

9. Nueva hist. univ. de todos los pueblos del mundo, will make 46 vols. 8vo.

10. Coleccion de cronicas y documentos ineditos y raros, &c. 4to.

11. Coleccion de varones ilustres de la nacion española, portraits, 12 numbers are published.

12. El honor español (spanish heroism and brilliant actions).

13. Diccion. hist. de varones ilustres en &c. &c. hijos de Madrid, 4 vols. 4to.

14. Coleccion de estatuas del antiguo, 16 numbers published, 8 reals each.

15. De prima typographiæ hispanicæ ætate specimen by Caballero; Romæ 1793, contains a catalogue of spanish editions down to 1500, 4to. 12 reals, Valencia.

16. Typog. española, o hist. de la introd. y progr. del arte, &c. en España by Mendez an augustin monk, sold by the author.

17. Fasti novi orbis, 4to.

18. Mercurio general de Europa, lista de sucesos varios acaecidos en 1757 y 1758, by De Isla, jesuit, reprinted.

19. Hist. del luxo y de las leyes suntuarias de España by Sempere y Guarinos, 2 vols. 8vo.

20. Cartas en que se dan noticias ineditas of Arabic MSS. and monuments, or additions to Masdean's España Arabe.

21. Nuevo plan del celebre teatro de la Antigua Sagunta, by Palos y Navara with observations on distributing the voice, 6 reals.

22. Compendio hist. de las variaciones de las Iglesias protest. translated from the Ital. of Roncaglia much enlarged by Quijano.

23. Sepulveda's works edited by the royal acad. of hist. 4 vols. 4to. 116 reals, he was cotemporary with Charles V.

24. Hist. de la vida de M. T. Cicero, translated from Middleton, portraits, 120 reals and 190 reals splendid.

25. Vida de Francklin from the English.

26. Aparato geografico para entender la gaxeta.

27. Invest. hist. sobre los princip. descubrim. de los Españoles by Aladera, portraits.

28. The history and philosophical works of the ex-jesuit Lor. Hervas y Pandaro. His whole works comprise 21 vols. 4to. called idea del universo or a general encyclopædia. His most important work is

29. Escuela española de sordomudos, 2 vols. 4to. (Instructions for the deaf and dumb.)

30. Carta del Ab. D. J. Andres sobre el origen, &c. of such instruction.

## VII. VOYAGES AND TRAVELS.

1. Observaciones sobre la hist. nat. &c. &c. del reyno de Valencia by Cavanilles, 2 vols. 4to. with views.
2. Reflexiones polit. y econom. &c. sobre Aragon, 4to. by Dr. Generes.
3. Econom. Polit. de Aragon by Ign. de Affo.
4. Noticia y plan de un viage para reconocer Archivos y formar la coleccion diplom. de España by Abella, by order of the king.
5. D<sup>o</sup> de un viage arquitectonico-antiquario by Ortiz by the king's order,  $\frac{1}{2}$  real.
6. Compendio de observac. que forman el plan de un viage polit. y filosof.
7. Hist. de la vida y viages del Capitan J. Cook from Dr. Kippis. The voyages had already been translated.
8. Compendio. cronolog. de la hist. y estado actual de la Ruffia. by Castillo.
9. Descripcion historial de la provincia y archipelago de Chiloe en el reyno de Chili by Agueros, 4to.
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11. Relacion de la embaxada del Lord Macartney, translated from Sir G. Staunton.
12. Trages Asiaticos (costumes) near 90 numbers.

13. De-

13. Descripcion de las provincias de España, 1 vol. folio, with a nomenclature of places, 1 vol. folio.

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15. Viage a Constantinopla en 1784, 4to. fine plates, being the voyage of the spanish squadron with presents. The appendix contains a second voyage to Cyprus and the coast of Syria.

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3. Tratado pratico sobre el arte de la tintura y reglas, &c. plates.

4. Tratado de hilar, &c. las sedas by Lapayaffe a Frenchman who has a salary for teaching Vaucanson's method gratis.

5. Ensayo de metalurgia by Sala.

6. Memoria fisico-econom. sobre el mejoram. de los lienzos en Galicia.

7. Tratado de refinar el canamo. plates. A description is also sold at the royal press of a new machine to perform the 3 principal operations invented by Salva y Sampons of Barcelona, 4 reals.

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5. Memoria sobre algunos metodos nuevos de calcular la longitud por las distancias lunares, y aplicacion de su teorica a la solucion de otros problemas de navegacion by Jos. de Mendoza y Rios a celebrated captain.

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10. Compendio de aritmetica teorica y practica, by Gonzalez, and a vast number of other abridgements of similar commercial books, &c.

11. Tratado

11. Tratado teorico-pratico demostrado de las reglas de combinacion en general.

12. Tratado de matematicas para instruccion de los militares, 2 vols. 8vo.

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2. Seminario de agricultura artes y oficios, plates, 114 reals.

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5. Tratado pratico de colmenas, o pastoria de las abejas.

6. Sobre los abonos segun las diferencias del terreno, translated from Kirwan (on manures).

7. Instruccion para pastores y ganaderos, translated from Daubenton by Gonzalez, by order of the king, price low.

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9. Tratado de los granos y de la molienda de ellos.

10. El

10. El jardinero instruido o tratado fisico de la vegetacion, &c. by Sampil.

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14. Hist. de la agricultura española by Laporta.

15. Causas de la escasez y deterioro de los caballos en España, by De Pomas, by order of the king.

16. Sobre los excelentes que fueron en la antigüedad los caballos de las demas provincias de España, by ditto.

#### XI. EDUCATION.

1. Exemplos morales o las consecuencias de la buena y de la mala educacion, &c. by Rubio.

2. Gazeta de los niños monthly,  $\frac{1}{2}$  piastre per annum.

3. Bibliotheca de buena educacion o el amante de la niñez y de la juventud, translated from Berquin, extremely read.

4. Crianza fisica de los niños desde su nacimiento hasta la pubertad, translated from Ballexford of Geneva.

5. Metodo artificial de criar a los recién nacidos y dar les una buena educacion fisica, translated from

from the French, by Iberti, with Rosenstein's treatise on the diseases of children. 2 vols. 8vo.

