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LETTER XII.

S I R,

After we had for some time follow'd the Banks of the * *Iser*, which is the River of *Munich*, we entred into a Forest; at our coming out of which, we distinctly perceiv'd the beginning of the *Alpes*: Their Snowy tops are mingled with the Clouds, and resemble very much the swelling and foaming Waves of a tempestuous and raging Sea. If the Courage of those has been admir'd, who first expos'd themselves to the Fury of that Element, here is matter enough of Astonishment, that any one should venture himself among the Cliffs and Precipices of such dismal Mountains.

* This River carries only small Boats.

The same Day we departed from *Munich*, we came to a Village call'd *Lagrem*, which is at the Foot of the Mountains, and near to a little Lake of very cold Water. In this place they gave us a sort of Fish that we knew not: The first thing with which our Host entertain'd us, was a Chafing-Dish full of Incense, with which he perfum'd our Chambers; and indeed we found more neatness in this little solitary Habitation, than in many great Cities in our Journey. After we had coasted the Mountains about Two Hours, we entred among 'em, and for a long time ascended in the midst of Rocks, Fir-Trees, and Snow. This is, one of the wildest and most dismal places in the World. Yet we found some Fisher-men's Cottages, on the Banks of two or three Lakes, which are between the Mountains: But we cou'd not discover one spot of till'd Ground; and probably Cheese of Goat-Milk, with some Fish, is the