4                      sufficient.

sufficient. Yet to carry the weight of an hundred dollars is an inconvenience in a journey of this kind. Gold cannot be procured ; I have not seen one piece of gold in currency since I landed in Spain. To trust the cash with the baggage will not do ; it is not possible to foresee how far that may be separated from us, or what perils it may be destined to meet with ; a mishap of this kind may place us in an awkward situation. What then is to be done ? the hundred *peso duro* must be divided between my servant and myself ; and I will trust to get money for paper at Lisbon, for which purpose I have provided a sufficient recommendation. The cash will also be like *Æsop's* burthen, hourly decreasing, and there  
is



is reason to apprehend that, before we reach Lisbon the burthen will not be troublesome. This point settled, there is little left for me to do but to take leave of my good friends at Arcos; this will sufficiently employ the time I have to stay.

Two months may be allowed for the journey and voyage; I hope, within that time, to have an opportunity of paying my respects to you in person;

and remain, most sincerely,

Yours,

R. C.

LET-

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LETTER XIX.

DEAR SIR,

St. Lucar Major,  
Dec. 8, 1780.

WE departed from Arcos on Tuesday the fifth instant, as had been determined. The baggage was placed on the mules; and we mounted the burros. A more whimsical procession could never have entered into the imagination of Cervantes. Conceive between thirty and forty British officers, chiefly dressed in regimentals, with swords; and about half that number of servants, all mounted on asses, little better in their appearance, and not at all superior in their qualities, to those usually found in England. To render the party still

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more



more extraordinary, it was graced by the presence of one lady only, dressed in an English riding habit, and mounted on a handsome Spanish horse; she moved the *dux femina* of the expedition.

We left our Spanish friends with much gratitude for their kindness on every occasion. I could not prevail on the good people, whose house I had taken up nearly two months, to receive the least gratification in return. Nor was this a particular instance, for so disinterested have the Spaniards in general been that several of the young men, who, perhaps, otherwise would not easily have found a provision, were furnished, not only with lodging, but board also, by the families  
in

in which they were billeted, without an idea of receiving payment.

Being now mounted, and observing the young ladies of the Spinosa family at their lattice, I took my last leave of them: with that gentleness of manner, and suavity of speech, which distinguish the women of this country, they wished me a happy fight of my friends, to whom they desired their *complimenta*.

About ten the cavalcade moved; the baggage in the front. My establishment consisted of two asses for myself and servant, and a mule to carry the bedding and baggage.

We



We apprehended rain from the appearance of the morning; but the day turned out clear and fine. We passed through an open country, chiefly in corn, and olive grounds; and, after a journey of four computed leagues, reached a small town, called Cevizes. Near this place is a large piece of water, covered with an infinite number and great variety of aquatic birds; among these were many Flamingos, which I have never before met with in Europe; they are frequent in the Bahama islands, where they keep together in large flocks. As they draw up in a line along the shore, from their upright deportment and the red colour of their feathers, they have been mistaken at a distance for a company of soldiers.

When

When salted, they pass for tolerable good meat where better is not to be had.

We found, on our arrival at Cevizes, that we were to be quartered in private houses during the journey; this will probably prove an agreeable circumstance.

Besides our old friend Malony, a Serjeant and three Dragoons accompany us as conductors: from the Serjeant each of us receive a billet, by virtue of which I was admitted into a house, but saw nothing of the inhabitants. Six of the party had agreed to form a mess, and live together during the journey. We had provided cold meat at Arcos; and  
found



found wine sufficient, so that we fared very well.

Several of the Cavalleros were dismounted in this day's journey. The burros were in some instances so headstrong and ungovernable, that it was thought prudent to leave them in the road, and adopt the pedestrian method of travelling. As the beasts that brought us from Arcos were all to be returned, and new cavalry procured by pressing. So much time was spent in this business, that it was past the middle of the day when we left Cevizes; and we did not reach Pallacio, our next stage, until late in the evening.

This

This day I procured a tolerable horse. The country was very like that we passed through yesterday, chiefly in corn-cultivation, with olive grounds and vineyards thinly scattered. No cottages, or habitations of any kind, except in a wretched hamlet. The distance from Cevizes is called four leagues; it may be fairly computed twenty miles.

The Spaniards distinguish their leagues by *larga* and *corta*, the long and the short league; the long is a most unmerciful distance; the short by no means what it promises; and when they say *y medio and half*, it is always to be feared, as the half in this instance is generally more than the whole.

Having



Having received my billet at Palacio, I set out with my servant and baggage to find the house. The paper was shewn to several in the street; but they shook their heads, and said, *No entendi*; "I do not understand." And of this you may always be assured, that a Spaniard, when you ask a question, will, if it is possible, say that he does not understand you; to save himself the trouble of giving an answer. Proceeding onwards, we approached a lad standing at the door of a church, who seemed to belong to it: it was fairly to be presumed that he could read; we therefore advanced towards him; he retreated into the church, and we followed him. The boy, having turned and seeing us in the church, began a violent outcry of

O

No

*No Cristiano ! No Cristiano !* meaning, that we were not Christians, and polluted the church. I was now sufficiently provoked to have beat him heartily ; but, as that was not the way to find the lodgings, we left him, and again came into the street, and with some difficulty procured a direction to the house.

On the door being opened, half a dozen young children, sprawling on the floor, were presented to my view ; and I was given to understand that the house was an hospital for deserted children. I need not tell you that I made no farther enquiry ; and determined to return to the *Posada* as the last resort. In my way I met an English gentleman of my acquaintance,

tance,



ñance, who, after having listened to the account of our misfortunes, told me that he had met with very civil people, and he had no doubt but they would willingly allow room for my bed in their house. This was worth the trial, and succeeded. My friend was well provided; and the second day and night of our journey passed without farther accident.

On Thursday, the seventh, we left Pallacio in good season; and, about two o'clock, passed the road very near to Seville. The country about it is a plain of great extent, which appears to have been lately under water; the river, Guadalquiver, I am informed, not unfrequently inundates the lower parts of the city and its vicinity.

This day's journey has been chiefly through corn-lands. How can I sufficiently express to you the mortification I felt, to pass within sight of the gilded towers of the illustrious and renowned city of Seville, without being able to obtain permission to enter it and view its wonders!

I also must deplore it on your account; as you have certainly missed two notable letters of description at least. Submitting, however, to our fate with a good grace, we journeyed on to the banks of the Guadalquiver; and, having crossed that river in the ferry-boat, and travelled a long league, arrived safely at Coria. This is a pleasant town, seated on the banks of the river; and this situation gives it trade and consequence.



On the billets being made out, I observed one among them with *Seignor Don*, and a long name at the end of it: this struck my fancy, and tempted me to offer the serjeant a *peso duro* for it. He indulged me; and I hastened away with my imaginary treasure. On presenting it at the house, I was civilly received, and soon discovered that this *Seignor Don* was no other than the Barber of the place. Before I proceed with my story, it will be necessary to inform you, that a barber of a Spanish town is a person of no small consequence in his degree. This man introduced me to his sisters, not at all bad-looking *Senoras*. Some tolerably-good potted fish and wine were brought forth; and the party became sociable and pleasant.

These people had been frequently at Seville, and seen more of strangers and their customs than the inhabitants of the inland country have the opportunity to do. They had also often met with English people, who occasionally land at this place, as their vessels pass the river to take in lemons and oranges at Seville.

There is no doubt that the Spaniards are better affected to the English than to any other nation. It was with some difficulty that I could get away from this party to take my dinner, which, notwithstanding my attachment to the former, I would not willingly have missed, as we fared this day better than usual. Partridges, and two or three sort of water-fowl, had



had been added to the general dinner. I found the family of the hospitable barber assembled at my return, with the addition of some female acquaintance, and sat with them to a very late hour; from the general custom of the *Siesta*, the Spaniards are induced to sit very late.

I do not know any place where a man of small income, that wishes to live independent, can fix himself more pleasantly and comfortably than at Coria. Its situation is advantageous, on the banks of the famous river Guadalquiver; the country is abundantly and cheaply supplied with the necessaries of life. Game, fish, and water-fowl, are in the greatest variety, and may be had for next to nothing.

The wine and fruit are excellent. In point of climate, perhaps, the most favoured spot of the world in Winter; in Summer, hot, but its heat softened, and moderated by the river-breeze. You may add to this, if it is thought an advantage, that it is within a morning's ride of the first city in Spain.