6. Educacion de los niños, translated from Locke.

7. Guia del niño instruido y padre educado.

8. Enfayos politicos cientificos y militares sobre la instruccion y estudios de la juventud que se dedica a las armas.

## XII. BELLES LETTRES.

1. Mexico conquistada, by Escoiquiz. 3 vols. 8vo.

2. La musica, by Yriarte, a charming didactic poem, 6 cantoes.

3. Zumbas, archizumbas, &c. 2 vols. 8vo. a satire on monks, and the old system.

4. Coleccion de faynetes (farces) 8vo. 4 vols. are published.

5. Coleccion de novelas escogidas de los mejores autores españoles. 8 or 10 vols.

6. Coleccion de las comedias nuevas.

7. La muerte de Cesar, translated from Voltaire by Urquijo, 10 reals, with an important discourse on reforming the spanish theatre.

8. Discurso con que se refuta el de Urquijo, 5 reals.

9. Arte de ser feliz expuesto en 4 epist. moral. translated from the German of Utz con otras dos

dos intit. La riqueza y la gloria, y El amigo de los hombres. 8vo.

10. Obras poeticas de Don Ign. de Meras y Queypo, valet de chambre to the king. 2 vols. 8vo.

11. An infinity of translations of english and french novels, among which those of Richardson, Fielding, Darnaud, &c. and Caroline of Litchfeld. That from the French Cassandra has passed through two editions in a year and a half.

12. Idilios de Gesner en prosa y verso, also his Primer navegante. 17 reals together.

13. Leandra, a novel.

14. La comedia nueva.

15. Catalina II. of Russia, a play in 3 acts by Comella, author of Peter the Great.

16. Biblioteca entretenida de damas, an entertaining collection.

17. Florista comica, &c. &c. an anthology. 7 reals.

This sketch will suffice to show the progress of the Spanish in the various branches of literature. If that nation had equal liberty to cultivate all the sciences as freely as that of medicine, the best works of other countries would afford them both example and encouragement. I must repeat however that I have here noticed only the most important works; a complete list would have extended perhaps

perhaps to three times the space. Of the dates of each publication the negligence of the journals rendered it impossible to give an account.

\* \* Most of the above works even the translations are by men of eminence.



JUNTA DE ANDALUCÍA

P.C. Monumental de la Alhambra y Generalife  
CONSEJERÍA DE CULTURA

## LETTER XXXIV.

*Departure from Madrid.—The River Guadarrama.—Alamo.—Casarubios.—Portuguese Travellers.—A Market.—Santa Olalla.—The Alcalde.—Principe de la Paz (Prince of Peace).—The fair Fugitive.—Nocturnal Scenes.—Talavera de la Reyna.—Scenery.—Sleeping in the open Air.—Aigardo.—La Parleta.—Velois.—A pretended Demoniac.—An old Franciscan.—Puerto del Pico.—Alpine Scenery.—Truxillo.—A Hermit.—Casas de San Antonio.—Serranos or Mountaineers.—La Roca.—Environs of Badajoz.—Appearance of that City.—Bridge over the Guadiana.*

Badajoz, May 1798.

I HAVE been performing a journey of nine days, which to me proved very delightful, since I was almost always among mountains.

*First day.*—It was 10 o'clock A. M. when we left Madrid, and the heat was somewhat attempered by the west wind. On the height opposite the bridge of Segovia we once more admired the fine coup d'œil, which I have already described. The clear serenity of the heavens shone upon the irregular and broken summits of the Guadarrama mountains, and the innumerable towers of the Escorial sparkled amid a sea of azure. The fields appeared highly cultivated, and the horizon was skirted by woods and charming hills.

We

We passed a shabby bridge across the river Guadarrama, which takes its rise in the chain of mountains of that name. The banks are flat and dreary, an inundation had destroyed four arches of the great bridge built of freestone, and above 200 men were at work repairing it. In proportion as we approached the opposite bank, we found extremely well-cultivated fields covered alternately with corn and vines (which last in Spain are left to creep wildly upon the ground) producing a very beautiful variety in the prospect.

We soon arrived at Alamo, which is but three leagues from Madrid. In this part of the country the houses consist only of a ground floor without compartments within. I thought the women there very elegantly dressed. I saw them at the doors of all the houses.

The road still ascended, the cultivation seemed to improve, and the scenery to change at every step. We walked our mules slowly to enjoy the sweetness of the evening; and arrived at dusk at the small town of Casarubios, where are some linen manufactories.

The posada was excellent, and all alive in consequence of the arrival of two carriages from Lisbon. But the travellers, who were said to be emigrants, presently disappeared, and the portuguese drivers became the buts of the insolence of the muleteers.

The ancient antipathy of the 2 nations now showed

itself in severe raileries and farcafms, and the hoftefs herfelf as well as her daughter affailed them with a volley of grofs abuse. The Portuguefe being the weakeft party were prudent enough to take all in good part, and added much to the amufement by their jargon, which has the fame effect on Spaniards as that of Lower Saxony upon the inhabitants of the Upper.

The next morning I went to market, where I found nothing but bread, meat, and a few vegetables. I faw a woman there however who fold goat's milk, and ufed a cow's horn as a meafure. I was informed that in this fmall town there was only one panaderia or bakehoufe, which belonging to the alcalde muft augment the price of bread and render it arbitrary.

*Second day.*—We traversed fine fields of maize and vineyards, but the fcenery was very monotonous. We dined at the venta de Gallo three leagues from Cafarubios, where we found a courier, who had juft fallen down in an apoplexy. The poftilion had run to the neighbouring poft-houfe for help and to receive inftructions, and all was in the greateft confufion. After going two more leagues in the fpace of four hours we at length perceived at dusk Santa Olalla in a very beautiful fituation in the midft of a grove. The laft rays of the departing fun were reflected from the church tower of the village, and cloathed the fmiling hills in red. The

houses are poor, but the dress of the inhabitants shows some affluence.

