

LETTER III.

CLIMATE — TEMPERANCE — GAMING — THEATRE — VISITING — LADIES ; THEIR
ATTENDING THE CHURCHES — FEMALE INDEPENDENCE AND EDUCATION.

CADIZ, SEPT. 1809.

THE climate of Spain at this season is delightful and certainly tends to improve the spirits. The air is dry and clear, notwithstanding we are surrounded by water; the heat is not excessive, the thermometer seldom exceeding 70; and the walk in the evening by the sea side most refreshing and cool. The mode of living is also favourable to health and enjoyment, fruits and vegetables form the principal food even at the best tables; and though a species of cookery, approaching to French, is introduced at Cadiz, it is so combined with that which is purely Spanish, that the difference is scarcely to be distinguished. Very little wine is drunk during dinner, and immediately afterwards the gentlemen retire to coffee with the ladies. The habits of the Spaniards are very temperate and frugal, so far as regards the table and the furniture of their houses; but they keep a much greater number of domestic servants than families of the same description in England.

In their dress and personal ornaments both the men and women are very extravagant, especially the latter; and I am told that the money expended on a lady's silk stockings and shoes alone (for they never walk out twice in the same) is enormous. Gaming forms the