An active man, fond of fishing and shooting, may support a family here at a less expence than can be easily imagined.

The Guadalquiver, after having passed the cities of Cordova and Seville, falls into the sea at St. Lucar, a port between this place and Cadiz.

On



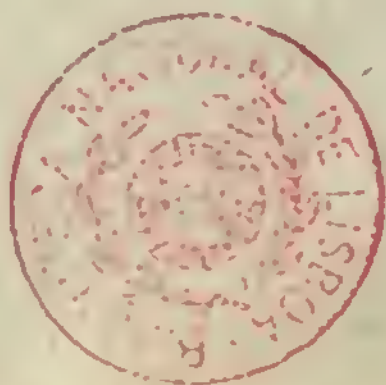
On Friday, the eighth, we left Co-  
ria; and, having travelled six leagues,  
through a corn country, intermixed  
with woods of the Ilex and Chesnut,  
came to St. Lucar Major.

As I have determined to send this  
very long letter from this place, I  
shall now close it, with assuring you  
that, as I draw towards home, the  
hope of seeing my friends gives me  
sincere pleasure; and that I always  
feel most faithfully,

Yours,

R. C.

LET.



## LETTER XX.

DEAR SIR,

Villa Raffa,  
Dec. 10, 1780.

I PROCEED in the account of our peregrination by acquainting you that San Lucar Major is an inland town, large and considerable: it is thus called, to distinguish it from the port of San Lucar, which is also in the province of Andalusia. Sorry am I, that I cannot in all respects bear witness to the urbanity of its inhabitants; for, as we were collected together in the street to receive the billets, some of them thought proper to amuse themselves by throwing stones at us. The sight of a pistol, however, soon brought them to better manners. The



The appearance of the fair Heroine of our party has raised curiosity and astonishment in the inhabitants of the towns, and villages, through which our route has been ; and no wonder, when the very different figure a Spanish woman makes, mounted on an awkward kind of pack-saddle, on the back of a jack-ass, is considered. But at San Lucar the whole town was in an uproar ; and, after the lady had alighted at her lodgings, the house was filled with spectators ; nor could the apartment be cleared of them by any fair means. This occasioned an unpleasant circumstance : a young gentleman of our party, after having tried in vain to send the multitude away, was provoked by the insolence of a Spaniard, who refused to leave  
the

the room, to make a stroke at him with his couteau, which, if it had taken place, would have effectually in him prevented all future curiosity. The fellow, heartily frightened, ran to a magistrate, and made his complaint, and the matter was not settled without some trouble.

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*Saturday Morning.*

WE have been at a considerable wine cellar, and filled some borachos of excellent wine, of the Xeres kind: these borachos are goat-skins in the hair, sewed and paid in such a manner as to contain the wine without leakage; they are very convenient for carriage. We have also bought two turkeys, some pork, and two *cefa*  
*Hollanda,*



*Hollanda*, Dutch cheefes, very good. A mule has been added to the establishment, for the conveyance of these things.

We feel the happy effects of experience daily : instead of starving on eggs, or worse diet, we live like princes ; whilst an unfortunate stranger that travels through this part of the country, depending on the *posadas*, would find much difficulty to procure the bare necessaries of life. Some waggons, or rather wains, drawn by oxen, were found to convey the baggage on this day's journey. The party, being all mounted on horses or mules, arrived at *Manzanilla* in good order ; the distance six leagues, through a country partly in corn, and partly uncultivated.

On

On these extensive wilds we saw a very large flock of sheep, whose wool was of a dark ruffet colour. Some foxes were also observed, of the grey kind; and wild hogs: these are strong proofs of a thinly-inhabited country.

We have this day passed one of those small wooden crosses, which denote the place where a robbery and murder has been committed. These are *opprobria* to the Spanish police, and bugbears to the inquisitive traveller. These have been frequently adduced to prove the danger of travelling through this country; but, as these crosses are renewed and rendered perpetual by the people of the neighbourhood, the circumstance pro-



probably happened so long since, that, though the memorial remains, the remembrance of it is lost.

Our friend Captain M. has met with a disappointment here. Enquiring where his lodging was, of a Frenchman that kept the Posada, he was told, “that the daughter of the gentleman that lived in the house was allowed to be the most beautiful woman in Andalusia.” After we had dined, I went with him, in the hope of beholding this paragon. The house was soon found; and, after spending some time at the door, we were told by the neighbours, that the gentleman, not chusing to receive English company, had removed, with his fair daughter, and all his servants,  
 into

into the country that morning. Our friend was of course obliged to seek a lodging in the Frenchman's Posada.

Mancanilla is a clean, well-inhabited town. On Sunday the tenth we reached Villa Raffa.

The road from Mancanilla to this town is bad, and apparently unfrequented; the country full of corn, with pleasant woods, of the green oak, the distance seven computed leagues. Here it was my good fortune to be entertained by a rich Hidalgo with great kindness and respect. When I came to his house, with my servant, we were shewn into a room in which was a very good fire, a rare sight in this part of the world; but  
 now



now not at all unpleasant. The gentleman, with two ladies his sisters, was in this room; and, after the first question, which a Spanish woman always asks, "Are you married?" and a printed list of the ships taken on the ninth of August having been produced, that I might point out that in which I failed; the gentleman offered refreshment. As I had been fatigued by daily journeys for the six last days, I felt more inclined to accept his offer than to go out for my dinner. In a short time I followed the gentleman into an exceeding good room, where a table was well covered with meat, olives, raisins, grapes, and several other things, with some of which I was unacquainted. Here my entertainer left

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me:

me : it being now near five o'clock, he had probably dined at a much earlier hour ; and I sat down to this feast, attended by two girls, about fifteen, very handsome, and neatly dressed. Wine and *liqueur* in small decanters were placed on the table ; and, when these things were removed, as my bed, according to the custom, was in a recess within the room, I soon retired to it, and had a very comfortable night's rest. This morning I waited on Don Hippolito and his good sisters. My chocolate has been served with the same ceremony that my dinner was yesterday. This is by many degrees the most handsome entertainment that I have seen, or heard to have been given, in a Spanish house. Indeed, there is  
reason



reason to believe, that the gentry of this country are not generally rich: for, though we have frequently seen in the towns through which we have passed the white front of the house of an Hidalgo covered with the red letters of his very long name, with *Se'nor Don* before it; when you enter it, neither the state of the building, the quality of the furniture, nor the mode of living, confirm the opulence of the owner.

My friends were pleased to meet me this morning; as they apprehended, by not seeing me at the mess, that I might be ill, not suspecting the handsome entertainment that I had found at home.

As we approach the frontiers, we again think of being our own masters. If we manage as well for ourselves as the Spaniards now do for us, we shall have little reason to complain.

As the cavalry are ready to proceed to Triguera, the next stage, I shall finish this letter, as I intend to leave it with Don Hippolito, who has politely offered to dispatch it.

“May you go with God, *Señor* ;”  
to whom I commend you,

R. C.

LET-



## L E T T E R XXI:

DEAR SIR;

Ayamonte,  
Dec. 13, 1780.

WE arrived at Triguera without accident; but the roads were so very bad that the baggage did not come up till the next morning. Indeed there was seldom the appearance of a public road in this day's journey.

The country is generally uncultivated; covered with aromatic plants. Wild thyme, marjoram, rosemary, and lavender, every where abound.

The dragoon conductors missed the road; but, fortunately seeing a country man, they hailed him with *ho*

P 3

*paisano*;

*paisano*; and pressed him as their guide to Triguera. The military here assume great power; and their orders are implicitly obeyed by the people of the country.

Of Triguera little can be written. We brought with us all that we had occasion for, except bread; but that was not procured, in sufficient quantity, without some difficulty, and the interference of the magistrates of the town.

The weather continues extremely favourable, much more so than could have been expected at this, the rainy, season of the year. The mornings are frosty in a slight degree;



gree; at noon the sun resumes great part of its influence and power.

The twelfth we continued our journey, through wastes and deserts wild; here and there interspersed with patches of corn, and woods of green oak-trees. In the cultivated parts the plough goes through the whole, leaving nothing like a road.

The country between the towns is entirely without inhabitants. A great proportion of these lands would probably bear corn, but there is neither encouragement nor market for it: it might, surely, be carried, without any great expence, to Ayamonte, the nearest port, and be thence sent coastwise to those parts of Spain

which now import corn from foreign countries ; but the inhabitants of these districts look no farther than to their immediate wants, and these are easily supplied.