We had scarcely arrived at the posada, before the alcalde came in. He was a little squat figure and not in his official dress, but wore a little black jacket, a superannuated velvet culotte and a great hair net. He saluted us by bowing his head, and seated himself with great gravity in the only vacant chair. While supper was preparing, we had called for some wine, which is excellent at this place, and took the liberty of inviting him to partake of it. He accepted our offer, though without relaxing in the least of his gravity, but began to ask us eagerly for news; which caused the conversation to turn on the Prince of Peace, whose dismissal or disgrace then occupied the attention of all Spain. Immediately on this subject being started all the arrieros (muleteers) who were present collected round our table, and every one of them furnished some new anecdote or observation. This convinced me, that even among the lower orders there is not now so much indifference to public affairs as formerly.

The opinions and conjectures in which people indulged relative to the Principe de la Paz (or Godoy, which is his family name) were equally bold and various. According to some his connection with an opera singer had excited the jealousy of his new wife and of his former patroness: it was intended to ruin him by degrees, and at length

length to remove him intirely. Others said his fall was effected by the english party, to which as is well known his former patroness and his confessor belonged, because Godoy would not in a certain affair yield to reasons of state. A third party asserted boldly that he had resigned spontaneously to avoid committing himself with these two parties. Others pretended to know for certain, that Godoy and his patroness had together formed a grand plan, that Godoy had been removed through distrust, &c. By this it at least appears how much the opinions of Madrid, be they what they might, interested the lower classes.

It was growing late, when another muleteer arrived with a young and beautiful woman, who over her veil wore an immense round hat like that of a man. We learnt, that she had been consigned to the care of this arriero by the alcalde del barrio at Madrid, and that he was ordered to conduct her to Badajoz. She appeared in deep affliction, took only a little bread and wine, and begged as a favour that she might go to bed. She was shown into a small room that looked into the inn-yard, where the muleteer locked her up and put the key in his pocket.

It was about midnight, when the joyous company began to think of retiring, and the muleteer opened the door to see if his prisoner was safe: but she had disappeared. Immediately there was  
a general



prisoner, who then began to relate her story. She had left an old husband at Badajoz to go and live at Madrid with her gallant, where after some months she had been arrested. "No," cried she, "I would rather put an end to my existence, than live with that brute." Her grief rendered her voice so affecting, and she wept so bitterly, that every one almost forgave her.

Meanwhile this adventure proved prejudicial to our interest. Our mules had been so harassed in the pursuit, that it was not prudent to proceed, and one of them required to be bled. We therefore saw the prisoner set off at noon under the conduct of an alguazil, but she was so exhausted with fatigue, that she could scarcely sit on the mule, though she had a woman's saddle with a cushion. All the village accompanied her for half a league, and several women offered her refreshments.

*Third day.*—The next day our mules were sufficiently rested to proceed on our journey. The road was planted on each side with olives in long files, between which were fields of wheat. We afterwards passed the river Alberca over a very fine bridge of eight arches. It was fordable and intersected by an infinity of small sands. In the afternoon the scenery assumed a new character; we saw a great quantity of cork trees, and in the distance mountains covered with snow. At length we arrived at Talavera de la Reyna, a town surrounded  
by

by a very rich country and beautiful avenues of trees. The smiling interior of the country shows that it anciently enjoyed a degree of affluence which it still retains. For the first time since our departure from Madrid we here found white bread, and generally speaking an excellent posada, where we took in a stock of provisions, that we might not be in want during the following 24 hours, the road being little frequented.

*Fourth day.*—From Talavera we turned to the left, and rode almost the whole day along paths, that meandered among orchards and delightful flowery meadows. At noon we dined in the shade under cork trees and lofty evergreen oaks (*encinas*) while our mules pastured in the meadow. The sky was perfectly serene, and the air seemed to assume a milder temperature in proportion as we approached the mountains.

In the afternoon we saw upon a height a monastery with several terraces planted with tufted olive trees. The garden was studded with innumerable colours, the orange trees were at once loaded with fruit and with blossoms, the perfumes of which sweetly scented the air, all the fields around were covered with high and luxurious corn; every where we beheld the most beautiful verdure, but on examining it closer we only saw brambles and aromatic fruitless plants.

As

As we could not hope to meet with an inn that night, we lay down in a fine meadow surrounded on all sides with hills and woods, and so full of odoriferous shrubs, that at first they seemed to exclude all access to it. We lighted a good fire, cooked our provisions, and the bota circulated freely. We then covered ourselves with some woollen coverlets we had brought: the night was warm and moonlight, and having tied our mules by the leg we gave ourselves up to sleep.

*Fifth day.*—After riding two hours we came to Aigardo, the first small town in the province of Estremadura. The bad cultivation of the adjacent country announced a wretched place, for such we found it. It was Sunday, and we could not avoid going to mass. Most of the inhabitants were ill dressed and dirty, only a few having clean shirts, which seem here to be a kind of luxury. The men had no jackets, nor the women any corsets, their whole dress consisting of a cloak or a veil, which covered their shirts and shifts. A few of them sat upon worm-eaten benches, but the majority squatted down upon the pavement. Such indeed is almost every where the condition of mankind. I observed that the men wore blue cloaks and the women red petticoats.

An hour after we left Aigardo, the country appeared better cultivated, and the elegant dress of the

the inhabitants of La Parleta about an hour's ride further formed no small contrast with the mean habiliments of the neighbourhood. The men wore dark brown culottes, red jackets and stockings, and black velvet caps, the women black petticoats, red or green corsets, and white veils. The village however was ill built. Here and there we saw at the windows a kind of cork box which served as a cradle for children. Since we left Madrid we had not till now met with good drinkable water, and we bought excellent goat's-milk cheeses at about 6d. a pound.

The road now began to ascend, and the mountains were very near us. We arrived in an hour and a half at Velois, a place situated at the foot of the mountains, where we found a multitude assembled round a pretended demoniac.

