

and the other advantages of Seville outweigh these objections.

Among these advantages may be reckoned the cheerful promenades as well in town as along the banks of the river. The chief alameda consists of five long rows of tufted elms watered by small channels, beside which are fountains and seats. These avenues are adorned with two large obelisks at each extremity, and the row of lamps which runs along on each side renders this much frequented promenade very charming even at night.

But the banks of the Guadalquivir are no less pleasing. This river, which is very low, glides slowly along above the town, and is full of sand banks: yet it bears ships of 80 to 100 tons burden, though since the war with England neither large nor small ships come here. In this part are seen beautiful women on fine horses riding beside their cortejos and bucks driving whiskies, half spanish half english, beside the heavy equipages of the canons. Here also the fashionable belles of Seville assemble to breathe the sea air, or view the bathers who without ceremony or precaution plunge naked into the stream. And here night often throws her veil over scenes, for which the heat of the climate too often affords some excuse, because the manners of the country inspire the fair sex with all the boldness of ours.

You will find numerous printed accounts of the curiosities and trade of Seville. I shall only observe

that the snuff manufactured here has a very pungent smell, and that with some winds the effluvia extend above a league. The manufactory resembles a fortress; for it is surrounded with walls and ditches: it has two draw-bridges, only one of which is used for entering. No vessels are now seen here but small portuguese transports, which the english privateers suffer to pass. This is the only channel by which a few american goods are still received, especially tobacco, which is sent in larger vessels to Lisbon, and there reshipped for Seville as portuguese property.

Those who are desirous of knowing the history of this city will read with advantage the celebrated work intitled "Anales de la ciudad de Sevilla," 4 tomos, 1796 and 1797, Madrid: sold by Alonso, Calle de la Concepcion Geronima. It contains a table of the most important enterprizes undertaken by this nation from the middle of the fifteenth century to the end of the seventeenth.

[I cannot however omit a peculiarity arising from the extreme heat during the summer months, Seville being then perhaps hotter than any other large city in Europe. Hence the richer inhabitants who during eight months of the year live in their upper suit of rooms which surround three or four quadrangles then remove into the lower suit of apartments and transfer thither all their furniture and drapery. These rooms which in the merchants' houses are used during the remainder of the year

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as warehouses are connected by large door-ways. These are open except being hung with double sets of white drapery, which produce a pleasing effect and agreeably fan the air.

The principal patio or quadrangle is furrounded by a light and beautiful colonnade of moorish architecture and covered with a vast sheet of sail-cloth, which is drawn aside during part of the night and under the awning in summer the tertullas or evening conversazioni, are received, or the female figures in light white drapery are seen sitting in cut-down summer chairs interspersed amid the shrubberies and fountains with which the centres are adorned, or later in the evening enlivened with the brilliancy of three-branch lamps standing about on the ground.

Of the three other patios one is the garden, one for domestic purposes, and the fourth reconciles (on entering) the regularity of the house with the extreme irregularity of the labyrinthic streets.

The effect of these internal arrangements is so great a degree of coolness, that on coming out into the street you seem to be entering an oven.

\* \* These particulars escape most travellers, because they avoid being at Seville during the hot months.]

## LETTER XXXVIII.

*Two Routes to Cadiz.—Barco de Carga.—Night.—Banks of the Guadalquivir.—San Lucar de Barrameda.—Sentinels.—Wine.—Present State of that Place.—Arrangements for our Departure.—Road to Cadiz.—First Appearance of the Bay.—Second View of the whole Town of Cadiz.—Puerto de Santa Maria.—Feluccas.—Passage across the Bay.—Spanish Fleet.—Scenery.—Arrival.*

Cadiz, July 1798.

FROM Seville to this place by land is about 13 german miles. It is therefore more advantageous to go by water, because during peace small transports sail down the river almost every day. Those who are subject to sea-sickness may go by land from San Lucar de Barrameda, which is at the mouth of the Guadalquivir, or from Puerto de Santa Maria, and from thence come down to the bay of Cadiz. It is also the route we must take in time of war, because the English then obstruct the navigation.

You may set off for San Lucar at any hour, as there are always a vast number of barcos or boats. I would not however advise a foreigner to make use of the common passage-boat called barco de ver, if he can afford to hire one for himself, or can go in a barco de carga. The common price for the passage

sage with a trunk or portmanteau is one or two piaftres; for you must not mind the enormous demands the boatmen at first insist on.

I took my passage in a boat of this kind, barco de carga, which went off with the tide at ten o'clock at night. The company consisted of two men with their wives, and an old officer with his house-keeper. A sofa or couch was prepared for us with mattresses, &c. but we felt little inclination to lie down notwithstanding the conveniences for that purpose, and the night passed in laughing and singing. Good wine inspired us with good humour, and the andalusian fair indulged in all their natural gaiety. We were obliged to cast anchor about two o'clock and soon after aurora began to gild the smiling fields around.

It was a charming sight. On every side the eye reposed on vineyards, corn, olive trees, orange, lemon, and fig trees, and an infinite quantity of melons and other vegetables. In the distance were hills adorned with the most charming woods; on turning round we saw the towers of Seville, and in the back ground the blue mountains of the Sierra Morena. Above the watery plain the azure of the heavens changed to a fine green, while a pure and balsamic air charmed and refreshed the sense.

After seven o'clock we had advanced a little farther with the ebb, and again cast anchor toward  
noon,

noon, so as to dine on shore. The whole bank was covered with melon beds (melonares), and we bought for a few ochavos the finest sandias or water-melons, which in Andalusia alone arrive at maturity. The fields are watered by holes dug on the edge of the banks, so as to fill during high water, after which it is drawn out by a kind of pump, and distributed through small channels.

We passed our fiesta beneath olive trees, and at four o'clock pursued our voyage: but the river, which here forms two islands, becoming broader and broader, the women in about an hour and a half became sea-sick. I observed indeed that the waves were as high as at open sea with a pretty fresh breeze. At length we descried San Lucar, about eight o'clock, and the salt-pans sparkling with the rays of the setting sun. Soon after we cast anchor in a shallow; from whence we were carried ashore on the shoulders of some fishermen.

It is an ancient custom of Seville to leave all passengers here, although San Lucar is three leagues from Cadiz: but the boat-owners fear the violence of the currents at the mouth of the river, and never venture farther for any price whatever. Having therefore pacified the avidity of the custom-house officers with a few picettes, we continued our way along the sandy shore, and found sentinels every score paces. This precaution ought to prevent

vent smugglers from attempting to land; but the soldiers find it more advantageous to accept a few reals or a few pounds of portuguese snuff, than to protect the interests of the king and defend his monopoly.

