

forms consume too much time and money. That they consume time and money I am ready to allow; but these are well employed when slow investigation brings security in the final decision, and the necessity of abiding by forms prevents cupidity from practising on avarice. Give me a Socrates for a judge, and I will be content to abide by his decisions; but whilst judges are what they are, whilst philosophy comes out of the mouth and expires on the lips, it is better to trust to a mode of process, which leaves little room for the bad passions to play. I own that some of the Gothic forms still practised in most of the German tribunals, might be abolished without doing mischief. But there are many in which the Gordian knot has been cut instead of being loosened.—Fare thee well.

## LETTER V.

Augsburg.

I HAVE made you wait thus long for a letter, as a punishment for your intolerable laziness; but as you appear penitent in the short epistle I received yesterday, and Nannette intercedes for you in the postscript, shall resume the correspondence.

At Stuttgart I met with a friend with whom I made an excursion very far into the Black Forest. The inhabitants of those parts of it which belong to the duchy of Wirtemberg are not near so handsome, well-made, or lively, as those who live near the Neckar, and in the adjoining vallies. The men are clumsy, and the women yellow, ill-shaped, and wrinkled at the age of thirty. They distinguish themselves from their neighbours, by a more frightful taste in dress, and a shocking want of cleanliness. Kalb is the best town in these parts. It has considerable manufactures, and the inhabitants distinguished themselves in the contests with the duke, by an uncommon degree of spirit, love of liberty, and attachment to the constitution.

I am not able to account satisfactorily to myself for the ugliness of this people. Hard labour and little food may contribute to it, but cannot be the only reason; for in the country of Furstemberg, and particularly in the Austrian parts of this great chain of hills, we saw very handsome people who did not seem to live better than the Wirtembergers do. Possibly the ugliness of the latter may be owing to the situation, and depth of the vallies, to the air, and perhaps to the water.

These journeys over the mountains had particular charms for me. I fancied myself in a new world. One enchanting prospect exceeded another in variety and beauty. Mountains, and chains of mountains of the most extraordinary forms, cataracts, woods, small lakes in the deep hollows, precipices; in short, every thing I saw was in so grand a style, that I am not vain enough to attempt to describe it in a letter.

After resting some days with my friend at Stuttgart, I set out for the lake of Constance, where my wishes had long gone before me. In my way thither, I came over another chain of hills called the Alps, which run through the middle of Suabia from north-east to south-west. This chain stretches from the frontiers of Suabia, between Bavaria and Franconia, as far as Fichtelberg, and joins with the mountains of Bohemia.

The object most worthy notice in this journey, was the family seat of the king of Prussia. Who would believe that the great Frederick, who withstood the united strength of the greatest powers of Europe, and preserved the balance in the north, was the descendant of a younger branch of the house of Hohenzollern, the smallest principality of Germany, the two surviving branches of which, Hechingen and Siegmaring, have not