The possessed was a stout girl of about 18, but very plain and almost naked. She was locked up in a room on the ground floor, the windows being barricadoed with strong bars, against which almost the whole village was pressing. She lay upon the ground, and seemed to be talking with her lover; sometimes she darted forward, as if she would have seized something, then fell down again upon the ground screaming aloud. Her mouth foamed, and all her motions were convulsive. The curate of the place had already had recourse to relics, holy water, the host, and the crucifix; in short he had performed

performed a complete exorcism; but the slightest view of the unfortunate girl showed, that she was only under the influence of the disease called *æstromania*.

At length we left this melancholy sight, and entered on steep and dreary paths, where we had charming views of valleys and other mountains. After three hours riding we arrived at Almaraz, a small town, the inhabitants of which received us with great hospitality. The curate of the place, who was a franciscan, invited himself with the utmost freedom to supper, and our excellent wine inspired him with much gaiety. He had attended the army as almoner in the last campaign against France, and assured us he had more than once seen faint Isidorus in the shape of a small cloud at the head of the army. To avoid giving pain to this good man, who seemed to speak from his heart, we did not appear to doubt the fact, and only made a few observations en passant on the unfortunate issue of that war; nor was it without astonishment, that we heard the good curate attribute it to the sins of the queen.

Notwithstanding the cordial reception our host gave us, it was impossible for him to supply us with beds, and we were obliged to pass the night upon benches, where our sleep was more than once interrupted by the seguedillas of the young amorosos of the place; and I may boldly assert, that in the  
 small

small towns and villages not a night passes without a dozen of these serenades. This ancient custom of the Moors seems to have continued in all its force even in the smallest villages. The next morning at our departure the good old franciscan came to bid us adieu, and taking from his large sleeves half a dozen oranges and a pidgeon, begged our acceptance of them. We returned his politeness by a few cigars, and parted after a very chearful breakfast with mutual benevolence.

*Sixth day.* — After an hour and a half's riding, and after passing the Tagus, we entered at last into the defile called Puerto del Pico, which again transported us as it were into Switzerland. The rocks were covered with tall myrtles and lavender, and the sides of the hills and valleys exhibited small fields and huts interspersed here and there. The air was as pure as on the Alps, but milder and more balsamic. We left the small village called Casas del Puerto, and arrived across steep rocks covered with verdure by an infinite number of windings and interminable paths at Xaraizexos situated upon the ridge of the mountain. From the balconies of our posada we enjoyed the delightful prospect of the lower valleys, which were embellished by the last rays of the departing sun. The whole of the ground in front of the village was full of herds of goats, and at supper we had rabbits for the first time.

*Seventh*

*Seventh day.*—We entered among the mountains by sinuous paths over steep rocks, till at length the defile somewhat opened, and we perceived the town of Truxillo situated on a high rock and resembling a citadel. The country leading to it is a desert, and this small town contains nothing worthy remark, unless it be the square, which is spacious. The inhabitants of these parts are so superstitious, that our hostess refused to give us any dinner till we had been to mass, though it was no feast-day. When we returned, her daughter a girl 12 years of age knelt down before her mother and said a few paternosters. This old woman no doubt expects by these acts of devotion to expiate the shameful impositions she practices upon her guests.

In the afternoon we passed a beautiful hermitage surrounded by delightful plantations. The hermit brought us some wine and water, and treated us with great kindness and cordiality. We therefore very cheerfully contributed by a small alms to the embellishment of his chapel; for the religious system always adapts itself to the character of the individual who professes it.

We had now passed the high mountains, and the chain terminated in a spacious valley. Toward night we entered upon a vast plain covered with rushes, and not being able to arrive at a sleeping place, we determined to pass this night also in the  
open

open air in company with a new muleteer who had just arrived. After a frugal supper we placed ourselves under the shelter of the packages of this good man, and with our coverlets made a tolerably good bed, where we passed the night without the least adverse accident.

*Eighth day.*—We this day travelled among mountains less steep, and through charming valleys, which, though often obstructed by enormous masses of rock, were clothed with a tolerably fertile soil, and we saw very fine fields of wheat and rich meadows shaded by cork trees. Most of the villages situated among the mountains bore the appearances of affluence and neatness. Both men and women were well dressed, and the latter wore almost the biscayan costume: we saw them on the banks of the rivulets spreading out their linen to dry. The last village we passed is called Casas de San-Antonio. We saw every where the signs of good rural economy, and found buckets, seats, tables, and pitchers, of cork.

In general the inhabitants of the sierra de San Pedro seemed like all mountaineers to belong to a race of men more robust, more gay, and more laborious than the rest of mankind. They are called ferranos, and there is something very extraordinary in their appearance. During winter these valleys serve as an asylum for the flocks of the neighbouring provinces, which here find a milder climate

climate and greater abundance of food. We met with several of these flocks returning to the mountains of Leon to pass a cooler summer there. They travel at most four hours in the day, and often scarcely two. The herdsmen inclose them every night in pens formed by nets, and the care they take of them is accompanied with various superstitious practices.

We now left the sierra or mountains behind us, and our road, which was bordered with odoriferous shrubs, descended very sensibly. The plain we entered upon presented to our view a vast extent of myrtle, rosemary, thyme, cistus ladaniferus, box, &c. What a waste of land, which a more numerous population might convert into fertile fields! Here we were obliged to pass another night in the open air, but provided a traveller will cover himself well, he has nothing to fear.

*Ninth day.*—This day our road afforded little variety, and nature presented us with the same objects as on the preceding evening. We passed a small monastery, where two monks amused themselves with setting a little cur at us, but our guide in the twinkling of an eye knocked him down with his stick, and loaded the two *C—os de frayles* with a volley of epithets not very respectful. These traits are not so unimportant as might be believed, and several inferences may thence be drawn. At night we arrived at the village of La Roca, which

which is surrounded with very fine fields of wheat. We observed however, that the solano wind had damaged the ears, and that the grain had become very small. We were much charmed to find here a great many gardens, and bought excellent cherries very cheap. The inhabitants, especially the young women, sang and danced half the night, and the interior of the houses bore the appearance of plenty. Throughout our journey we did not find such good goat's-milk cheese; it costs however one third more, because say they salt is very dear there, and more is used than elsewhere.

