

taking leave of my friends. every time I contemplated
this city I felt inexpressible surprise at the beauty
& magnificence of the building. The wall have particularly
struck one lately in height & breadth they remind one of the
temples of Egypt & other Eastern cities when a carriage
might be driven abreast. Under the Plaza stands
the Custom House, Cathedral, Hospital & the
barrier of San Carlos particularly strike the stranger
as if the building might have been extended still
further on the rocks but it was wisely considered that
it would be weakening the defence of the place to expose
them to the approach & fire of the enemy. At
present are kept at a great distance to the south
The Spaniards have a custom which prevents the
revels of parents to the union of a fond couple even
during their minority. This consists in proving before
an attorney or proper person that no lawful impediment
exists against the marriage, upon which the young woman
is taken out of the hand of her parents & united to the man
of her wish. ~~at~~ men indeed seem to marry from
interest more than affection. The mercenary considerations of the
world is generally neglected they sacrifice all below

Sunday 11th Feb. This was the last whole day I remained
in this place I was employed in writing a mournful visit to
my friend I never expected to see you again. You
habit I find many civilities I began to feel an attachment
to the Spanish character notwithstanding the
manners which disfigure it. There is a frankness
& openness that enchants. It is that true species of politeness
that loads with obligations whilst instead of conferring
it seems receiving a favor. The real good humor with
which they receive you at all times in their houses
excuse any thing (excuse) in England or practice but believe