

## LETTER VII.

DEPARTURE FROM CADIZ — SANTA MARIA — BEGGARS — ROADS — FACE OF  
THE COUNTRY — XERES — WINES — RENT OF LAND — POPULATION OF  
XERES — RECRUITS — CLIMATE.

XERES, SEPT. 1809.

WE left Cadiz about noon, and passed to the Mole with our baggage: it was only slightly searched at the gate, on account of our being Englishmen; but that of several other persons who were going out was rigorously examined. There is a law prohibiting the gold coin from being carried out of the city; a law easily evaded, when the price of gold, relative to that of silver, is very high.

Previously to our setting out, we called on board our ship, took a slight repast, and procured some provisions to refresh us on the road to Seville, on which we were informed they could not be obtained at the inns. We landed at St. Mary's about two o'clock, and found our equipage waiting for us; it was a coach solidly constructed, resembling in shape those which we see painted in pictures two hundred years old; it had no iron springs, but was suspended, by large leathern straps, from upright pillars before and behind, and lined with yellow plush. Mr. Ridout, Don Ramon, myself and my servant, were tolerably accommodated in the inside, and our three drivers sat on the trunks before; we had six mules, and rattled over the stones of the city at a good pace.