This must be an excellent sporting country, as nearly the whole of it is left to the dominion of the beasts of the field and the fowls of the air ; and it may fairly be presumed that a considerable share of the produce of the cultivated parts must also fall to their lot.

Late in the afternoon we came to Cartcia, having travelled seven long leagues. At this place I procured a decent apartment ; and, from the *sumpter mule*, a tolerable dinner was provided.



provided. Those of our party who had acted without care and foresight were badly off here.

I have lately found it necessary to make an interest with the Spanish serjeant who distributes the billets : a *peso duro*, properly applied, has sometimes thrown me into a good house, when an indifferent one would perhaps otherwise have fallen to my lot.

The state of my health, which is yet but weak, though daily mending, will be a sufficient excuse to you for this proof of attention to myself.

On the thirteenth we reached Ayamonte, after a journey of five leagues, through

through a country that bears nearly the same aspect, until you approach the city, when the land is considerably in corn, and the sea opens to the view.

Ayamonte is the frontier town of Spain in this part. It is situated at the mouth of the river Guadiana, opposite to Villa Real in Portugal; the Portuguese dominions being divided from it by that river. It is really a considerable city, well built, extensive, and populous. It has a fortification, and a regiment of foot in garrison. Of the military appearance of this regiment the less that is said the better.

Ayamonte,



Ayamonte, from its situation at the mouth of a considerable navigable river, seems designed to be the seat of trade and commerce; but these advantages have been neglected, so that its shipping consists of some small craft only.

The Guadiana is about three miles wide at this place. This river rises in La Mancha; and, after passing through the Spanish province of Estremadura, divides the province of Alentejo, in Portugal, from the kingdom of Algarve, and discharges itself into the sea at this place.

I have been told, that immense quantities of pilchards frequent these coasts; and that there is a probability  
of

of carrying on a fishery here to great advantage; but the baneful influence of the climate prevents all exertions of industry.

There is an apartment in a very good house assigned to my use here; but, as it is at a considerable distance from the river, and as the boats that are intended for our conveyance to the Portugal side are ordered to be ready at an early hour in the morning, I have determined to pitch my bedstead in the billiard-room of the tavern; several of our party are of the same opinion, and intend to make the billiard table their bed for the night. To-morrow we pass the Guadiana, and every one becomes his own master. No more friendly billets,



lets, or dragoon conductors. Tomorrow we also take leave of our friend ensign Malony: the trouble that he has had with us deserves a better recompence than he will probably receive from the Spanish government; we have, therefore, collected some *peso duro* for him, more than enough to pay his expences to his quarters, which he has very sensibly taken without ceremony.

If you, or any of your friends, actuated by the rage for rambling, or compelled by business, should visit the Southern parts of Spain, accept the following instructions.—

*Experto, crede.*

As

As your route will of course be from Lisbon, you must be at that place before the end of the month of September, and leave it early in October. I point out this season to you, not only that you may avoid the summer heat of this climate, which causes more languor and faintness, and is quite as burning and intolerable as that of the West India islands, but also on account of the supply of provisions that may be procured at that season of the year: the best pork in the world, good turkeys, and milk in abundance, may then be had. Nothing of this kind, or half so good, can be got in summer. Add to this, the danger you are in hourly of being laid up by fevers, in places where neither medical nor any other assistance



assistance can be found. Your field bedstead must be made in England, of the lightest kind, furnished with sheets and warm blankets, for, although the days are hot, the nights are sometimes severely cold at this season; an additional mule will be necessary to carry these, your own baggage, and that of your servant; this will increase your expence about two shillings a day.

Should it be your ill fortune to stop at a posada of the worst kind; and, God knows, some of them are had enough, you are unlucky indeed if you cannot find a dry corner in it, in which a warm and comfortable bed may be prepared for you in five minutes. Never neglect to lay in a good  
stock

stock of provision and wine, when an opportunity offers of procuring them; the weight of the provisions, and two or three borachos of wine, on the mule, is next to nothing, the expence inconsiderable.

In almost every town you will find a Frenchman who keeps the posada. These fellows were all born cooks; and, if you find them meat, you may be certain of having a good dinner. In one of the towns we lately passed through, a very large turkey was sent to the Frenchman, that kept the posada, to be dressed; as we intended to take it, that it might serve as part of our dinner the next day. Unluckily he was not directed to roast it: the consequence was,  
that



that, when the turkey was sent for the next morning, it was found in the stew-pan full of gravy, and cut into an hundred pieces. This certainly was a dilemma. Somebody proposed to pack it in an earthen-ware-pot. The plan was adopted. The next day it was served at dinner, and universally allowed to be the best dish that we had ever tasted. Above all things, let me persuade you to avoid that urgency of haste which distinguishes our countrymen. I am aware, that an Englishman cannot travel with comfort to himself at a less rate than ten miles an hour, if by night also so much the better. But the Spaniards and their mules are of a very different order; *poco, poco*; "slowly, slowly," is their favourite phrase,

phrase, and continually in use. In short, the only advantages of precipitation in this country are, to be starved or left in the road.

This advice is short and simple; but quite sufficient to render a journey through this country as pleasant as a reasonable man can expect to find it.

Two gentlemen of the party, but not of the regiment, with Captain M. and myself, have agreed to travel together to Lisbon. There are three servants with us, so that we muster strong enough.

Some of our lads seem to think that, as soon as they reach Portugal,  
 3 they



they have nothing to do, but to call for bottles of port-wine, and that all things will go well. The Spaniards are of a different opinion; they say that the Portuguese are *mucho picarro*, “great rogues;” that their country is a desert, in which nothing can be procured; that a bad Spaniard is a good Portuguese; and various sayings of this sort, by which neighbouring nations generally shew their regard for each other. Seriously, however, from what I have read, and what I have heard, my hopes in this journey are by no means sanguine. Blessed are they that expect nothing.

As to-morrow I shall leave the Spanish territory, probably never again to enter it, it is a debt of jus-

tice to declare the sense I feel of the candid and hospitable treatment we have generally received from these people.

The generous conduct of the Captains of the Navy to their prisoners might have been expected from the character the Spaniards of superior rank have justly and universally obtained. The instance of Don Juan Moreno, which I have already mentioned to you, and some others that have since come to my knowledge, have scarcely been exceeded in more romantic ages. The same friendly attention has been shewn by the people of every degree. The merchants of Cadiz advanced considerable sums of money to individuals, on  
their



their bills, without knowledge of the parties, or any recommendation : the almost general civility experienced by those who were billeted in their houses, not only in Arcos, but also during the journey, will speak strongly in favour of the natural politeness of the Andalusians.

I know that it has been the custom of travellers to speak of the people of this province as an indolent race of beings, who would rather starve than labour. It may be so ; but this is not the case with the Andalusians only, but of all other inhabitants of hot climates. See the descendant of the industrious Englishman at Madras or Jamaica ; or of the more industrious Hollander at Ba-

tavia or Surinam, and tell me whether they are more inclined to active exertions than the Spaniard of Andalusia. Mr. Baretti defends these last, on the principle that no one should be called idle who has nothing to do; that it is the fault of their governors who do not provide for them the means of employment. It is also his opinion, that no prudent man will work if he can manage to live without labour. The Spaniard is in a great measure enabled to do this from habits of temperance and frugality; his wants are few, and these are cheaply supplied from the abundance and variety of the fruits and esculent plants which the country supplies; but he has not the option with respect to employment. When  
the



the grapes and olives are gathered, and pressed, when the ground is ploughed, the seed sown, and the harvest reaped and gathered, the labour of the year is at an end. From February to October, and sometimes for a much longer time, no rain falls; during this season the country is exposed to a burning sun, and the ground hot and parched as an African desert.

The herds and flocks are removed to a more happy soil; and in a day's journey not a drop of water, or a blade of grass, can be found, except in the *huertas*, or garden-grounds, where water can be introduced. It surely implies a want of knowledge, or experience, to talk of the advan-

tages of labour or manufactures in such a country.

Whilst this remission of labour by nature continues, the labourer and his family must be supported.

The produce of the estates of the Clergy, and the benevolence of that part of the Laity who are possessed of property, supply a fund for this purpose. Very considerable estates are in the possession of the convents, and also of the secular clergy. The income of these is generally applied to the use of the poor. Without this resource the country must be depopulated. It has been asserted, that the charity of the Clergy is the chief cause of the great number of unemployed



ployed people; and that, without their assistance, the poor must work.