*Tenth day.*—Hitherto if the country was not fertile and well cultivated, it was at least smiling and covered with verdure. We admired the fertility of the soil, and only regretted not seeing any houses, or any thing that bore the stamp of human industry. But the five last leagues from La Roca to Badajoz resembled an arabian desert. We saw nothing but dried up plants, naked sandy plains, and not the smallest rill. It is said the whole country wants water, and cannot be cultivated. This is continued as far as Badajoz, which was half concealed behind a mountain. At length we perceived that city beyond the Guadiana on the declivity of a hill. The road winds between rocks and the banks of the river, and a bridge of 20 arches is so united to the rocks, that the gate is made to pass through.

The town with its ancient citadel built in the time of the Moors, and the white mas of its houses, which continue along the side of the hill, are now open, and this view produces an impression by no means destitute of interest or of charms.



JUNTA DE ANDALUCÍA

P. C. Monumental de la Alhambra y Generalife  
CONSEJERÍA DE CULTURA

## LETTER XXXV.

*Badajoz, a fortified Town on the Frontiers of Portugal.—Elvas.—The Relation between them.—Conveyance of Merchandize.—Regraters.—Contraband Trade.—Exports and Imports.—Further Particulars.—Relations of Amity between the two Nations.—Languages.—Coins.—Desertions.—English Regiments at Lisbon.—Spanish Military.—Description of the Troops.—Regiments calling themselves Swiss.—Malversations of the Officers.—Wretched Condition of the Soldiers.—Particulars relative to the Spanish Military.*

Badajoz, May 1798.

THE population of Badajoz is computed at near 9,000 inhabitants; but it is not sufficiently peopled in proportion to its extent. Most of the streets are extremely narrow, and the houses small and crowded, though the pavement is convenient, and the houses whitened or painted with great care.

Badajoz, as is well known, is a frontier town toward Portugal, but the works are very inconsiderable and quite in the antique style; a few new fortifications only have been added. The Spanish territory extends an hour beyond it as far as a small rivulet, where the Portuguese have on the opposite bank a post of dragoons. As the long bridge across the Guadiana, as I have already said, adjoins the

rocks, the only road into Portugal passes under the two last arches, which extend over the bank.

The first portugueze fortress (four long hours or three short spanish leagues from Badajoz) is called Elvas. The two frontier governors have agreed together to suffer persons to enter on both sides without passports, but this permission only extends to the two forts, and not to the interior of the two countries. This convention of good neighbourhood much facilitates many branches of commerce, though at the same time it favours smuggling.

As to the regular lawful trade, it must be confessed, that since the last war with England it has become much more brisk; for, the spanish navigation having been much fettered in consequence of the privateers and of the blockade of the various ports of Spain, many speculations to the colonies have been carried on partly on board neutral ships and partly on board portuguese ships by the way of Lisbon. Frequently these last ships belong to Englishmen, who enticed by enormous profits enter into these schemes without scruple. As soon as the goods arrive, they are sent off by portuguese carriers to the frontier, where other carriers belonging to Spain transport them to Cadiz, Seville, Madrid, &c. and so throughout the country. Thus Portugal gains the duties inwards and outwards, and at the same time employs her shipping,

and Spain also enjoys at least some advantage, cost what it may.

The fruit, vegetables, and cheese which the Portuguese bring to Badajoz constitute a small branch of trade, which becomes considerable, because it is uninterrupted. The environs of this town are either entirely waste, or solely devoted to corn, and scarcely are a few gardens seen there adjoining to the monasteries. But the Portuguese cultivate their frontiers better, and produce abundance of oranges, figs, lemons, cherries, all sorts of vegetables, goat's-milk cheeses, turkeys, pigeons, &c. Besides this a monthly market is held at Elvas, at which the inhabitants of Badajoz buy whole cargoes of oranges, and re-sell them to a great profit at Madrid. The largest and finest are sold for 12 reals a hundred at most, which makes nearly 20 groschen of saxon money.

The contraband trade carried on here is both an import and an export trade. The articles, the exportation of which from Spain is prohibited, are piastres, corn, oil, pigs, and borricos; but address and bribery render every thing possible. The piastres are concealed between iron plates, which are packed up in boxes and sent from Madrid by confidential arrieros to the commission houses at Badajoz, who have long had a private understanding with the custom-house officers, and know how to forward the dollars by sure conveyances. In

this manner in the beginning of the present year (1798) several millions have been exported to Lisbon, and from thence to England, which accounts for the almost incredible want of ready money in Spain. The corn and oil which are forestalled in the neighbourhood are sent under false passports to the frontier villages, from which they are sent over the frontiers during the night. The exportation of borricos and pigs alone is subject to the greatest difficulties, because no mule or ass is suffered to pass the frontier without a bond to return; but it is whispered that the custom-house officers reserve this article of trade for themselves.

The contraband import trade is still more profitable. Besides many articles from America and the East Indies, the duties on which are overrated in Spain, tobacco, cotton-manufactures, and since the war all english goods are objects of smuggling. It is well known that the king has reserved to himself as a privilege of the crown the monopoly of snuff, and that he sells it at one or one and a half saxon rixdollars in specie the pound, though it only costs him at most 20 groschen or 16 pence sterling. Consequently the contraband trader, who purchases english or portuguese tobacco at six groschen and sells it retail for one or one and a half rixdollars, must carry on a brisk and lucrative trade. The like happens as to cotton goods, which the company trading

trading to the Philippine islands or the home manufacturer cannot furnish at so low a price. The same may be said of all other prohibited english goods which are for that very reason the more desired.

The English sell their goods at Lisbon from 16 to 20 per cent. lower than formerly, which still further excites the cupidity of the contraband trader. Hence we ought not to be surpris'd if almost all Badajoz take part in this trade, and if there is not a single inhabitant that does not go to the market of Elvas to bring home some kind of goods. There are even great merchants, who carry on this kind of business to so large an extent, that they send whole boxes to their correspondents at Madrid.

