

purity of his life. In short, whatever inaccuracies may have escaped the attention of the translator of these letters,

— quas aut incuria fudit,  
Aut humana parum cavit natura—

it is presumed that they will be amply compensated by the entertainment and information with which they abound.

## TRAVELS, &c.

### LETTER I.

DEAR BROTHER,

*Stuttgart, April 3. 1780.*

HERE I have pitched my first camp, and intend to make excursions from hence into the different parts of Suabia, according as opportunities offer.

I have made it a rule to myself to take particular parts of Germany as middle points, and from thence to ramble round the country till I have seen all that I think worth notice. It is my intention to study Germany thoroughly, without, however, extending my inquiries to the numberless landgraviates, margraviates, baronies, republics, &c. &c. As to these, it is doing them honour enough to say that they exist.

You know that I stayed some time in Strasburg, as well for the sake of learning to speak a little German, as to make myself acquainted, by the help of maps and books, with the country I mean to travel through. In this pursuit I found more assistance than I could have expected, and it is certainly not the fault of the German geographers and politicians that their country is so little known by foreigners.

Having sometimes been so kind as to allow me a genius for the observation of men and manners, you may reasonably expect something more in my letters than what you have commonly met with in our French and English travellers. These, indeed, have usually been gentlemen, who having travelled in close post-chaises to the great courts, as if (as Yorick says) they were riding post from death, have given us the few anecdotes they have picked up, either at the post-house, whilst they were changing horses, or from their bankers, or from their opera-girls, as true accounts of the state of manners, legislation, religion, &c. of the country.

A man who would know all orders of people, should mix with them all; but this is what a common traveller seldom either can or will do, on the contrary, they are generally compelled to live in a narrow circle, where they hear of nothing but the pleasures and occupations of the company; therefore, again, a man must be a studious traveller by profession, to enter into the peculiarities of a whole people. After all, let him be ever so willing, and ever so well prepared, he will find it more difficult to know Germany than any other country; for it is not here as in France, where, as all ape the manners of the capital, by going thither you see all, as it were, in the compass of a nut-shell. In Germany there is no town which regulates the manners of the whole, but the country is divided into a numberless variety of large and small states, differing from each other in religion, government, opinions, &c. and which have no band of union whatever, except their common language.