San Lucar de Barrameda is a small but pretty town with near 5000 inhabitants situated on the left bank of the Guadalquivir. It is famous for smuggling and frauds of every kind. Its foreign commerce produces a certain degree of luxury in furniture, dress, and the pleasures of the table, and there is a white wine called *Vino de Manzanilla*, so called from a small town seven leagues from Seville, which is a good deal like Burgundy. It is extremely cheap as well as all other provisions, but this advantage cannot compensate the injury done to commerce by the restraints laid upon navigation, and the total want of industry, which is its natural consequence. We were surprised however at seeing amid houses and streets otherwise tolerably clean open drains, of which the sea air fortunately somewhat diminishes the infection.

As my companions intended staying here several days, and as I was impatient to arrive at Cadiz, I was obliged to hire a carriage alone. I therefore went next morning to the market place, where the inhabitants covered with large round hats and violet-coloured cloaks were walking carelessly along, and I presently heard some men who were waiting  
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there with their borricos call to me. Would you believe they asked me four piastres for going three spanish leagues? But I knew, that at San Lucar one must offer only a tenth of what is asked, and so after much disputation and noise we agreed upon 10 reals for each borrico.

It was about ten in the morning, but the sea breeze so much attempered the heat, that I felt it but very little. Our road lay across a sandy plain unequally cultivated. However as far as the Venta del Puerto, which is half way, we saw fields of a better appearance, and perceived on a sudden from an eminence the entrance into the bay, the point called La Rota, and still farther the english fleet.

By degrees the road descended, fields of corn and plantations of olive trees became more numerous, and we approached Puerto de Santa Maria. We then saw the whole of the bay with the english fleet and a grand view of Cadiz on our right. Having stayed a few minutes at Puerto de Santa Maria, a small well-built trading town, I hastened to the quay to embark in one of the feluccas for Cadiz. They arrive there in three or four hours, and sometimes in one, according to the wind, but they can only go in a certain order, for which reason they have numbers painted on their prows and sails. "A Cais, a Cais!" is the constant cry of the watermen, and the price for a passenger and his trunk 4 reals. About half way over an  
alms

alms is also paid for the souls of shipwrecked mariners.

Puerto de Santa Maria stands on the right bank of the river Guadalete, which falls into the bay a quarter of a league off. On all sides we beheld a smiling country, and in a few minutes we got into the bay, where the levant or east wind drove us forward with extreme rapidity. The whole squadron and Cadiz with its fortifications now displayed themselves before us, and the view had something majestic and impressive, which it is impossible to describe.

All the ships had their flags flying, and we passed between the admiral's ship and the signal frigate called the Vestal. The flags of the english ships hung down into the water; those of the portuguese were higher. Almost without perceiving it I found myself under the ramparts of Cadiz, after which a boat took me to the stairs of the quay. From thence I was hurried amidst a crowd like a torrent to the gates, where the custom-house officers searched my pockets. I followed my comisionario, who conducted me to the square through a great number of dark narrow streets, and took up my abode at the Posada de las Quatro Naciones.

## LETTER XXXIX.

*Cadiz.*—*The Bay.*—*Its Divisions.*—*Situation of Cadiz.*—*Climate.*—*Temperature.*—*Summer.*—*Winter.*—*Solano.*—*Effects of that Wind.*—*Small Extent of Cadiz.*—*Remarkable Edifices.*—*Streets.*—*Environs on the Land Side.*—*Road along the narrowest Part of the Isthmus.*—*Scenery.*—*Plaza de la Mar.*—*The Quay.*—*The Ramparts.*—*Promenades.*—*Scenery.*—*Night.*—*Amusements.*—*El Puerto (de Santa Maria).*—*Chiliana.*—*Provisions.*—*Fruit.*—*Ices.*—*Want of Water.*—*Resources.*—*Character of the Andalusians.*—*Effects of the Climate.*—*Sea-bathing.*—*The Theatre.*—*Actors.*—*Voleros.*—*Present State of the Trade of Cadiz.*—*The Blockade.*—*Evasions through Address or permitted through Policy.*—*Foreign Merchants.*—*Hanseatics.*—*Hatred against the French.*—*Spirit and Turn of the Inhabitants of Cadiz.*—*Camorra or Reading-room.*—*Newspapers.*—*Port or Shipping Lists.*—*Inns.*

Cadiz, August 1793.

THE western coast of Andalusia is of a semicircular form, the southern point of which terminates in an isthmus, that extends about six leagues to the westward, at the extremity of which is the city of Cadiz. The bay between the coast and this isthmus forms one of the finest gulfs in Europe, which at its broadest part resembles the lake of Geneva between Nion and Thonon.

If you imagine yourself on board a vessel entering the bay, on your left is the fortress of La Rota

Rota and on the right that of San Sebastian. On one side you behold the shores lined with batteries, on the other the ramparts of Cadiz. Opposite, and beyond the fort Santa Catalina (Saint Catherine), is seen the great white mass of houses at Cadiz with their flat roofs and the church towers, which seem to rise out of the sea. You then enter the second division of the bay. At the head and in the distance you perceive the entrance into the third part, called Puntalenbaya, which is defended on the left by the fort of Matargordo and on the right by that of San Lorenzo.

Having said thus much, it is unnecessary to add that Cadiz is surrounded by the sea to the southward, the westward, and the eastward. The southern and eastern parts are 300 feet above the level of the sea, and the western scarcely fifty. There the ramparts are high and built upon the rocks, forming the external boundary of the town, though under these ramparts is a second quay, very broad and divided into two branches, which has been partly gained from the sea.

This situation gives Cadiz the advantages of an excellent air and a temperature not otherwise to be expected in so southern a latitude. The sea air, which at once refreshes the body and strengthens the nerves, moderates the heat in summer, and makes the winters, which are always very mild, resemble spring. However hot the weather may

be in summer from ten till one, the afternoons are generally cool, for the sea-breeze (mara) increases every hour and flows throughout the night. Thus Cadiz enjoys in summer the most happy temperature, while the heat is quite oppressive at Madrid and in general throughout the inland parts. But it must be observed, that it becomes more intense here whenever the solano or south-east wind prevails.

This wind is pregnant with the most suffocating vapours, and comes from the opposite coast of Africa. The whole atmosphere without exaggeration then seems on fire, and the air every instant becomes more burning hot, like that of an oven. And yet this wind is only felt by its effects; for during the most oppressive solano the air is perfectly calm, and seems to have totally lost its elasticity.

The atmosphere is at these times filled with an almost imperceptible vapor, but which gives to the sky a bluish chalky colour, and which even at noon envelopes the sun in a kind of haze, making it appear larger by refracting its rays. The sea too is as calm and smooth as a lake, the water inconceivably warm, and frequently the fish appear on the surface and seem expiring with heat. On shore most animals are not exempt from its effects. Birds fly in a lower region of the air, dogs hide themselves, cats seem in a rage, mules are uneasy and gasp for breath,

breath, fowls are restless and run to and fro, and pigs roll themselves in the earth. Man alone seems to suffer less: yet the solano is more or less felt according to the difference of constitutions. It almost always produces a violent tension of the nerves, renders the circulation of the blood slower, and excites to excess and to voluptuousness.

