

## LETTER XXIX.

ISLA DE LEON—PANTHEON—PUENTE DE ZUARZOS—SALT PITS—CHICLANA—  
 GAME—CORTOS—CHURCH OF ST. ANNA—MINERAL SPRINGS AT CHICLANA  
 —CHRISTMAS PARTY—STROLLING PLAYERS.

CADIZ, DEC. 1809.

**I** HAVE been spending some days at Chiclana, a delightful place, about sixteen miles hence, where the merchants of this city have their country houses. We went in a berlin, with four good horses. The road is very fine, and is raised on a parapet, with the sea on both sides; on the left the bay of Cadiz, and on the right the main ocean, with the shore stretching towards Cape Trafalgar.

In two hours we reached the Isla de Leon, a city containing between forty and fifty thousand inhabitants; but from its extent, including St. Carlos, capable of holding double that number. The streets are wide, the houses large, and, like other Spanish towns, it displays a mixture of grandeur and poverty, quite characteristic of the nation. As this place is soon destined to become the seat of government, I saw it with more interest than it would otherwise have excited. It is at present inhabited chiefly by officers of the navy, and by different persons employed in the dock-yard of the Caraccas; but the expected convocation of the Cortes has increased