The facts that I have stated evidently prove the fault to be in the climate, not in the people; and if the plan, humanely recommended, of applying the property of the Clergy to more useful purposes, as it is said may be done, is adopted, the people would indeed be provided for, not by additional labour, but actual starvation.

The manners of these Spaniards with whom we have associated are pleasant and civil; from local circumstances much information cannot be expected from them. The women are gentle and amiable in their carriage,

riage, modest and chearful in their conversation.

I have read, in several books, accounts of the vitiated conduct of the Spanish women in general; but very different indeed is that of the women of Andalusia, or the Andalusian women are the greatest hypocrites on earth: their customs are so extremely modest, that they will not allow you to touch the hand of a female. And, as it has not always been found easy to induce an Englishman to confine himself to these restrictions, we have frequently incurred the mild reproof of, "Speak to me; do not touch me."

They



They are peculiarly distinguished by kindness and attachment to their servants and dependants.

In their religious character the Spaniards have been subject to much obloquy. Every word has been applied to them that could be brought to express contempt for their observance of Religion, and their respect to its ministers. I have ever had reason to hold those in my better opinion that are zealous overmuch, rather than those that affect to live without regard to Religion. As these people have time unemployed, it cannot be spent in a more inoffensive manner, at least, than by an attendance on religious ceremonies; nor, whilst the Clergy must be considered

not

not only their guides in spiritual concerns, but also their friends and benefactors in temporal matters, shall I blame their gratitude and attachment.

The uncontrolled power of the Inquisition has certainly its influence, and causes a more strict attention to religious ceremonies than otherwise would be found.

A childish kind of vanity may be observed among those people; an instance of which I have mentioned, in the fashion they use of painting their names in large letters, with *Signor Don* before them, on the fronts of the houses; but there is nothing arrogant or overbearing in them.

When



When I received a billet, I used, first for curiosity, and afterwards amusement, to ask one of the standers-by, who were generally numerous, *Esta bueno casa, Se'nor?* "Is this a good house, Sir?" If the house happened to be of the indifferent order, the answer was, with a nod, *Bueno, Se'nor*; "Good, Sir." If, of the better sort, *Mag bueno, Se'nor; grande casa, mucho grande*; "a very good house, Sir; grand, very grand." But, when we came to inspect the mansion, of which this great character had been given, it was generally found to contain little deserving it.

The Spaniards have fewer bad qualities than any other people that I  
 4 have

have had the opportunity to know ; and those that are good and great are rarely found in any country. We are the children of chance and habit, and less merit would probably be found due on enquiry, on account of those qualities, than the generality of their possessors think proper to assume.

To Spain, then, we bid adieu.—  
The first good quarter I find in Portugal you shall again hear from me.  
In the mean time believe me,

Sincerely yours,

R. C.

L E T.



## LETTER XXII.

DEAR SIR,

Evera,  
Dec. 18, 1780.

ON the fourteenth we crossed the river Guadiana, in a barge or lighter, and landed at Villa Real, in the province of Alentejo, in the kingdom of Portugal. This little town, or city I believe it is called, is by no means an unpromising introduction to Portugal: the houses are uniformly and neatly built; being painted white, with green windows, it has a pleasant appearance. This place has been lately rebuilt, under the royal direction, with the intention, I am informed, of establishing a fishery on the coast, which has not,  
in

in any degree, succeeded, for want of money, industry, and skill. It has also been honoured with the name of *Villa Real*; with its former denomination I am unacquainted.

We waited on the Commanding Officer, who received us with civility; and our next object was, to discover the best method of proceeding on our journey to Lisbon. Two plans were pointed out to us; the first, to go to Faro, by land, no great distance; and from thence, by sea, to Lisbon. The other, to go up the river Guadiana in a boat to Mertola; and, by land, to Lisbon. The latter seemed to be the most eligible.

There



A gentleman of our party who has been accustomed to the rapid movement of English travelling, seemed inclined to sacrifice all other convenience to dispatch ; at his instance, a boat was hired, to proceed immediately. In this row-boat, manned by four Spaniards, to whom we paid ten *peso duro*, we embarked at four o'clock in the afternoon, in so great haste, that we had no opportunity to procure refreshment to serve during the passage, although we had every reason to think that we should pass the night in the boat—no very pleasant consideration.

Our fellow travellers from Arcos determined to try the rout by Faro, which will prove a much cheaper

R method

method of travelling; and, if it is worse than we have experienced, it must be bad indeed.

As the day closed, it became exceedingly cold; the dew, or hoarfrost, fell so fast, that, as there was no shelter in the boat, our situation became very unpleasant, and I was glad to get a blanket from the baggage to cover myself.

About ten o'clock at night the Spaniards put the boat ashore, and we landed, on account of the tide being adverse to our progress.

Having walked about a quarter of a mile, through a wood, we reached a miserable hut, in which we saw  
several



several men and one woman, when the smoke would allow us to distinguish objects ; these were the worst-looking people I had ever seen : a fellow, dressed in a ragged soldier's coat, baffled every attempt at description. The hut itself was the vilest of human habitations that I have met with in any country. As two of the servants were left in the boat, to take care of the baggage, one only remained with us, when, looking on the groupe about us, we considered the time of night, and the situation in which we were, we certainly had reason to think this hasty method of proceeding not the best that might have been adopted. It was, however, too late to retrieve ; and, as our dinner at Villá Real had been very slight,

refreshment was the more necessary. Having mentioned this to one of the Portuguese, he took from the sleeve of a very dirty shirt a dead fowl, which he sold at a reasonable price. This was of little use among seven of us, to say nothing of the Spanish watermen. One of the Portuguese was dispatched for more fowls, and soon returned with three that were alive; these were also bought, but at an advanced price, and on remonstrating with the Portuguese who sold the first fowl, he said, that if it had not died by accident, he would not have parted with it for double the sum. We were not in a situation to pay attention to nice distinctions. The fowls were all stewed together; some wretched wine was procured, and



and the repast ended only when the last bone was picked.

In this wretched habitation I acquired some useful knowledge. As the confined smoke of the green wood fire was intolerably painful to the eyes, I observed that the inhabitants of the hut placed their faces very near the fire; and, making the experiment, I found, that the inconvenience was scarcely felt when in that situation.

About two o'clock<sup>b</sup> in the morning we resumed our places in the boat; which, uncomfortable as they were, we seemed pleased to have regained.

By the account of the watermen we expected to reach Mertola at seven

R 3

o'clock

o'clock in the morning; but eight, nine, and ten, came, and Mertola did not appear.

The land on both sides of the river is barren, and desolate to an uncommon degree. The river became wider, as we advanced, and the wind increasing, the agitation of the water rendered the passage rough and unpleasant. It was, therefore, not without satisfaction that we descried Mertola at eleven o'clock; and soon after landed.

The inn was discovered; I believe the Portuguese word for it is *estallage*. This was a house in a wretched state of repair: there were, however, partridges to be had in abundance; and  
 wine,



wine, such as it was, neither red nor white, bad in colour, and worse in quality.

We had scarcely finished our repast, when a ragged soldier was introduced, with a message from the Governor, who desired to see us. On his Excellency we soon after waited; and were received, in a tolerably neat, small house, with great civility. He produced a paper, written in the Portuguese language, and read it; which imported, that their Majesties of Portugal and Algarve had been acquainted, that several British officers, in their road from Spain to Great Britain, would probably pass through the dominions of Portugal; they had therefore com-

R 4                      manded,

manded, that such officers should be received and treated in the most friendly manner, and every possible accommodation and assistance should be afforded to them during their residence in that kingdom. This was the substance of the paper; which having been read, the Governor asked in what manner he could serve us. After a consultation, it was desired that two calashes might be hired for our accommodation, and mules sufficient for our servants, and the conveyance of the baggage to Lisbon. Two calashes were not to be found in Mertola; the owner of that which the city afforded was sent for, and soon made his appearance; he was a fat, sulky-looking fellow; and, being acquainted



acquainted with the matter, absolutely refused to hire his calash.