Although the extent of Cadiz is very limited, yet a prodigious quantity of houses are heaped together there, and the population is very numerous; being reckoned between 75 and 80,000. The houses being very high and very much crowded together seem to justify this computation; but the same cause accounts for the small number of fine edifices. If we except the churches, the monasteries, the great hospital, the custom-house, and other public buildings, Cadiz, notwithstanding its great riches, contains but a very small number of remarkable houses. The greater part are of stone from Puerto de Santa Maria, which is brought across the bay at a small expense. The houses being prodigiously high, the streets, which are narrow, necessarily appear very dark, and make a very singular impression, when we raise our eyes and see such a multitude of balconies and so small a portion of sky. The streets however are extremely well lighted at night. The pavement, which is excellent, is composed of very small stones, furnished with causeways on each side, and kept nearly as

clean as in Holland. Cadiz however contains some fine streets, among others that called Calle ancha or Broad-street, and has besides three large and two small squares.

As to the style of architecture, the climate seems to have irrevocably fixed that introduced every where by the Moors; flat roofs with small towers and plots of flowers, well-paved square courts (patios), which by their neatness and ornaments resemble drawing-rooms, galleries that run round it on each floor, large rooms, small windows, and walls carefully whitened; all which is the character of african architecture.

The environs of Cadiz on the north side or that next the land present the traveller with a view equally singular and grand. During the last league as he arrives he is between the bay on the right and the ocean on the left. The land rises ten fathoms above the level of the sea, and is on all sides lashed by its waves, so that it resembles a dike with which some bold adventurer has divided the waters of the sea. You will readily conceive I am speaking of the narrowest part of the isthmus, Cadiz being situated on the broadest. From this spot the eye takes in the whole bay with all its sinuosities and divisions, and commands a forest of masts which continues from Caracca to Cadiz, while in front is the brilliant mass that forms the town with its ramparts and towers. On the left  
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the view extends over the vast expanse of ocean, in which the fort of San Sebastian appears to float, because it is built on a small sandy strip of land connected with the isthmus but at high water inundated by the sea.

At length the road somewhat departs from the sea in proportion as it widens ; but it is completely desert till a little before entering Cadiz, where is a pretty row of houses, a small church, and to the right and left square gardens adorned with green palisades. You then pass the gate and see at the extremity of the bastions of the fort, on the right the bay and on the left the tumultuous ocean ; in a few minutes you are in Cadiz. Here you behold a broad open space and some elegant buildings, which render this road tolerably agreeable ; but that which leads upon the ramparts would banish the remembrance of this pleasure, were it not renewed by entering on the Plaza de la Mar.

The appearance of this opening and the various groups that fill it produce indeed a very fine effect. It exhibits a great many little booths or stalls, where are sold fowls that are brought every week from Africa ; a number of tables with all kinds of fish, among which are often sword-fish (pescado de espada) and a great variety of shell-fish and polypi ; sellers of lemonade and orgeat, whose shops are adorned with foliage and lemons, or little fountains

playing; water-sellers with their wheel-barrows, and ice-sellers with their ice-tubs; a long row of fruit-shops, where grapes, water-melons, seville oranges, and pomegranates, figs, sweet oranges, and all kinds of fruit are piled up; sellers of grasshoppers, which are shut up in brass-wire cages to enliven the bed-rooms of those who are fond of them, especially the ladies; Turks barefoot, with large pantaloons, black beards, and long pipes, sitting down and eating dates; tables covered with images of fairs and sailors' caps, small cook-shops, and wine-sellers' booths covered with sail-cloth. To these peculiarities of Cadiz add a little of the tumult of Madrid, and you will have a complete idea of the Plaza de la Mar.

The quay immediately without the gate presents an equally animated prospect. For there a multitude of fruiterers, water-sellers, wine-sellers, cooks, itinerant hardware-men, and ballad-singers, constantly assemble. Here you see sailors seated around a jug of wine playing at cards, another troop are dancing, a third boxing, and farther on fiddlers intermingled with porters. Some boats now arriving, a cry is heard of *Al puerto! Al puerto!* Every one crowds to the stairs, all is in motion, and every thing adds to the tumult.

Imagine also the effect of several hundred merchant ships lying at anchor off the town, the mixed multitude of sailors from all nations, the noise of  
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men loading and unloading ships: all this I say, I must leave to your imagination, for it would be impossible to give you an idea of this scene, which is embellished by the view of a fleet in the distance.

The ramparts of Cadiz, which are the finest and broadest I have seen, are used as a promenade. On the west-side they command a view of the bay, the opposite coast, and the quay below the ramparts, where, when the sea is rough, the waves fly up to a considerable distance. On the south and east sides is the immense expanse of ocean, and, as I have already said, the english fleet blockading the port. A small part to the westward is bordered by five rows of elms forming four avenues adorned with elegant seats, and constituting the alameda; but the trees are small and stunted in consequence of the dryness and rockiness of the soil, the sea air, and the heat of the climate. However this promenade is much frequented, especially at night. The cool sea-breeze, the multitude of charming women, the lights in the neighbouring houses, the instruments and gay airs heard on all sides, the serene and starry heavens, which in this fine climate display themselves in all their magnificence, all these charms fascinate the spectator, and make him pass his evenings very pleasantly.

A great part of the ramparts, which to the southward are shaded, serve for the lower classes to take their

their siesta. Extended upon benches or upon the walls the water-carriers, porters, soldiers, and sailors quietly resign themselves to sleep, and half naked enjoy the luxury of the sea-breeze. Along the ramparts is a row of houses forming a kind of view I need not describe.

I should call these ramparts (including the alameda) the only promenade at Cadiz, if the environs on the land side did not afford a very pleasing variety. It is true, the soil is so sandy, that it is not easy to walk there; but the pure and refreshing sea-air and the abovementioned view of the bay and of the sea attract thither a great number of people of both sexes and of all conditions.

The inhabitants of Cadiz however compensate the want of promenades by parties of pleasure in the environs. They go out in carriages either to Puerto de Santa Maria, where are fine avenues and gardens, or to Chiclana near the isla de Leon, which is almost entirely covered with country houses, and commands a very fine view of the bay, the town, and the sea. It is even the fashion to go in spring and autumn in parties of pleasure to Chiclana, which is a charming place, and offers the enjoyments of the country combined with all the luxuries of Cadiz.

