

men amongst the troopers; the non-commissioned officers had the appearance of butchers and cheese-mongers; the horses, in general, were good, and I saw a few very fine: as this brigade never stirs out of La Mancha, but on particular occasions; and as there is no great spirit of discipline amongst them, it is much rusticated.

This town had nearly the same appearance with the rest we had passed. I had the curiosity to count the little ornaments my landlady wore about her neck, when I found no less than the heads of twenty-six different faints, stamp'd on little bits of silver, fastened to beads, which made a most brilliant appearance: here we got incomparably good bread, and the Valdepeñas wine.

10th. Left Manzanares at four o'clock in the afternoon: travelled two leagues, when we stopt and drank at the Venta Queseda; but it by no means answers the description given by that humourous novelist, Cervantes: near the *venta*, the river Guadiana makes its appearance, after running under ground for near seven leagues.

Pursued our journey through a country not so much improved as before, and arrived at Villaharta in four hours, five leagues: a poor village: we were badly lodged, for the regiment of Montesa, cavalry, on its march had taken up the *posadas*.

There is a morass on the north side of the town, which renders it very unhealthy in summer.

11th. Left this abominable hole at four o'clock: crossed the morass on a stone causeway: the wind coming from