The Governor, first mildly, and afterwards warmly, overruled his objections, by assuring him, that these were the commands of their Majesties, and he must go. He then demanded forty-six *peso duro* for the journey. This sum was immediately paid to him, and he received it with a very bad grace. It was now determined that Mr. H. and I (as an invalid) should occupy the calash; that Captain M. and the other gentleman of our party, should ride on mules; three mules were also hired for the servants; and six for the conveyance of the baggage. Our cavalry consisted of twelve mules, besides the calash,

calash, and altogether formed a strong party.

We were now about to take our leave of the Governor, when a new difficulty arose. The rage for expedition, which the adventures of the last night had not been sufficient to depress, induced the gentleman who was to be my companion in the calash to insist on setting out as soon as possible that afternoon. This, not only the calash-driver, but also the muleteers, refused to do; and, as the distance to Beja, the first supposed stage, was nominally eight leagues, and probably between thirty and forty miles, there certainly was imprudence in the attempt. Mr. H. however, persisted in his resolution; and the

royal



royal edict, with the authority of the Governor, carried so much weight that the calash-driver and muletteers were obliged to submit ; and, at four in the afternoon, we departed from Mertola, most of the party, both English and Portuguese, in very bad humour.

Mertola is a very antient city, was a Roman station, and called *Julia Myrtilis*; it was also long in the possession of the Moors, and, from its present appearance, seems to have undergone little alteration, and has certainly received no improvement since it was surrendered to its present masters. It is seated close to the Guadiana ; the country on both sides that

that river is in the territory of Portugal.

There are some olive plantations in the neighbourhood. The corn country about it is inconsiderable, hardly sufficient, I should imagine, for the necessary supply of the inhabitants. I could not but observe the strength and beauty of the mules that we had hired at Mertola. Those in the calash were near sixteen hands high; those hired to carry the gentlemen and for the servants and baggage were not so tall, but very strong and handsome. I have never seen in Spain animals of this class equal to them in any respect.

As I was by this time well convinced, by the slow movement of  
our



our carriage, that the journey must continue through the night, I submitted to my fate, and resolved to sleep away as much of it as I could; but we had scarcely travelled an hour when the calash stopped at a building like a barn, and, as we could distinguish, being now nearly dark, in the wildest desert that can be imagined. Here it was supposed that the driver intended to bait. The baggage mules, with the servants, soon after came up, and halted also. But we were soon undeceived; the muletteers began to unload the mules; and we were given to understand, that they intended to remain in this place for the night. Whatever was urged to the contrary had not the least effect, and our worthy driver did not seem

to pay the least attention to what we said ; the small distance that we had travelled having rendered the royal edict, and the governor of Mertola's authority, of no use to us.

The baggage was deposited in the barn-looking building that I had noticed, which, we were now informed, was a *venta*, or public building, for the reception of travellers, where better accommodations were not to be procured ; and that it was destined to be the place of our residence for the night. In this *venta*, I hope that you will not insist on my giving it any other name, for I have not heard that it has any, the whole furniture consisted of a long deal table and two benches ; there was neither fire-place nor inhabitant.

After



After the muletteers had unloaded their beasts, they led them away, without taking any notice of us, or seeming to think that we were any part of their concern.

A fervant followed them, who soon returned with an account that they had gone into a house at some distance. We followed, and came to a farm-house ; to the owner of which, probably, the *venta* belongs. Here, with some difficulty, we got salted pork and bread, and some wretched wine ; when we had devoured all the eatables that could be found we returned to the *venta*. It was impossible for any person who had been accustomed to hear of the frequent murders and robberies that are perpetrated

petrated in this country not to bring the idea of danger home to our present situation, and to consider this spot as calculated for such dark deeds; it was also an unlucky circumstance that our friends, Captain M. and his companion, had rode on without any attendant; so that our strength was divided, and we had reason to be apprehensive for their safety.

We made the best disposition in our power; the servants were armed, and agreed to watch alternately. The door of the *venta* was fortified with the baggage.

After these precautions were taken, the beds were spread on the deal table. I soon fell asleep, and was not at  
all



all dissatisfied to see that it was daylight when I awoke in the morning.

The calash-man and mule-drivers were soon with us ; and we departed from this execrable *venta*, which I shall not soon forget.

The morning was remarkably fine, with frost sufficiently sharp to harden the road. I walked several miles, through a country which, though actually a desert, was extremely pleasant. The myrtle, and the shrub which we call Portugal laurel, were to be seen all around us. The ground was covered with aromatic plants ; and the cork-tree and ever-green oak seemed to be scattered about by nature or by accident. Neither men

S

nor

nor animals, nor marks of habitation, were to be found. The road is very good, and has been lately made, by the royal command, from Mertola to the Tagus, at a very great expence: it must long continue in order, as the country is dry, with a gravelly soil, and it is not likely to be broken by the pressure of heavy carriages.

After midday we arrived at Beja, and were happy to see our friends, who came out of the city to meet us. After they had left us last evening, they rode on, and came to Beja about two o'clock in the morning without accident. Here they certainly would have wandered about the streets until day-light, had they not met with an honest



honest soldier, who knocked up the people of the estallage, and procured them lodging.

Our friends conducted us to this estallage, which is a most wretched place. The floor of the room that we were in was perforated by age in such a manner, that it was a service of some danger to walk over it; and this was the best apartment of the house. With all our exertions, jointly and severally, a sufficient dinner could scarcely be procured.

This city is also of high antiquity, has been a Roman station, and distinguished by the name of *Pax Julia*. Some remains of Roman architecture are still to be found. Its distance from

the Guadiana is about two leagues. The land in the vicinity of the city produces corn and olives. The cultivation is to no great extent.

This province has been more than once the seat of war between Spain and Portugal; and it has been considered as a matter not easily accounted for, that the Spaniards have not conquered it. Poverty has probably been in this instance the means of its preservation; for there is not subsistence to be found in this country for any body of men worthy to be called an army, even for a single day; and though the Spaniards possibly may be better foldiers than the Portuguese, they have long since lost that character of activity and enterprize which  
they



they formerly possessed. Should hereafter any attempt be made against this province; the Portuguese will probably have reason to repent that they have made a good road through it, as it will greatly facilitate the progress of an enemy.

On the sixteenth, early in the morning, we left Beja; and, at a public house about two leagues from it, endeavoured to get something for breakfast; but in vain, until I recollected that there was some chocolate with my baggage. This was found, with some difficulty. It was then necessary to press a kettle, and boil it ourselves. At our departure, we offered the people some money for the use we had made of their

S 3 . . . . . house;

house ; but, as it was Spanish, they said they did not understand it, and refused to receive it.

In our journey of this day, we again halted ; and, seeing a pot on the fire, enquired its contents. These were found to be Baccalao, or Newfoundland cod-fish ; this, and the dried kidney-beans, or caravanfes, mixed with oil and garlick, constitute nearly the whole diet of the people of this province.

It was after night when we came to Evora, although we had set out very early in the morning, and the distance eight computed leagues. Nor will you be surprized at this, as the mules have walked every inch of the  
road



road from Mertola ; nor can any thing induce either them or their driver to alter their pace. Never, surely, was there so severe a tax on the patience of a precipitate traveller. My companion feels it accordingly.

I have walked out this morning to view this famous city of Evora. It is really a considerable place, has a fortification, and some soldiers to defend it. It contains a cathedral, being the see of an archbishop, and several other churches ; and is accounted, in point of population, the second city of Portugal.

There is a considerable extent of corn-country in the neighbourhood of Evora ; and also olive-plantations,

vineyards, and garden-grounds. But, though the distance from Lisbon is now no more than twenty-three computed leagues, neither the provision nor wine are at all improved.

I shall take leave of the antient city of Evora, whose classical name was *Libertas Julia*, by observing, that it is, like almost every thing else in this country, rather famous for what it has been, than what it is; that it discovers strong marks of age, poverty, and decay. Except the little town of Villa Real, and the new road, there is nothing like improvement in the province of Alentijo; every thing seems to decline rapidly, and to pass from bad to worse. That this may not be our case, is the sincere wish of

Your very faithful servant,

R. C.



## LETTER XXIII.

DEAR SIR,

Lisbon.  
Dec. 21, 1780.

WE reached Lisbon yesterday, to my great satisfaction ; as I had been for some time heartily tired of the journey through Portugal.