In no place indeed is found such a union of all the pleasures and luxuries of life: abundance of wines,

wines, liqueurs, provisions, restoratives, and all kinds of consumable articles. The spirituous wines of Rota, Malaga, Xeres, Manzanilla, &c. are here extremely cheap (nine-pence or ten-pence the quart), and the best fruits are sold for almost nothing. You may purchase two large bunches of muscadine grapes for a farthing, the finest water-melons for two-pence, or a large slice for a farthing, and a large orange for the same price, as also a lima or large lemon. There are ice-cellars called neverias generally kept by Italians, where all the refinements of luxury are enjoyed; for epicurism is carried to the utmost at Cadiz even among the middle classes.

Yet the most indispensable necessary of life is wanting, I mean fresh water, which is brought from Puerto de Santa Maria, where hundreds of barrels are continually loading and unloading. This water, is bad, containing much calcareous matter and very little air, which it entirely loses by the heat and carriage. It tastes almost like boiled water, and in addition acquires a putrid taste from the cask. It is true the inhabitants attempt to correct it by filtration, by mixing snow with it, and other means, but few people can afford all these expenses; for the ice is brought from the Sierra, a distance of thirteen leagues, and the mules that bring it only travel by night; yet a stock always arrives at Cadiz regularly every other day. The

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common water is detestable, and to have better it is necessary to buy snow-water either from the water-venders or from the ice-cellars, where it costs near a halfpenny a glass. For domestic purposes, washing, &c. rain-water is collected in subterraneous cisterns, into which various pipes are laid; but as this water evaporates during the great heats, which also encrease the consumption, every barrel of spring water costs about four-pence halfpenny. Hence an economy is practised in the consumption of water, which at first excites the astonishment of foreigners.

Those who disdain not to study the effect of climate on the character and manners of mankind observe very sensible gradations from the most northern parts of Spain to the southern extremity of Andalusia. The vivacity of the French on this side the Pyrenees is very remarkable; but the fire of the northern Spaniards changes in the south into a devouring flame. In Andalusia every thing bears the stamp of a burning climate, every sensation is strong and impetuous, every thing tends to extremes, every thing is immoderate and without restraint, and above all in what regards the sexes.

The beauty of the andalusian women, their vivacity, their exalted fanaticism, their extreme sensibility, appear at Cadiz to exceed every thing observed elsewhere; but no where do the sexes seek each other with equal eagerness, in no part do  
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the pleasures of sense seem so indispensable, in no part does the influence of the climate so easily disarm the severest of moralists.

But it is when the solano blows, that this impulse becomes most impetuous; for then the very air they breathe is on fire, and all the senses are involuntarily inebriated; the imagination is bewildered, and an irresistible instinct becomes authorized by example and is excited by solicitation.

If any thing could moderate this ferment of the blood, it would be sea-bathing, of which both sexes make frequent use. The women bathe out of the land-gate at a place appointed for that purpose, and the avenue to which is guarded by cavalry; but it is not uncommon for a lover to deceive the guard by means of a *basquina* or *mantilla*, so that, instead of allaying the passions, they are the more inflamed. In other parts of the town decency is not attended to with much rigidity, and I have frequently seen at the quays during low water young people of both sexes bathing promiscuously without any clothing.

It may easily be imagined that such a town as Cadiz could not be without a theatre, which accordingly is larger and more commodious than at Madrid, though it makes no external appearance, being surrounded with other buildings. The internal distribution differs from that of other theatres in Spain, and approaches the french style. All the seats

seats are numbered, and every one is obliged to occupy that expressed in his ticket.

Formerly there were at Cadiz a french and an italian theatre; but since the present war began, the former has been shut up, and the latter united with the spanish. The principal actors are Italians, whose pronounciation is excused in consideration of the fine airs they sing between the acts.

But what chiefly attracts the inhabitants to the theatre are the little comedies called faynetes, which are somewhat licentious, and the lascivious dances called voleros; the former containing the chronicles as it were of scandal, and the latter portraying the mysteries of love.

When the play is ended, the stage is converted into a magnificent apartment, the orchestra again strikes up, the castanettes are heard, and a dancer and his partner come forth from opposite sides, each in the graceful andalusian costume, which seems invented for dancing, and dart toward each other, as if they had long been seeking each other. The lover seems about to embrace the object of his passion; who appears ready to throw herself into his arms; but she suddenly turns round, her partner half angry does the same, and immediately the music stops, generally in the middle of a bar. The art of the dancers consists in a rapid equal and neat poise, and stopping so accurately together as to seem at once rooted to the ground opposite to each

each other. They now appear undecided, but presently the music which begins again reanimates and quickens their motions. The lover now grown more ardent endeavours to express his desires, and his beloved receives him with more tenderness, her looks become more languishing, her bosom palpitates with more force, and she extends her arms toward him. Vain hope! too timid to meet him she flies off again, till a new pause gives them fresh courage.

The music now more lively gives wings to their feet, and inebriated with passion the lover again darts toward his mistress, who transported with similar sensations flies with ardour to meet him. They join their arms, the lips of the fair dancer open, and she seems ready to surrender at discretion. The music now gives louder and stronger sounds, a more rapid melody, and the motions of the dancers are redoubled. 'Tis a kind of intoxication of delight, and the same sensations seem to animate them both; each muscle is alive, and every pulsation accelerated, when suddenly the music stops, and the dancers at the same instant become motionless and disappear: for the curtain falls, and the illusion of the spectators is dissolved.

The climate, the vivacity, the beauty, and the agility of the inhabitants render Andalusia exclusively adapted to this dance. You should see it performed by a well-assorted couple, whose persons

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are only exceeded by their talents, and then you would forget every thing of the kind you had seen before as tame and inexpressive. How can such a dance, which refers so strongly to a passion that animates the whole of nature, and which alone can counterbalance the selfish principle, not be preferred to all other amusements? I am confident I shall gratify you more by describing these dances than bull-fights, which are the common amusement at Cadiz as well as at Madrid.

There is indeed a series of engravings, in which in order to facilitate the learning this dance all the motions and attitudes are represented in succession, entitled "Laminas que manifiestan los varios pasos y mudanzas de las seguidillas, voleros, y los tragesmas propios para esse bayle," twelve sheets (if I am not mistaken), 4 reals each: sold by Escribano, Calle de las Carretas, with the music for the guitar and voice. Also several other dances under the title of "Modo facil para aprender el ayre volero en la guitarra y arreglar la voz:" sold by Fernandez and Co.

Having thus taken a view of the luxury that prevails at Cadiz, let us examine the source from which it flows, I mean its commerce; though the particulars given by Townsend and Bourgoanne, and the present state of affairs might in some measure excuse such an omission. The disastrous war with France and the still more ruinous war with England have

have for some years almost entirely destroyed the commerce of Spain ; the fleets of Great Britain blockade her best ports, and english privateers are incessantly cruising off her coasts.