It is true that the custom-house officers encrease their vigilance from time to time, and even make domiciliary visits; but do not imagine it is the performance of their duty they have in view, it is merely in pursuit of their own interest. They must indeed sometimes exercise their office to avoid the appearance of infidelity and keep people in fear of them, and consequently in a state of dependency. But the latter may by giving these officers a fourth of their duties rely upon their indulgence, provided they do this with honour: for those who have an understanding with them can bring in their goods in open day without any one taking the least notice. Nay further the inspectors and overseers of the custom-house themselves sell these goods. It is  
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therefore a notorious fact, that the expenses of the custom-house at Badajoz (and perhaps of all the custom-houses) cost the king a fourth more than the duties bring him. But though the contraband traders have so little to fear from the custom-house officers, they have great danger to apprehend from the frontier guards, when the parties are unequal; for then a mortal combat ensues, and this clandestine commerce frequently becomes a source of crimes and assassinations.

From this trade however the inhabitants of Badajoz derive an affluence and luxury, especially as to linen and dress, which elsewhere is only found in maritime places, and no where in inland parts. Another more happy consequence of this reciprocal trade is the almost absolute cessation of that national hatred, which is here almost entirely extinguished. Many of the Portuguese have established themselves at Badajoz, where they have married into spanish families, while on the other hand the young ladies of this town have been solicited by the inhabitants of Elvas: for if the Portuguese of Elvas prefer the spanish women of Badajoz, the latter think the inhabitants of Elvas make better husbands. The Portuguese of that town therefore frequently come to Badajoz to be employed there as workmen or clerks, and a considerable number act as porters and fellers of water. Hence both languages are continually heard at Badajoz,

dajoz, and the natives of both countries mutually understand that of the other. Besides the pronunciation of the Spanish here much resembles that of the Portuguese, the gutturals being pronounced with a lisp, and there being as many portuguese expressions used as spanish. Yet the Portuguese are distinguished by a broader jargon and a species of cringing politeness. Nor must it be forgotten, that notwithstanding the frequent commercial connections between the two countries, the spanish coin is only taken according to its intrinsic value, which in the smaller coin makes a difference of at least 20 per cent.

Another consequence, but which will probably cease whenever the war is over, is the desertion of the english regiments at Lisbon. It is well known, that at the commencement of the year 1797 England took into her pay several portuguese regiments formed of emigrants and Germans calling themselves Swifs. These were sent to Trieste, Ancona, Civita vecchia, and Corfica, and, when that island was evacuated, to Gibraltar and Lisbon. Desertion would have been impossible, had not the Portuguese assisted; but the husbandmen point out to the deserters the mountain paths, and the frontier guards at Elvas suffer them to pass freely into Spain. They even do more; for if they are musicians or artists they take them into their service. There were several of these at Elvas, when the  
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English caused a demand to be made at Lisbon to have them delivered up. Upon this they were instantly sent with recommendations to Badajoz, where they soon found employment.

It will therefore not seem matter of surprize, if I say that they are seen to arrive here by dozens. The regiments were made up of vagabonds, of the common people, and of the wretched victims of fraud, who from various motives seek to recover their liberty; and they all join in complaining of the barbarous treatment of the english officers. As they arrive almost always nearly in a state of absolute wretchedness, a picket of walloon guards from Madrid, has been posted here, who without difficulty entice them into a new slavery for the most trifling compensation.

As to the garrison of Badajoz it consists of a regiment of cavalry and three of infantry. However unfavourable the judgment of various travellers may be relative to the spanish military, I am compelled from what I saw at Madrid as well as at Cadiz, Barcelona, and elsewhere, to contradict them. It is true the spanish soldiers cannot be compared with those of Prussia and of Saxony, but they are not wholly without some appearance. They are formed on the ancient french model, and cannot be said to do their exercise ill. Although the spanish troops, for want of habit, and perhaps also of good officers, have lost their ancient reputation

tion for bravery, the spirit of heroism is by no means extinct among them; perhaps even our best german soldiers, in point of courage, may in many respects be their inferiors.

It is said "the spanish soldiers are slow and phlegmatic."—Yet put them but in motion, and they will make every thing yield before them. Besides, is it not well known, that political or religious motives constitute the strength of an army?

The spanish soldiers wear no gaiters, no heavy cartouch boxes, no scanty uniform, no stiff collar; their hair is not tied, nor have they heavy hair-caps or three-cornered hats. Their dress is adapted to the climate; a round hat half turned up, a light cap supported by a mere pasteboard are here articles of absolute necessity. They have not the spruce appearance of our german soldiers, but they have also less stiffness. They do not perhaps march with so much precision, but their movements have more lightness; they make less appearance at the parade, but they conduct themselves equally well in the field of battle. All this is fact especially as to the national soldiery of Spain.

As to the regiments calling themselves Swiss or rather the wallon guards, they consist almost entirely of Germans, and excepting the officers there are not perhaps twenty that are either Swiss or French. The recruiting trade carried on by the swiss proprietors of these regiments, especially the families  
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of Reding, Betschart, Rutiman, &c. in partnership with their recruiting agents, which is equally disgusting to humanity and disgraceful to our country, can only be exceeded by their malversations. While the recruiters are enlisting these wretched victims of cupidity by artifice and by force on the frontiers of Italy, Switzerland, and Germany, these opulent financiers are enriching themselves with the price of our blood, and the officers deprive the poor fellows by a thousand artifices and subtleties of at least a fifth of their pay. They publicly sell the discharges they grant, but refuse them to the indigent, paying no attention to the engagements entered into with them. However, as there are always persons whom they permit to purchase the debts they cause them to contract with the regimental chest, they possess the secret of perpetually postponing their discharge. From time to time ships arrive at Barcelona from Genoa entirely loaded with recruits, and the profits of these dealers in human flesh are renewed as often as they can thus impudently impose upon the government. I endeavoured to suppress the indignation I felt at this traffic, but if I were to lay open the black tissue of their flagrant injustice and atrocious acts, were I amply to pourtray the horrors they practise, and describe all the scenes of misery and despair that take place at the barracks, you would perhaps accuse me of exaggeration, and very few would  
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be able justly to appreciate the accuracy of my expressions.