As no variety occurred during the remainder of the journey, the same desert country, ragged villages, ruinous estallages, no meat, and abominable wine ; I shall not trouble you with an account of it, but bring you to Aldea Gallega, a little town on the Tagus, opposite to Lisbon, where we very willingly discharged our  
fulky

fulky calash-driver, who, I verily believe, has not spoken a word to us during the journey; indeed, it would have been to little purpose if he had, as we certainly should not have understood him: for, though my knowledge of the Spanish language is very superficial, I generally understood what was spoken on common subjects; and the Spanish and Portuguese, as written languages, bear a near affinity, yet, from the pert and quick manner in which the Portuguese speak, and the eternal repetition of *vostre merced*, which, I apprehend, is applied in all conversations and on all occasions, I may venture to say that I have not understood one word that has been spoken to me in the journey from Villa Real to Lisbon.

This



This fellow would not give himself the trouble to ask for money ; which no chaise-driver that I ever met with or heard of, either from pride or idleness, ever neglected to do.

It was impossible not to observe, in the towns that we have lately passed through, the difference between the women of Portugal and those of Spain. The Portuguese women are handsome in their persons, smart in their dress, with fine eyes and teeth, and beautiful hair in the greatest abundance : in their head-dress they mix ribbands and flowers with very good taste ; these, too, women of ordinary rank, as we were not in the way of seeing any other. In short, it must be allowed, that there are  
finer

finer women and better mules in Portugal than in Andalusia.

Yesterday we crossed the Tagus in a passage-boat. The port of Lisbon appeared to be full of ships; and, from its proximity to the sea, must derive great advantages.

The city makes a splendid appearance, when viewed from the river; and, on the opposite side, are seen villages, country-houses, and gardens full of trees, adorned with the luxuriant beauties of summer-foliage; amongst these the orange-tree is conspicuous.

The prospect of these charming gardens must at any time have engaged



gaged the attention; but, at this season of the year, and after a long journey, through nearly a continued desert, it was peculiarly attractive.

We landed in the outskirts of Lisbon at twelve o'clock; and, after a long and very dirty walk, came to Williams's English hotel at Buenos Ayres.

As we passed through the streets, we witnessed an accident, which brought to our recollection the procession of the host, which we had not seen since we left Arcos.

A well-dressed Portuguese, on horseback, as the procession approached him, jumped from his horse with

alacrity, and fell on his knees, in a very dirty part of the street. The horse, being spirited, took fright at the sound of the trumpet; and, his hand being engaged with the bridle, dragged the Fidalgo through the mud, until his cloaths were in a sad condition.

In this English hotel is an ordinary, frequented by strangers of the best rank. Here we took our dinner yesterday, with a large party, chiefly English and French. The dinner was very good, and particularly the beef was the best that I have tasted; there was no want of good claret, and various other wines. You must allow me to mention the dinner of this day, as it is a sort of adventure  
to



to which I have not lately been accustomed.

This house stands on a hill which overlooks the Tagus and the ships in the harbour. From the management of the house, the servants, who are all English, the cookery, and other circumstances, which exactly resemble those of an inn of the superior order in England, a person might be easily induced to forget that he is in Portugal, and believe himself in a much better country.

We have not yet thought of the voyage to England. Ten days or a fortnight's good living will be absolutely necessary to recruit the spirit that has been exhausted during the journey.

journey. In that time you shall have my opinion of Lisbon ; and, as far as I may be able to judge, of its inhabitants.

My respects wait on my friends ; and I am always, most sincerely,

Yours,

R. C.

LET-



## L E T T E R XXIV.

DEAR SIR,

Lisbon,  
December, 1780.

THERE are few cities that have so many advantages to boast in point of situation as Lisbon. Seated on the banks of the noble river Tagus, ships are brought close to the wharfs, and their cargoes delivered into the warehouses with very little labour and expence. Nature seems to have intended it to be the general mart of Europe.

The climate is temperate and healthy. The country about it produces corn, wine, and oil; and the fruits,

T both

both of the old world and the new, are cultivated in the greatest perfection and abundance. But, as the good things of this world are seldom found unmixed with evil, the baneful effects of the earthquake that happened in the year 1755 must ever be remembered with apprehension whilst you are on the spot; indeed, there yet remain so many marks of that dreadful phænomenon, that you can go through no part of the city without its being brought to your recollection. Immense heaps of rubbish are every where seen, the remains of buildings that were destroyed in that day of almost universal desolation to Lisbon. These add to the disadvantages of the natural  
in-



inequality of the ground on which the city was built ; so that you are always going either up or down hills. The streets are not paved, and the soil being clay, the dust in Summer, and the mud in Winter, render it extremely unpleasent to walking people ; calashes are for that reason generally used ; one of these, with the two mules and a driver, may be hired for about seven shillings a day, and is always in attendance.

Many large buildings are begun, intended for magnificent churches, convents, and hospitals ; but the progress seems to be slow. Indeed, there appears in those that have had the superintendance in rebuilding the city, an attention to shew rather than

convenience ; and thence arises a want of houses suited to the industrious and useful inhabitants of a trading city.

The moderate and equal temperature which Lisbon enjoys, from the advantages of its situation near the sea, have rendered it famous for the restorative quality of its air ; and patients, particularly in consumptive cases, are sent by their physicians to this city from every part of Europe. Lodging-houses and inns for the entertainment of strangers are therefore frequent and good. The English house in which we are is particularly convenient, pleasantly situated, and remarkable for its good entertainment.



The markets of Lisbon are well supplied with meat, particularly excellent beef, poultry, game, and fish in the greatest abundance and variety. Yet, although I apprehend that these articles, and other necessaries, may be procured at a very moderate price, a person cannot manage to live at this hotel of Buenos Ayres for less than a guinea a day.

Excellent wines, in the greatest variety, are found here, Port only excepted; this favourite beverage of the English nation has no honour in its own country. These, however, form nearly the whole of our expence; for Lisbon is at present entirely without public entertainment. The rigid piety of the Queen has been

the occasion of shutting up all places of amusement; neither opera nor play are permitted, even at this festive season. The balls given by the members of the British factory are all that can be found; these are once in a fortnight; and it happened on the evening of our arrival. Whether we shall continue inhabitants of Lisbon until the next entertainment of this kind takes place, is very doubtful.

The gentlemen of the Factory live in a very sociable and pleasant manner, and are particularly civil and hospitable to all strangers that visit this city.

But, though other amusements are wanting, the churches are always  
open;



open ; and, to those that are connoisseurs in music and pictures, religious ceremonies and parade, will doubtless afford great satisfaction.

One exhibition I had almost forgot to mention ; I mean, that of the Portuguese ladies at their lattices : there they are almost ever to be seen ; very handsome in their persons ; their very fine hair, elegantly mixed with flowers and feathers ; apparently sprightly, gay, and dressed for show. Very different, indeed, are the modest apparel and unassuming manners of the females of Andalusia. As no woman, above the meanest condition, ever is seen to walk in the streets of this city, they must of necessity be much confined to their houses ; and

the Portuguese husbands are said to be jealous in the extreme.

Captain M. and myself generally drive, in our calash, about the city, to see what may be worth observation. We have paid our respects to Mr. Walpole, the British Ambassador at this Court, who received us politely, and did us the honour to return our visit in two days.

We have also waited on Sir John Hort, the Consul General; and were treated by him with great civility and kindness. To Mr. Maine, the brother of Lord Newhaven, who is a Banker in this city, the English in general have the highest obligations; he behaved to them in the most friendly



friendly manner; and all that applied to him were entertained with hospitality, and supplied with money without hesitation. I had letters of credit to him; but those that had not, received the same assistance.

The gentlemen of the Factory have their country-houses amidst the orange-gardens of Cintra, a pleasant village on the opposite side of the Tagus. Here they retire from the fatigues of business, and enjoy, in honourable leisure, the comforts of this enchanted spot, where even at this season the vivid green and the golden fruit of the orange-tree every where abound. We are much inclined to visit these retreats; but to make this excursion we must give up  
all

all thoughts of going to England in the next packet ; and this is a sacrifice that I am very unwilling to make. There is nothing in Lisbon that can induce a wish to continue in it an hour, the good fare and excellent wine of the English hotel only excepted.

With the comfortable hope of again visiting my friends on British ground, I remain,

Your very affectionate servant,

R. C.

LET-



## L E T T E R XXV.

DEAR SIR,

Lisbon,  
December, 1780.

AS I have nothing to acquaint you with, relating to myself, I will endeavour, in this letter, to give you some account of this country, on which I have been thus accidentally thrown.