The English had before attempted to blockade Cadiz in the summer of 1797, when they found the Spanish quite unprepared. The confusion and disorder were universal, and without the distinguished valour of a Biscayan named Mazaredo, the place would have been ruined ; but since that time the spanish gun-boats have become so formidable to the English, that they have not hazarded a new attack. The spanish fleet is posted from the town as far as the isla, and the English keep at a distance of four leagues to the south-east.

However rigorous this blockade may appear, sometimes artifice and sometimes policy elude its effects. As to the former, during the violent winds of the levante, which come from off the bay, and which are generally accompanied with a thick fog, the ships that are ready go out, and this the more easily as the English are then obliged to change their birth. In this manner not only some frigates, but about sixty merchantmen have sailed for America at different times. Indeed the amount of their invoices is so high, and the sale is at these times so certain, that, even were two ships out of three captured, the profit on one arrival would cover the capital and interest of the two others.

As to policy, the English themselves for fear of reprisals or for other reasons suffer all ships from Morocco, Turkey, and Greece, to land without impediment, and these ships are employed to bring in a part of the importation required, and for sending some cargoes to the various ports of the Mediterranean.

The overtures however which begin to take place between the cabinets of London and Madrid through the intervention of the english party at the latter and of the court of Portugal seem at present (July and August 1798) to have a decided influence on the blockade. At this moment a danish ship is ready to sail with a rich cargo to Hamburg; english passports are given to spanish vessels to go to Gibraltar to fetch the havannah tobacco brought thither in anglo-portugal ships, english officers in disguise come to Cadiz to dissipate the irksomeness of being constantly on board, and spanish boats fetch their linen to wash, and provide the fleet with wine and fruit.

Among the foreign merchants of all nations are many Germans partly from Hamburg, from Bohemia, and from Augsburg. The former constitute the class called Hanseatics, and according to ancient convention enjoy considerable privileges. They divide their commercial affairs into speculation, commission, and banking business. This is the only nation at Cadiz that keep up a close union

union among themselves, or keep a fund for the relief of their unfortunate countrymen. I will only mention here Messrs. Bohl brothers and the consul Mr. Andrew Freffer, whose firm is Freffer and Springckhorn, to give you a testimony of the esteem and gratitude I feel for the hanseatic nation. The bohemian and augsburg houses are of small importance compared with those of Hamburg, and, as throughout Spain, scarcely transact any other than a retail business in glass and hardware.

The more acquainted the Spanish may become with the importance of their inland trade, the more jealousy they appear of foreign merchants, and the yoke of necessity through the change of circumstances becomes more and more burdensome to them. This aversion however is not so openly shown toward any nation as the French, because toward no other do political and religious reasons so much contribute to that effect. It seems indeed to be a part of the system adopted by the Spanish hierarchy to oppose that formidable nation by fanaticism itself. For this reason some time ago all the images of saints in one of the monasteries were mutilated in order to ascribe the outrage to the French, and the hatred of the populace broke out into innumerable acts of violence. The investigation however of the french consul left no doubt as to the true authors of the insult.

In general it appeared to me that the whole system of religion takes the character of the climate, and that fanaticism is here more impetuous and more ardent than in other more northern, and even in the southern parts of Spain. Ever closely connected with the senses it favours licentiousness of manners without intending it, and we must not therefore be surprised if voluptuousness finds its way even to the steps of the altar, and if the clergy publicly keep mistresses.

The pleasures of sense together with fanaticism (or what we protestants call superstition) having obtained a complete dominion over the mind, it is impossible the least spark of science should be seen to shine, or that the understanding should receive due cultivation. Do not therefore expect to find extensive libraries or instructive conversations except among foreigners. It is to them Cadiz is indebted for a superb reading-room and library called Camorra established at the old opera-house. The best and most interesting foreign newspapers are also taken in there, and there is a similar establishment at the Apollo coffee-house, where the best french newspapers may be read at any time after the arrival of the post. In other coffee-houses we only found the Correo de Cadiz or the Postillon del Correo de Cadiz, which contain political and commercial news and some other intelligence. Lists are also daily printed of the ships that arrive  
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and are worthy the notice of merchants, and at the end of the year they exhibit a general calculation or result of the exports and imports to and from America.

To omit nothing that can be interesting to a traveller, I will mention simply that the best inns are the posada de las Palomas near the Puerta de la Mar and the posada de las Quatro Naciones; the former is suited to rich people, the latter to persons of moderate fortune, who would limit their expenditure to a piastre or half a piastre a-day.



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

## LETTER XL.

*Departure from Cadiz.—Scenery.—Torre gorda.—Isla de Leon.—Puerto de Santa Maria.—Change in the Scenery.—Xeres (Sherry).—Lebrija.—Ecija.—Houses singularly painted.—Cordova.—Mafz.—Ventas de Alcolea.—Carpio.—Sierra Morena.—The Colonies there.—Carolina.—Puerto del Rey.—Entrance into La Mancha.—Valdepeñas.—Manzanares.—Entrance into the Kingdom of Murcia.—Fuente de la Higuera.—Entrance into the Kingdom of Valencia—Beauties of that Province.—Inhabitants.—Improvisadores.—Popular Songs.*

Valencia, September 1798.

I LEFT Cadiz on the 24th of August, when we were again rigorously searched at the landgate. We gave our mules water at the great cistern, and soon entered on the narrow and sandy road, which being to the left of the ocean the bay covers with its waves. While looking behind to take our leave of the ramparts of Cadiz, of the fort of San Sebastian, which seems to rise out of the sea, and of the english fleet, we were still able to distinguish the last divisions of the bay and the spanish squadron.

The road would scarcely admit of two carriages abreast, and seemed surrounded on three sides by the ocean. This is an optical illusion, the eye not distinguishing the turn the sea takes at Torre gorda.

The sun, which had just set behind the admiral's

ship,

ship, still gilded the whole horizon, the bay and the vast surface of the ocean reflected his departing fires, the air was cool and tranquil, and from both squadrons the signals of sunset were heard.

Near the battery of Torre gorda, where the strip of land joins the mainland, the sandy road changes to an excellent causeway, which begins to leave the bay, and after forming an angle leads in a straight line to Isla de Leon. It was dusk when we arrived at this pretty town, which is well built, and may contain about 38,000 inhabitants. Instead of lanterns there is a lamp to each house, giving the great street, which is very broad, a grand appearance.

Isla de Leon may be considered as a dependency of Cadiz, since it in some degree forms a part of its commerce, marine and manufactures. The houses have but one story, mostly only a ground floor; but all have flat roofs adorned with vases and statues. The posada was as convenient, but at the same time as dear, as the best at Cadiz, and we found in the purchase of some provisions, that the price was one third higher than at that port.

