

LETTER XIX.

CONVENT OF THE CARTHUSIANS—ITS PICTURES—PAINTINGS OF ZUBARAN—
 CONVENT OF ST. HIERONYMO — ANECDOTE OF TORRIGIANO — CAPUCHINS—
 THEIR LIBRARY — HOSPITAL DE LA SANGRE.

SEVILLE, OCT. 1809.

A FEW days ago, I went, with a small party, to see the convent of the Carthusians. It is situated on the banks of the Guadalquivir, above the city, and we found a boat the cheapest and most agreeable conveyance. The convent is a fine building, and the interior is sumptuously decorated.

The Monks, who are all descended from good families, live with frugality, or rather austerity, and never leave the convent after they have taken the vows. They are not permitted to converse, except with each other, and they are allowed only an hour's conversation twice in a week; but if I may judge from the rubicund faces and portly figures of the superiors, when they arrive at the higher stations, they indulge privately in luxuries beyond the limits of their vows. It is easy to conceive that, that fanaticism which can induce gentlemen to enter into this order, and to endure its severities during the year of their noviciate, may, after a time, cease; that the fervour of devotion may subside; that some embers of the feelings and habits