The little kingdom of Portugal is bounded on two sides by the Spanish provinces; and on the other [two by the Atlantic ocean: it is divided into six provinces; those on the South are very thinly peopled; but, from the barrenness of the soil, through want of water, and neglect of cultivation,

pro-

produce not corn sufficient for the consumption of the inhabitants. The Northern provinces are more fertile, and the people more industrious.

This difference will ever be found between the inhabitants of a very hot country, and those that have the good fortune to dwell in a temperate climate. In the district of Porto, particularly, the example and encouragement of the British Factory at Port, have been attended with singularly good effects; the appearance of the country, and manners of the inhabitants in the vicinity of that city improve daily; and an activity and spirit of industry prevail, unknown in any other province of Portugal,

The



The trade of this kingdom is very considerable : the chief of their staple commodities are wine, fruit, and the bark of the cork-tree. . They have also many olive plantations ; but neither the oil nor fruit are exported in any considerable quantities ; the oil, like that of Spain, being so badly managed as to render it rancid, and of little use in any country except their own. . Their vineyards afford the most important articles of their trade : these consist chiefly of the red and white wines of Oporto, which are produced in the Northern Provinces ; the Lisbon and Calcavalla white wines, made in the province of Estremadura ; the greatest part of these in the neighbourhood of Lisbon. . The wine of the more Southern provinces

is

is miserably bad; and in quantity scarcely sufficient to supply the wants of the inhabitants. Their vineyards also give considerable quantities of grapes and raisins for exportation: their gardens, lemons, oranges, figs, almonds, and pomegranates. Their onions are the best in Europe, and make an useful article of trade. Lisbon hams are much esteemed, and in great demand for exportation.

Great Britain is the best market for these articles of their produce; and, as there is little or no demand for the wines of Portugal in any other part of Europe, the advantages of trade are reciprocal between the countries; and they receive from Great Britain in return corn, cloth, tin, and various

rious



rious articles of manufactures, adapted to their home consumption, and that of their colonies.

The Portuguese have but few trading vessels; and, notwithstanding the advantages that might be made of their present neutrality, take but little share of their own carrying-trade. They have lost great part of their former possessions in the New World, and seem to owe the preservation of those that are left to them rather to the moderation of their neighbours, than their own strength; of these Goa on the Malabar coast in Asia, and Brasil in South America, are the principal. From these settlements the Portuguese receive large returns of bullion, and valuable goods

goods of various kinds, which are divided among the more industrious merchants and manufacturers of England and Holland.

The system of government in this kingdom has been generally considered as weak and ill-conducted. The Marquis de Pombal, the minister of the late King, has been variously spoken of; some of his measures seem to have been bold and well-conceived; others, weak and ill-conducted: among the latter was an attempt to produce corn sufficient for the support of the inhabitants, by destroying a certain portion of the vine-lands, and applying them to the cultivation of wheat. As this measure was to be carried by force, and as  
every



every thing in this country becomes a job in the hands of its government, it very naturally happened, that the wine was lost, and no corn gained ; for the vineyards of the poor were torn up and destroyed, while those of the opulent remained in their former state.

As there are, doubtless, many thousand acres of land in the wastes of the province of Alentejo that might have been brought into the culture of wheat, if proper encouragement had been given, the advantages of the measure would have been experienced by the publick and the land-owners ; but it would have cost something to the government in the first instance ; and this is contrary to its principle—to take all, and give nothing.

U

This

This minister, during the last war, influenced by the enmity of Spain, and supported by the friendship of Great Britain, roused the country into a degree of exertion, of which its best friends believed it incapable. An attempt was made to reform the army, and to place it on a respectable line; for this purpose the Count de la Lippe Buckebourg, an officer in all respects qualified for such an undertaking, was appointed to the chief command; and many British officers were induced to enter into the service of Portugal, by the promises of preferment, which were liberally held out to them.

The expulsion of the Jesuits, by the same Minister, was certainly a strong



strong measure in such a country, and probably could not have been carried into effect, unless the people had been induced to consent to it, from the conviction that they were actually concerned in the assassination of the King.

As the slight degree of education which these people received was entirely through the means of the Jesuits, and the only useful knowledge in the country was in their hands, it is generally considered that this event has been productive of more evil than good to the kingdom in general.

The Marquis also restrained the power of the Inquisition, and endeavoured

voured to bring their tyranny within moderate bounds ; but, since the commencement of the present reign, every thing has reverted to its former state ; the nation seems to have been rendered weaker by the efforts it made at that time.

The attempt to reform the army has entirely failed. Nearly all the Foreign Officers have left the service with disgust. The regiments are without clothes or pay ; in short, as bad, or, if possible, worse than they were before. You will not be surprized at this, when I assure you, that I have heard the following story asserted on good authority.

The commission of a Field Officer in one of these regiments being vacant,



cant, it was applied for by those officers whose merit and date of service gave them a right of pretension to succeed to it; but, after a considerable space of time had elapsed, it was disposed of in favour of a Saint who had been dead a thousand years, or more probably had never lived at all, and the emoluments of the appointment went to his Convent.

Indeed, the state of the military is considered of little consequence, as their Most Faithful Majesties, it is said, have declared their intention of resigning the government of the kingdom, rather than enter into a war. This declaration, if such has been made, seems a very improbable method to avoid it, which, in the pre-

sent state of European politicks, can only be done by being prepared to meet it.

The Inquisition has not only recovered its former power, but is in all things omnipotent. Their present Majesties, indeed, are so much given to piety, that there is no road to preferment but by the influence of the Church; their whole confidence is placed in things above; they and their ministers are continually employed in their attendance on masses and religious processions; all other objects are overlooked or forgotten. The Queen attends the baptism of all profelytes; and the converts from every other religion are liberally rewarded.

The



The Navy of Portugal is nearly in the same condition as their Army. It must be allowed, that nothing can preserve the independence of Portugal, as a kingdom, for a month, except the torpid state of the Spanish government. In extent of dominion, and numbers of people, the Spaniards possess a manifest superiority; in military spirit and activity, it is difficult to determine on which side is the advantage.

The Portuguese are very reserved in their manner of living; they pay no attention to strangers; and, as far as possibly they can do it, avoid all intercourse with them.

There are very few of the nobility or gentry whose fortunes will support

a moderate establishment; and, as they affect to have a great number of servants and dependants, they are, of consequence, generally poor.

The Portuguese males are undoubtedly the worst-looking race in Europe; well may they consider the appellation of *ombre blanco*, "white man," as an honourable distinction. They proceed from a mixture of Jews, Moors, Negroes, and French, and seem, from their appearance and qualities, to have reserved to themselves the worst parts of each of these people. Like the Jews, they are mean, tricking, and avaricious: from the Moors, they are jealous, cruel, and revengeful; as the people of colour, they are servile, indocile, and deceitful;



deceitful; and they resemble the French in vanity, grimace, and gaffconade.

In the new world they have practised the same mixing system; and a mongrel race, retaining the Portuguese name, and a dialect of the language, have overspread the land, and are the vagabonds and outcasts of Asia.

The women seem to have gained by these adventitious connexions what the men have lost; they are in general very handsome, lively, and gay.

The men are notoriously jealous; and, if there can be an excuse for this passion, it must be where the women  
are

are amiable, and the men so much the contrary : hence arise private murders and assassinations.

It is by no means the method of the Portugese to call on the person that he thinks has injured him for satisfaction ; the safer method of hiring the Bravo is generally adopted. And this trade will certainly thrive, as the Queen has lately thought proper, in her zeal for Religion, to pardon several murderers of the most atrocious sort.

As you will be probably of my opinion, that a long continuance at Lisbon is in no respect to be desired, so you will not be surprized that we have resolved to re-visit England by



the first opportunity : we shall therefore take our passage in the Hampden packet, which will probably sail for Falmouth in the course of ten days. In arranging this business, we have had a slight dispute with the agent for the English packets at this place. It is a custom to charge to each passenger who engages a passage the sum of four guineas, in addition to the price which is paid to the master of the packet. This is called the King's tax. In the particular situation in which we stood, we have objected to the payment of this money, not only on our own account, but that we may not establish an evil precedent, that may affect British officers under similar circumstances in future. As the agent did not seem

in-

inclined to give up the point in dispute, the matter was referred to Sir John Hort. Sir John was of opinion, that, if we chose to claim this exemption as distressed British subjects, there would be no objection. We, however, declined to avail ourselves of this indulgence; and, still persisting to claim the right of being exempted from this payment, the matter was at length given up to us. The price of the passage to Falmouth, exclusive of this sum, is ten guineas; and the master of the packet provides a table and wine, tea, bed, and every other necessary article. We shall probably have more passengers on board the Hampden than may conduce to our convenience, as this is the first opportunity that has offered since we came here.