*Second day.*—A good causeway leads across a marshy bottom to the ancient bridge of Suazo, which joins the isla de Leon (for the town of that name is so called from the peninsula on which it stands)

stands) to the main land, from which it is separated by a small arm of the bay called El Canal de San Pedro. Here the eye commands the salt-pans, which skirt the whole bay, the furrows of which extending into the sea and the huts for the guards that watch them form a very novel view. It is the custom to give them pious names, as the Salina de Jesus Maria, Salina del Dulcissimo Nombre de Jesus, &c.

On approaching Puerto Real, a small pretty town with near 6000 inhabitants, the ground widens, rises, and commands a view of almost the whole interior Puntalenbaya, and after passing the small river of San Pedro, which is an arm of the Guadalete, we perceived the whole inner bay. We passed a very rough bridge of boats across the Guadalete itself, and arrived at Puerto de Santa Maria, where we dined. This town, which is opposite Cadiz, contains near 12,000 inhabitants and a port which is not inferior to it in riches. El Puerto, as it is generally called, is a rendezvous of amusement for all the inhabitants of Cadiz. A long alameda well shaded and a vast number of country houses attract thither a great deal of company from that city, especially on Sundays. Fortunately for us it was now fair time, and we found the avenues and walks adorned with booths and so full of life that I fancied myself at the baths of Pymont.

Hitherto

Hitherto we had scarcely seen any thing but a barren soil almost uncultivated, and a sandy country, which seemed stolen from the sea; but from this place the road became more cheerful, vegetation more thriving, and the view more rural and more varied. We saw plantations of olives, crops of corn, vineyards, fields of clover, aloes in flower with stems eighteen or twenty feet high, and twisted fycamores (*hiquera atuna*) with prickly leaves: the harvest made the country all alive, and we almost forgot to reflect amid the riches it displayed, how much farther a better system of cultivation would carry the fertility of the soil under such a climate.

We now approached the small town of Xeres, which, being surrounded on all sides with hills covered with vineyards and olive trees, appears at the edge of the horizon in a very romantic point of view. According to the various turns of the road it seemed sometimes in front, sometimes on one side, and sometimes on the other, and the sides of the hills were covered with sheep and huts. We were obliged to go quite round it, while the town gradually unfolded itself before us. At length we entered it by a very steep road. On the left we suddenly perceived a terrace, which serves as a public promenade, and which commands a very agreeable view of the valley.

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The interior of Xeres wears the appearance of affluence; the houses are painted white and yellow, the inhabitants are well dressed, especially the women, and the manners of the place in point of luxury resemble those of Cadiz. The wine of Xeres so famous abroad (sherry) has, when new, the flavour of champagne; when old (xeres seco) it becomes of a darker yellow, and acquires more body. It then costs here about three-pence.

*Third day.*—On leaving Xeres the scenery suddenly assumed a wild appearance, the soil was arid and calcareous, and was interspersed here and there with lavender. It is grievous to behold such wastes in the beautiful province of Andalusia; but it arises from the unequal distribution of lands and the bad methods of farming that prevail.

We now arrived at Lebrija, a large but miserable market town, all the inhabitants of which present an appearance of the most hideous indigence. Yet two leagues farther the agriculture seemed to grow better, especially near a hamlet called Arajal, which is entirely surrounded with olive trees and corn-fields.

*Fourth day.*—The fields continued to be well cultivated, the road traversed Paradas, and we travelled through a very fine country as far as Marchena, an ancient town situated upon an eminence. Without this place we stopped at a venta,  
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and then proceeded through rather a poor country to another town called La Noriela, where we found such an abundance of water-melons (sandias) that we bought a very large one for five farthings.

*Fifth day.*—This day for the first time these seven weeks I have seen some clouds in the sky. The morning was dark and cool, which however rendered it the more pleasant. After passing some hills we traversed a very fertile country to Ecija, but that town, which is pretty considerable, and contains near 20,000 inhabitants, exhibits no signs of its ancient industry, except several tanneries and a numerous corporation of shoe-makers.

The houses at Ecija are painted in a very strange manner with dancers, combatants, and people eating amidst bulls, goats, and other quadrupeds mixed together on a ground of blue and red, and the whole loaded with gilding. The same profusion is seen at the public fountains and in the niches of the fountains. Many modern houses are however decorated in a better taste, and the new posada of the Lion is laid out more commodiously and with greater elegance.

Ecija is situated on the left bank of the Xenil, a river of moderate size and running through fertile fields. Along the town extends an alameda, where are the statues of the king and queen on a pedestal formed by a very high column. I found also in this place venders of water and lemonade; but in  
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the southern provinces of Spain they are not wanting even in the smallest places.

*Sixth day.*—Our road lay over tolerably well-cultivated hills, and at length we arrived at a prodigious height, whence the view plunges down upon a plain, on which stands the city of Cordova on the right bank of the Guadalquivir. This plain, which is bordered in the distance by the Sierra Morena, is one of the most fertile of Andalusia: but the uniformity of its scenery and the want of individual objects for the eye to fix upon very much weaken the impression it would otherwise produce.

From Xeres we had the company of an augustin monk of Cordova, who brought us to a good posada at the entrance of the town. But being informed that the family had been prevented by sleep from hearing mass that morning, he undertook to officiate himself. Thus we were scarcely arrived a little before noon at the posada, before he caused the bell of the neighbouring chapel to be rung, put on his cope without ceremony, washed his hands, and began to say mass; during which we amused ourselves with looking at the curious ex-votoes or votive offerings with which the walls were covered. Almost all of them consisted of small painted boards representing sick people who had been exorcised by the prayers of las animas benditas (blessed souls), which at least proves the great power

power of the imagination, when combined with a good constitution, over the most dangerous disorders.

Our holy father after having said mass seemed extremely well pleased with himself, and proved, by the good appetite with which he shared our dinner, that his mass had done him no harm in that respect. We then accompanied him into the town. Above the bridge the river forms several islands, and below it works some mills and washes the walls of the town. The small grove of orange trees near the ancient cathedral, which is built in the moorish style, quite fascinated us; for I had never seen so many fine orange trees together. They seemed loaded with golden apples.

The interior of Cordova every where shows the decline and total cessation of its industry. Its long streets are almost deserted, most of the houses are uninhabited, and the multitude of churches and cloisters it contains are besieged by a crowd of vagabonds covered with rags. All the industry of the place seems confined to a few tan-yards and some woollen manufactures, especially of mule-cloths. Rents and provisions are very low, and the value of estates has fallen one half in the course of the century. The women have fresher complexions than at Cadiz, but they are far from being so elegantly dressed. We saw a numerous group with men's round hats over their veils, and coloured

loured basquiñas: they were mounted on small borricos. The patron saint of Cordova is saint Raphael, whose magnificent gilt statue at the gate but ill agrees with the wretchedness that reigns within.

