

for a retirement, unless one lives some way in the country, and many neat cottages may be had at a very low rate. The town has nothing striking in point of buildings : the theatre is of course, one of the most conspicuous, and in the museum there are some good paintings. I dined at my friend's house, where every thing was cooked and served *à l'Anglais* ; so that I have nothing to say but that the English, go where they may, live quite at home, seeing as little of foreign manners and society as if they had never moved from their arm chair.

The following day I found myself at Nîmes ; and though I did not spend many hours in it, I saw enough to make me delighted with it. As a place of residence it appeared to me preferable to any town I had yet visited. The streets are wide, yet rendered shady by rows of trees. The promenades are truly magnificent, and the antiquities as far as they go as interesting as any thing in Italy. The amphitheatre which, on a small scale, is almost a model of that of Vespasian at Rome, is more perfect than it, and sufficiently large to have a character of dignity and grandeur ; but the temple of Diana, or, as the French absurdly enough term it, "*La Maison Quar-rée*," is a finer example of a Roman Temple than exists any where in Italy. Indeed its purity and elegance is quite Greek, I was sorry to see a troop of workmen busily repairing it. It is as dangerous an experiment to touch a decaying building, as to retouch an ancient picture. The possession of the statues, real gems of art, seems to have given a proper direction to the minds of the architects of Nîmes, for the public buildings have much more purity than the general run one sees in France. As I stood near the office of the diligence, a scene happened not many yards from me, which may seem to illustrate the French character : one of the National Guards, using the most insulting language to a man who was known to be a Carlist, and declaring that he had no right to wear mustachios, offered to cut them off, the other resisted ; a scuffle ensued, which ended by the guardsman driving his sword through the other's heart. The assassin was instantly seized but had not the military made