Having



Having thus engaged for a passage, and taken leave of our mess-mates that stay behind, we shall quit Lisbon not unwillingly.

My next letter will, I trust, be from Falmouth. In the mean time, wherever be my lot, believe me, always most sincerely,

Yours,

R. C.

LET-



## LETTER XXVI.

DEAR SIR,

Falmouth,  
January, 1781.

I HAVE again the pleasure of writing to you from British ground.

We arrived here yesterday, after a tolerable voyage, the season of the year considered; the occurrences of which are scarcely worth the recital; but, as it is your desire, I shall continue my letters, with the account of it.

We received the summons to embark, on board the Hampden packet, early in the morning of the

January,



January, and sailed from the Tagus about noon.

The vicinity of the harbour of Lisbon to the sea gives great advantages to the trade, as ships may get out of the river with any wind. There were eighteen passengers; rather too many for the size and accommodations of the ship: these were chiefly military men, on their return from Spain, who had been involved in the same unlucky expedition. We had soon the mortification to find, that the ship was very leaky, and required the continual exercise of the pumps to keep her free. The master, as an apology, told us, that she ought to have been put into dock before she made the voyage; but the urgency

urgency of the service would not admit of it: he also assured us, as some consolation, that the leak would not increase; for this, indeed, we had no security, except his assertion; and, as that was the best that could be had in the present case, it was our interest to be satisfied with it.

The Easterly winds prevail so much in these latitudes, that the packets put to sea immediately on receiving their orders, and generally with adverse winds; and are often obliged to run an hundred leagues to the westward, as the sailors term it, to look for a wind. This happened to us; and we were near the Western islands when we met with the desired breeze. From thence we jogged on  
about



about ten days, by the impulse of the westerly wind, eating, drinking, and playing cards, according to the usual method of passengers on such occasions.

Two good tables were kept, one in the cabin, the other in the steerage; so that if, from caprice, or any other reason, you disliked the company in one place, there was an opportunity of changing to the other.

Nothing unpleasant occurred, except, what we could neither avoid nor remedy, the leaky state of the ship, and the continual noise of the pumps, a sound very ungrateful to the landman's ear. A military gentleman on board had frequently used

to make enquiry of the seamen, relative to the state of the ship and the pumps. Now, as truebred seamen are of opinion that passengers have no right to feel at all for themselves on these occasions, their questions are generally treated with the utmost contempt. It happened that this gentleman, hearing a more than usual bustle on the deck, left his apartment, some time after midnight, either from apprehension or curiosity, to make his usual enquiries; when one of the mates informed him, that the pumps were choaked, and that no hopes remained of preserving the lives of the people on board but the speedy falling-in with some vessel, of which there was at present no great probability: the gentleman left the  
deck,



deck, and retired to his bed in the last despair; and he was not easily convinced, as the day advanced, and the story was known, that his apprehensions were groundless.

On the eleventh day of the voyage, early in the morning, a sail was discovered far astern of the ship. This called the attention of every person on board, and, by the assistance of glasses, and the proverbial acuteness of a seaman's eye, it was ascertained to be a French frigate, and every part of her described with minute exactness, when, by the utmost exertion of the visual ray, I could scarcely discern her, a spot on the horizon.

All was now bustle and uproar wild; every sail was set that could be rendered useful to assist in our escape and every manœuvre tried to baffle the pursuit. At first we seemed tolerably secure in the fast sailing of our ship; and, indeed, I have seldom met with a master of a vessel that was not fully persuaded that his was the fastest sailer of the description to which she belonged.

Notwithstanding the sea axiom, "that a stern chase is a long chase," it soon became evident that the ship by which we were followed outfailed us; and, by the middle of the day, it was thought necessary to make preparations for the worst that might befall us; the master distributed his  
money



money and bank-notes amongst his passengers, hoping that more delicacy would be used in the article of plunder towards them, than he himself might probably expect to meet with; for my own part, I had laid out my best coat to put on, it being the usual policy on these occasions to secure on your back the best part of your wardrobe.

The evening now approached, and, as there appeared no probability of escape, it was judged prudent to shorten sail, and suffer the ship that chased us to come up, to avoid the dangerous and disagreeable circumstances to which we must certainly have been exposed, on being boarded by an enemy in the night. Whilst  
preparations

preparations were made for this purpose the man at the mast head called out, that there was a fleet in sight to windward, and that a ship of war had left them and stood towards us: this gave us new hopes; every sail was again set, to carry us towards the ship that approached to our assistance; she bore down very fast, and soon discovered that the chasing ship was a friend. A boat soon after came along-side from The Surprize frigate, Captain Reeves, and put a Lieutenant on board, who brought us the first news of the war with Holland; and removed all our apprehensions of being taken.

We had again an instance of the pre-eminence of a seaman's vision.

One



One of the men that came in the man of war's boat had declared our ship to be the Hampden, from the first time he saw her in the morning.

The Pandora was the ship that had so bravely advanced to our assistance ; she had the care of a convoy from Ireland ; and, when she was convinced of our safety, pursued her voyage.

The attention of every person on-board had been too much engaged on this day to think of dinner, until the danger was at an end. We then sat down ; and, as all felt pleasure from the escape of the day, a more liberal use of wine took place than had generally been the custom.

It was between ten and eleven o'clock when I left the table to take a walk on the deck. The night was moderate and pleasant. On looking round I thought that I saw some lights a-head. As there was no person on deck but the man at the helm, I pointed them out to him: but he had shared in the general joy, and either could not, or would not, see them. As the Scilly Islands could not be at a great distance from us, I was more particular in my observation, and was soon convinced that these were really the Scilly lights. The Master was not to be found: fortunately Captain R. of the East India Company's service, was a passenger with us, on his return to England from Spain; he was called, and



and recognized the lights ; we gave them a proper distance, and all was well.

As, during the chace, the usual methods of ascertaining the distance the ship runs cannot be observed, it was imagined, that we had gone farther into St. George's Channel, and that the distance from Scilly was greater than it was really found to be; thus it is probable that we escaped some danger by my walk on the deck.

The ship came into the harbour about noon ; and I soon after landed at this place, happy to revisit the hospitable coast of Cornwall ; and sincerely thankful to Providence, that I had, in the short space of five months,

Y passed

passed through many various scenes ; to which, in general, the most unpleasant, and not unfrequently dangerous, circumstances are attached, with so light a portion of either, that it appears, on retrospection, rather to have been a voyage and journey of pleasure, than an expedition marked by ill success and captivity. We shall stay here a day or two to recover the fatigue of the voyage.

Falmouth is not an unpleasant town ; and its inhabitants are civil and hospitable to strangers. Some years since it had a considerable trade, particularly in the exportation of pilchards to the Spanish ports, both in and out of the Mediterranean ; but the present war has been fatal to it ;

and



and the chief part of its consequence, at present, is a very excellent harbour, and that it is the station of the Lisbon, West India, and American packets. The Masters and Officers of which, and their families, form a considerable part of the inhabitants. The antient castle of Pendennis is about two miles from it, very pleasantly situated, with an open view of the sea. Some companies of Invalids form its garrison, and a Regiment of Infantry is generally quartered in the town of Falmouth. There has also been a small encampment formed near Pendennis.

As you are not acquainted with this part of the kingdom, and I mean to give our friend, Captain M. a fight  
of

of the mines, and of any thing else that may be thought worthy of observation, I shall again write to you from Exeter; and, for the present, close this correspondence, in the hope of soon after meeting you in good health; being always,

Yours, most sincerely,

R. C.

THE END.



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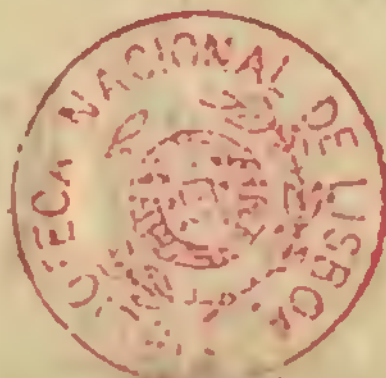
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