

LETTER XXXIX.

CONTINUATION OF THE HISTORY OF THE MOORS IN GRANADA — THEIR SUBMISSION TO FERDINAND — PROGRESS OF THE MOORS IN THE CULTIVATION OF SCIENCE — THEIR SKILL IN PHYSIC AND THE FINE ARTS.

GRANADA, JAN. 1810.

HAVING, in my last Letter, sketched the history of the Mahomedans in Spain, till the establishment of their capital in this city, I shall continue the subject to the period of their conquest by the Christians under Ferdinand and Isabella.

The family of Almanzor still continued to reign in Granada, in the year 1051, when Joseph ben Taschphen, King of Morocco, invaded Granada with an irresistible army. The timid successor of Almanzor, though strengthened by auxiliaries from the Christian King of Castile, feared to meet him in battle; and when his enemy advanced towards the city, he went forth to receive him, and, surrendering his power, followed, with his nobles, in the train of the African invader, who was thus quietly seated on the throne, which he afterwards filled with dignity and splendour.

The death of Joseph occasioned a civil war in Granada, which was succeeded by a truce, in which the different pretenders to the sovereignty agreed to divide the kingdom, which, however, became