

LETTER L.

DOMINICAN CONVENT AT RONDA — SINGULAR SITUATION OF ZAHARA —
 ALGAUCIN — VISIT TO THE CORREGIDOR — CHEERFUL EVENING — DEPARTURE FROM ALGAUCIN — ARRIVAL AT ST. ROQUE.

ST. ROQUE, JAN. 1810.

BEFORE we left Ronda, we visited the church of the Dominican convent, to see some paintings in fresco of Alonzo Vasquez, a native of that city, who, about the year 1598, obtained considerable celebrity among his contemporaries. Some of his pictures are preserved in the cathedral of Seville, and in the collections of the amateurs of that city. The paintings in the church of the Dominicans are not in good preservation, nor do they, in my judgment, justify his high reputation. Those in the cloisters of the Franciscan convent of Seville are much superior, having probably been executed when he had obtained a greater proficiency in his art. In the cloister of this convent we saw, what I have frequently observed, but not mentioned to you before, the words "aqui se sacan las animas," literally, here souls are drawn; importing that masses are said in this place for the liberation of souls from purgatory.