The number of austrian soldiers in Spain is very considerable. It is said here that the French at Genoa have sold whole companies of prisoners to the hispano-swiss recruiters, and indigence has caused as many more to fall into their hands. The two new swiss regiments of Jann and Zimmermann consist entirely of Austrians, on the fidelity of whom little reliance can be placed in the approaching expedition to Minorca. In the spanish regiments also a third are frequently Austrians.

But I quit these melancholy subjects to add three other peculiarities I have observed of the spanish military: that the only punishments as among the French consist of imprisonment; that the ranks of the officers are shown by the breadth of the silver lace on their uniforms; and that a general review of the regiments takes place monthly.

## LETTER XXXVI.

*Climate of Estremadura.—Badajoz.—Promenades.—Amusements.—Wine Shops.—Games.—Maxos.—The Women.—The Canons.—The Principe de la Paz.—Manuelito.*

Badajoz, May 1798.

I SHALL now communicate to you some remarks on the climate of this part of the country. But permit me first to remind you of the etymology of the name of the province *Estremadura*; for the climate here is in fact a perpetual alternation of the extremes of heat and cold; the days being insupportable in consequence of the former and the nights in consequence of the latter: for however burning the sun may have been, the evening no sooner commences than the cold is most piercing, especially at Badajoz, which is but 28 leagues from the sea. Hence it is that throughout the year a kind of endemic bilious fever prevails here, which becomes epidemic during the heats, and is the more dangerous in consequence of the continual use of oil and of bacon. At this present moment there are above 700 soldiers sick at the hospital.

At Badajoz there is no public promenade. It is true a kind of alameda was begun to be planted,  
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but the trees died, and were never replaced by others. Hence the inhabitants have no other resource than walking in the evening along the streets; but the streets being extremely narrow the vestibules of the houses which are left open are lighted, and the doors full of people, which has a very animated appearance, and affords great variety. To this may be added the almost continual sound of guitars and dancing with castanets. The town exhibits the greatest appearance of population in the square before the cathedral called Campo de San Juan and at the armory of the fortress called Plaza de Armas, from which last there is a magnificent view of the frontier mountains of Portugal, and the fortress of Elvas is very distinctly seen with its three citadels on the three peaks of the mountain; especially when the sun is hid directly behind the rocks. On these two spots the air is so cold and piercing that during the night the thermometer is frequently 10 degrees below the temperature of the day. The sky however is so clear, that throughout the summer not the least cloud is seen, and at night the stars and especially the planets shine with extraordinary lustre.

The great heat however gives occasion to a very considerable traffic in water, which is carried on by about 20 persons. It is brought from a spring at the entrance of the town upon borricos with pack  
saddles

saddles on which pitchers are placed. A load consists of four pitchers, and costs three halfpence; and as the smallest family purchase at least a load every other day, and the *solano*, which frequently prevails, often renders a double supply necessary, these *aguadores* gain sometimes in summer a *piastre* a day. There is also iced water *agua de neve*, barley water *agua de cebada*, and lemonade *agua de limon*, as in the largest cities in Spain.

The amusements of Badajoz are by no means remarkable. They are confined to wine houses, gaming, and the society of the ladies. In no part of Spain are there more *botellerias*, and at least one house to four sell wine. It is very heady, as strong as liqueur, and costs about three halfpence the pint. As to gaming, it is pursued even in full market, so much are the inhabitants addicted to it. It consists of a kind of pharao, of which the lower class especially are immoderately fond. Soldiers are often seen keeping the bank. They gather round them a numerous circle of their comrades and of peasants, whom they juggle out of their money by a thousand artifices. The profits are paid according to the will of the banker either in money or slices of pudding, a kind of paste made of flour, oil, raisins, and saffron, which they always have ready. I have also sometimes seen *majos* or fencing masters publicly exercising themselves with foils.

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But the chief objects of attention here are the women. They are extremely fallow, but their slender make and the animated expression of their large black eyes soon cause their dark complexions to be forgotten. They tie their hair in small tresses with ribands, and go the whole summer with corsets without sleeves even underneath their veils, and in general dress with great taste; the contraband trade carried on here supplying them with various manufactures at a very low rate. The ladies of Badajoz pass for great prudes, but notwithstanding this they are not accused of being always cruel, and among those they favour it is said they prefer officers and canons. These last have plenty of leisure and ample revenues to enable them to be gallant; for out of 18 pialtres a day, which their benefices yield them, they give the clerks who supply their place only about 8 groschen.

Badajoz is the native place of the celebrated Principe de la Paz, who is descended from a family of farmers. His parents had sold their estate, and lived upon a small income. If public rumour deserves credit, Don Manuel de Godoy, who was an officer in the guards, has risen in consequence of his personal advantages and of his guitar. But, be that as it may, he has not since his elevation forgotten his old comrades or his countrymen in general. Nor can it be denied, that in the distribution of so many places and pensions

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his favour has frequently served as a substitute for talents. It is however no less true, that *el principe*, as he is generally called, has encouraged and distinguished true merit, and in general favoured agriculture and the sciences. Whatever may be the judgment of posterity, they will doubtless render justice to his good heart and honest intentions, nor will his memory be stained by any odious action. "Manuelito es bueno," Little Emanuel is a good fellow," is a common expression of the old women of Badajoz, especially his nurse, to whom he gives a pension, and who remembers him with the most affectionate tenderness.



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## LETTER XXXVII.

*Departure from Badajoz.—Harvest.—Almendral.—Los Santos.—Fuente de Cantos.—Entrance into Andalusia.—Santa Olalla.—Ronquillos.—Approach to Seville.—Entrance into it.—Triana.—Bridge of Boats.—Mode of lighting the Town.—Advantages of Seville.—Advice to Travellers.—Promenades.—The Guadalquivir.—Anales de Sevilla.*

Seville, June 1798.