Two short leagues above Cordova is the venta de Alcolea, a very spacious inn with a fosse and a chapel, where we passed the night. The country around it is pleasing: at some distance from it runs the Guadalquivir, which we passed by a very fine bridge, and the mountains in front are covered with olive trees. The garden of the inn is planted with fig and orange trees, and it is laid out very commodiously.

*Seventh day.*—The country was more mountainous, and sometimes pretty well cultivated, but had a dreary appearance, because the harvest was finished. We stopped to dine in the small town of Carpio, and traversed a fine plain to Aldea del Rio, a village on the side of a hill close by the Guadalquivir.

*Eighth day.*—From thence it is two long leagues to Anduxar. The soil was pretty well cultivated, and we remarked in particular a great quantity of lands covered with melons and gourds intermingled with maize. Anduxar being situated on the right side of the river, we were obliged to cross it a second time. Our road lay sometimes through a forest of encinas (evergreen oaks), sometimes  
among

among olive plantations. At Anduxar, that eternal seat of putrid fevers, we quite took our leave of the Guadalquivir, and saw distinctly before us the Sierra Morena. We slept at a venta.

*Ninth day.*—The road resembled that of the preceding day. At length we began to ascend the Sierra near Baylen, an ancient village to the left on a steep height. To the right in the distance extend fields and woods of young oaks. From thence we arrived at Guarda romana (generally pronounced Guarroman), where we were very agreeably surpris'd to see houses of freestone and well built. They are joined four and four together and have all one front. Had we not known, that this town formed a part of the well-known colony, and that it was inhabited in great measure by Germans, we should have immediately guessed it: the little gardens before the houses, the vines that adorned the entrance, the flower-pots at the windows, the arbours at the house-doors, the spinning-wheels, the form of dress, the neatness of the whole, a superior cultivation, fields of oats and barley, in short every thing characteris'd the labours and industry of Germans.

The ground still rose more and more, and the views became more varied and romantic: fields, olive plantations, and vineyards, were seen in all parts; the lands were irrigated by narrow streams of water conveyed through wooden pipes;  
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on all sides were plenteous meadows full of cows, colts, horses, and young mules; and at length, by a broad and magnificent road planted with poplars, aloes, fig trees, and olive trees, we arrived at Carolina, the metropolis of all the colonies on the Sierra Morena. In the neighbourhood of this place the trees are separated from the road by stone fences. There are fountains, statues, and bridges, and we seemed approaching some great city. And indeed we were surprised to see these straight streets and so large a number of well-built houses; yet a certain air of melancholy in the general appearance recalls some painful remembrances.

We met an old Alfacian, who was one of the first colony that came here thirty years ago. By his account the wild appearance of the country at that period exceeded all that can be conceived, and the whole was covered with thick forests of fir and infectious marshes. When the settlers perceived, that instead of the boasted land they were promised, they were to people a horrid desert, and instead of the abundance described did not even find tolerable water, many of them died of grief within the first year or two, and a still greater number of epidemic diseases. The regret with which this old man still spoke of his country, and the story he told us of his misfortunes, affected us much, and drew tears from our eyes.

You

You will find in accounts of Spain already published the particulars of the origin and fate of this colony. I shall therefore content myself with a few observations on the subject. The king had reserved to himself all the tythes, the clergy depended on the intendant, and were paid out of the civil treasury. The intendant and other persons in office did considerable injury to these new colonies by the monopolies they established upon corn, wine, and salt. The salary of the intendants is 2000 piastres, and yet these places are considered as a kind of banishment. The population of Carolina according to this Alcacian is now reduced in consequence of the putrid fevers that have lately prevailed there to about 2000.

*Tenth day.*—Carolina is situated in the middle of the Sierra Morena. We travelled a league between well-cultivated fields, where the neat houses of the colonists are interspersed from Santa Elena, and we came at length to the celebrated pass called Puerto del Rey. The road winds among steep rocks covered with brambles, with an infinity of turnings, till we enter upon the plain, from which we see the travellers and carriages behind us, as if suspended above our heads. Yet notwithstanding this the road is very safe, and by a kind of prodigy it is even more commodious than that of Saint Gothard between Milan and Switzerland, to which this mountain bears much resemblance. A land-

scape painter would here find spots that would enrich picturesque travels in Spain, which have long been a desideratum in the literary world.

On descending from the sierra we are at once transported into a new world. The plains, which are monotonous and extend as far as the sight, here and there exhibit a few corn-fields and vineyards, but in general we only saw forsaken pastures, and the traveller is concerned at seeing ruined and deserted villages, which show a want of population and the pernicious effects of too large a distribution of property. The climate in consequence of its vicinity to the sea and the more elevated level of this province becomes more rough and changeable; the remains of ancient manners and of the arabic architecture have disappeared, the spires are no longer so elegant, nor the houses any longer painted white; the dresses of the inhabitants are rough and dirty, their countenances less beautiful, and the women have an air of less affability and more indifference: the bread is worse, but the wine is of a deep red and cheaper. In the venta where we dined we only paid a halfpenny a pint, yet it was excellent; and the same at the small town of Santa Cruz where we slept.

*Eleventh day.*—The morning of this day we rode between vineyards, and we every where found the grapes ripe. The keepers however refused to sell us any, but according to an ancient custom they

they presented each of us with a bunch. Toward noon we arrived at the town of Valdepeñas, of which place the wine is esteemed the best in La Mancha, and only cost us a halfpenny a pint.

In the afternoon we found a country similar to that we had before traversed, and where from time to time we saw olive plantations. We met twelve broad-wheeled waggons heavily loaded and accompanied by four-and-twenty dragoons. It was an escort of specie belonging to the king, and going from Madrid to Cadiz for the fleet, which had been expecting it during nine months with extreme impatience.

Toward night we arrived at Manzanares, a considerable market town with a pretty alameda. The dragoons of the garrison seemed not to have been disagreeable to the women of this place or to have impeded their fecundity; for in no part of Spain did I see so many pregnant women. Wine and fruit are here so cheap, that I bought a pint of wine for a farthing and a pound of fruit for the smallest piece of coin. It is true however that the harvest was this year very abundant.

*Twelfth day.*—This day we traversed wild and dreary tracts, and saw neither dwellings nor cultivation, till we came to Tomello, a wretched and dirty village, where we even found no wine. I do not remember passing so irksome a day: such are the devastated plains of La Mancha!

*Thirteenth day.*—We passed several mountains covered with lavender, rosemary, &c. and a multitude of shrubs: in the distance we saw other sierras. Toward the south we stopped at a miserable venta, and thought it very fortunate we had procured provisions at Manzanares. At night we arrived at Villa Lobredo, a tolerably large town, where are potters, who make vessels for wine, especially the jugs called tinajas. The inhabitants appeared to enjoy some degree of affluence considering they dwelt in La Mancha, but their ordinary beverage is cistern-water, the nearest spring being near three german leagues distant. Good water is indeed twice as dear as wine; for the latter sold at a farthing a pint while a pint of water costs a halfpenny.

*Fourteenth day.*—The agriculture seemed to improve, and we again saw olive plantations and vineyards, especially in the vicinage of Minaya, where are potteries, and where yokes are made for oxen. At night we stopped at the posada, where we perceived by the neatness of our inn and the superiority of the bread, that we were approaching the frontiers of the kingdom of Murcia.

*Fifteenth day.*—The road now traversed well-cultivated tracts and some villages as far as the town of Albarete, where are a great number of forges and of cartwrights. The effects of this species of industry were observable in the dress, habita-

habitations, and food of the inhabitants; and we even found in the square two venders of lemonade.

A pleasant road brought us to Peña del Paffo as soon as we had passed Chinchilla on our left on the declivity of a mountain.

Every thing now changed its appearance in comparison with La Mancha. The inn was cleaner and more commodious, the kitchen more spacious and adorned with kitchen utensils painted in various colours, the bread whiter and better baked, the wine of a deep colour, sweet, and dearer, for it costs near a halfpenny a pint. Both sexes were neater dressed; the women reminded me of the beauty of the Andalusians; and seemed to participate the musical talents of the men of that country. Every thing showed more life and gaiety, and half the night was consumed in singing and dancing.

*Sixteenth day.*—We dined at Fuente de la Higuera, which is situated upon a mountain. The olive plantations, the fertile fields that surround this place, announced the vicinity of the fine province which we here enter. From the summit of the mountain we saw that charming valley which displayed itself before our eyes like a terrestrial paradise, and we hastened to arrive there.

Here the air seemed softer, and the heavens more serene; the roads were bordered with gooseberry bushes, olive trees, vegetables, corn fields,

melon grounds, gourds, and a great number of almond and mulberry trees. Every thing was in bloom and luxuriantly fertile. A vast number of little channels made according to a certain system, irrigate the soil, the exuberant profusion of which produces flowers and strawberries without even requiring cultivation.

The roads that lead through this immense, this enchanting garden are the finest in Spain. Magnificent bridges, well situated ventas, beautiful houses on the road side, the variety of the landscape, the gaiety of the husbandmen, every thing combines to make the traveller forget the fatigue and distance of his journey. Add to this the animated manners of the inhabitants, which give life to this enchanting scene. We were charmed with their unaffected cordiality, their neatness, and comfortable appearance.

The men only wear a white shirt or smock frock, scotch filibegs of the same colour, pack-thread shoes (alpargatas), and bluish sandals. To complete their dress they put on a small black or scarlet jacket, so that the sleeves remain loose. The women wear blue calico petticoats, corsets trimmed with broad ribands, and twist their hair in a circle in the greek manner upon the back part of the head. Round the neck they wear a string of large blue beads with several little gold counters and other ornaments

ornaments that hang down upon their bosom. Their elegant and close dresses seem invented expressly to show their beautiful forms.

At night we arrived at a venta which may be compared on account of its charming situation with one of the most beautiful country houses in the Vallais, the surrounding parts being covered with orange and fig trees, vineyards, and olive trees. Behind this inn is the small town of Moxente half buried among gardens and bushes and separated from the road by a rivulet which was almost dry. The interior of this town had an extremely cheerful appearance, and we fancied ourselves transported to Brigancieres in Provence. All the inhabitants were sitting before their doors, and we heard people singing every where. We bought some oranges for a few quartos, but our purchase was unnecessary, for we might have gathered and eaten as many as we pleased beneath the trees themselves; though it is forbidden to take any away, that being considered as a theft.

When night came on, the number of guests at the venta increasing, we found it extremely animated, especially after the arrival of some musicians. You may remember what I have formerly said of the talents of the Spanish for music and of their songs accompanied by the guitar. They consist of little amorous couplets made impromptu, yet destitute of poetic expression and frequently of

common sense. But there is a particular class of musicians who resemble the improvisatori of Italy in style if not in talent.

I found some here and there in Biscay, more rarely in the middle of Spain except at Madrid, and more frequently in Estremadura and Andalusia: but those of Valencia seemed to excel all the rest. They sing in the dialect of their province, which is a little similar to that of Languedoc, and easy to understand. Their ballads partly express tenderness, and partly a gaiety somewhat bordering on licentiousness. They take many poetic licences, and their verses are mostly little more than prose set to music.

In general the Spanish have innumerable songs and popular ballads, which almost always turn upon adventures of devotion or of chivalry. An adulterer whose mistress is carried off by the devil, a courageous knight destroying a moorish giant, a female saint saving a christian infant from a torrent, or a young hero who fights three bulls for the honour of his doña, are the usual subjects of these compositions.

For some time past songs at once moral and satirical have been in circulation. It should seem as if some men of talents had attempted by these means to enlighten the common people. Among them are the good mother, the faithful and tender husband,

husband, the woman of fashion (madamita) or petimetra, the mischief-maker, &c. which correspond extremely well with this design.

*Seventeenth to the twentieth day.*—We were now about three spanish leagues from Valencia; but to enjoy the beauty of the country we made but very short day's journies. The numerous villages announced the greatest affluence; all the fields were covered with tufted mulberry trees, and during the last league the road formed a magnificent avenue adorned on each side with country houses. Presently after we entered the suburb, where the silk hanging in flocks, the noise of the looms, the great number of shops and public-houses, little carts, one-horse chaises, together with the general bustle and tumult, announced the great city of Valencia.

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LETTER XLII.

*Situation and Architecture of the City of Valencia.—Climate.—  
 Charming Country.—Promenades.—Grao.—Public Works in  
 the Harbour.—Smuggling.—Present State of Commerce.—Ma-  
 nufactures.—The Interior of the Houses.—The Character of the  
 Inhabitants.—The Women.—Amusements.—Advantages of this  
 City.—Religious Delirium.*

Valencia, Sept. 1798.

THE city of Valencia, which contains about 100,000 inhabitants, is situated on a plain on the banks of the river Guadalaviar, and surrounded by a very high wall. The streets are narrow and unpaved, but the rocky soil and the care taken by the inhabitants prevent any accumulation of filth. The houses, which are furnished with lanterns, are very lofty, and mostly in the ancient style, but clean and convenient within. A great number have one half of the roof flat so as to form a terrace. Townsend and Bourgoanne have sufficiently described the public edifices after Pons. I shall therefore merely remark the grotesque paintings that cover the external walls of the churches, and which represent the miracles of some of the saints.

The