I LEFT Badajoz in company with a worthy spanish nobleman, Don Luis de Mendoza, colonel of the regiment of Seville, whose character and accomplishments I shall ever remember with friendship and regard.

The continual prevalence of the solano had forwarded the harvest, though it had injured the crops, and we saw the country people every where busily employed in getting in the corn, which they cut with sickles indented like a saw. It is threshed by making six mules tied abreast walk over it in a circle. The reapers of both sexes, who remain throughout harvest-time day and night in the fields beneath this serene sky, with their numerous fires and their nocturnal songs, had the appearance of a truly patriarchal feast. We passed amid these *airas* to the small town of Almendral three leagues from

from Badajoz, and there dined. We afterwards traversed a wild and mountainous country during five leagues to Los Santos, another small town, where the cultivation begins to assume a better appearance. I was somewhat surprised to find here the little creaking carts and the costume of Biscay; but the tops of the houses thatched with reeds soon reminded me I was in Estremadura. The wine began already to be sweeter and deeper coloured, but instead of beds we were obliged to sleep on leaves of maize, upon which we extended our mattresses.

*Second and third days.*—Our second day's journey of eight leagues brought us to Fuente de Cantos, a tolerable town with a castle pretty well adapted for the lord of the place, but which was as deserted, as the country we had to pass was parched and barren. We slept at Monasterio, a poor dirty village, and the next day entered the lower part of the Sierra Morena and soon after the province of Andalusia.

Here every thing assumed a new appearance. The men wore sheep-skins with the wool on for culottes, and large white round hats; the women light green petticoats, with green ribands and hats of various colours adorned with a quantity of ribands. We saw carts of lattice work with wheels as high as the body. They were drawn by oxen adorned with paper ribands of different colours.

Every

Every thing in the houses assumed an appearance of greater affluence and comfort, and we could not avoid perceiving the industry of the inhabitants in the cultivation of the soil.

We now passed through the small village called Pueblo del Conde, and two leagues farther we arrived at Santa Olalla, a considerable village in the Sierra. The face of the country is flat and tolerably smooth in this part. We found wine and provisions there in abundance, and a much more active race of people than in Estremadura. We afterwards passed along a magnificent road over the lower Sierra, which was covered with firs and aromatic plants. At length after a journey of seven spanish leagues we arrived at the extremity of the plain at a place called Ronquillos. Both the inn and the town bore the stamp of andalusian neatness, and the thriving circumstances observed in that province. Here we saw the procession of the rosario, which was accompanied by music, after which muskets were fired and the inhabitants danced voleros.

It was about three in the morning when we set off. We found the air charmingly cool, and breathed that of the sea, the neighbourhood of which was very perceptible. Our whole road as far as Seville, a distance of six leagues and a half, passed over a fertile plain interspersed with small hills, which assumed every moment a more smiling appearance. The plantations of olive trees, where the stone-fences

round the young trees resemble basket work and have a very singular effect, the fields of corn, the vineyards, melons, monasteries with terrasses covered with lemon and fig trees, woods of cork, and extremely populous hamlets, formed a pleasing and varied prospect. On each side of our road was a hedge of aloes, which were scarcely distinguishable on account of the dust that covered them, and the heat that rendered them languid. Their stems were low and without flowers, but to an inhabitant of the north the view was not uninteresting.

Thus having passed through an infinite number of turnings and windings, and seen innumerable charming spots, we at length approached the great and celebrated city of Seville. At a distance its grand and various piles of building and its gilded spires in the midst of an extensive plain form a highly pleasing object. We saw the magnificent carthusian monastery, the garden of which is filled with a vast number of american plants in flower, and at length arrived at the suburb Triana, a part of the town which its broad streets and its magnificent houses render very striking.

This suburb is separated from the town by the Guadalquivir (pronounced Quaalquivir), but is connected with it by a broad bridge of boats 400 paces long. At the bottom of the parapet, which is very neatly painted green, are grotesque half-length figures

figures representing Moors, and above are the images of several saints and of the virgin. There are seats on each side the bridge, and at the ends are large boats in which are recesses.

Seville is situated along the banks of the river on a fine plain, and contains 70,000 inhabitants. The streets are so narrow, that carriages can scarcely pass, but the houses are in general well built within and very clean both within and without. To supply the place of lanterns and create currents of air, it is the custom in summer to keep open the house doors, which look to well-lighted apartments; but in winter the streets are lighted; a custom which the low price of oil seems to have facilitated.

In general at Seville the favourable idea we have formed on entering Andalusia is confirmed, and a certain degree of affluence and refined neatness may be observed in the most trifling particulars. The waterfellers have little stalls, which they adorn with branches of orange and lemon trees, or parade the streets with pitchers of yellow clay of an elegant form, which they carry about in wheel-barrows made on purpose. The more easily to fill their large glasses, there are two reeds to each pitcher, the one to admit the air, that the water may more freely pass through the other; a peculiarity not seen among the aguadores of Ma-

drid. These men also carry at their side a tin box with aniseed comfits, of which they offer a spoonful to those who purchase their water without any addition to the charge, which is an ochavo the glass. I mention these trifles in confirmation of what I have said of the general affluence and neatness of the place.

Seville in preference to all the cities and towns of the same order in Spain affords the means of living cheap and comfortably. I have already met with early grapes, figs, and melons, which are bought for an ochavo a pound. The market, which is covered with tents, and the stalls of the bread and meat markets, both in the city and suburbs, are abundantly supplied with provisions even at night. The bread here is still whiter and lighter than at Madrid; it combines all the advantages of the french and spanish processes, and costs a penny or five farthings a pound. The white wine as well as the red is excellent, and sells for about five farthings a quart. House rent is not dear, and for three piastres a month you may have a good apartment. The prices of other articles are in proportion. In my opinion to a foreigner who wishes to learn the language Seville is the pleafantest and least expensive residence. It is true the andalusian dialect has a singular accent and several defects, as for instance the sibillation of the s (cecear), but the great proportion of well-informed people there  
and