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for the History of Arabic-Islamic Science

The Islamic World
in Foreign
Travel Accounts
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Institute for the History of
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Edited by
Fuat Sezgin

THE ISLAMIC WORLD
IN FOREIGN
TRAVEL ACCOUNTS

29

Travels in
Turkey, Asia-Minor, Syria
and
across the Desert
into Egypt
during the years
1799, 1800, and 1801

by
William Wittman

Reprint of the Edition London 1803

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T R A V E L S
IN
TURKEY, ASIA-MINOR, SYRIA,
AND
ACROSS THE DESERT
INTO
E G Y P T

DURING THE YEARS 1799, 1800, AND 1801,

IN COMPANY WITH

THE TURKISH ARMY,

AND

THE BRITISH MILITARY MISSION.

TO WHICH ARE ANNEXED,

*OBSERVATIONS ON THE PLAGUE, AND ON THE DISEASES PREVALENT IN TURKEY,
AND A METEOROLOGICAL JOURNAL.*

BY WILLIAM WITTMAN, M. D.

OF THE ROYAL ARTILLERY,

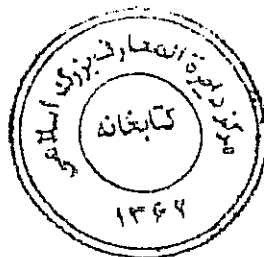
Member of the Royal College of Surgeons in London, and Surgeon to the British Military
Mission acting with the Army of the Grand Vizier.

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The March of the Provisional Army across the Desert

TO HIS EXCELLENCY

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

THE EARL OF ELGIN,

HIS MAJESTY'S AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AT THE OTTOMAN PORTE, &c. &c.

MY LORD,

THE attention, so honourable to your Lordship's feelings, with which I, as well as others of our countrymen, was favoured by your Lordship, while in the dominions of the Grand Seignor, has excited in me sentiments of gratitude, for the public expression of which I hope to be forgiven.

It is under this impression that I have presumed to prefix your Lordship's name to a work, which is the result of my observations and inquiries while in those countries. If it should serve to record the hospitable and liberal conduct of your Lordship, in your public capacity, and the respect and esteem which that con-

(iv)

duct could not fail to excite in its Author; and if, at the same time, it should in any degree, contribute to your Lordship's amusement, it will be a subject of permanent satisfaction to

MY LORD,

Your Lordship's obliged Servant,

THE AUTHOR.

Woolwich, April, 1803.

P R E F A C E.

IN the present multiplicity of books, to obtrude a new work upon the Public argues an opinion in the Author, that it either contains some new information, or if the matter is old, that it is in a dress which is both original and advantageous. To the latter the writer of these pages makes no pretensions; with respect to the former, the fault is his own if the work should be found to contain no information but what is already familiar to his countrymen.

Attached in a professional capacity to the British Military Mission which accompanied the army of the Grand Vizier in its route through Turkey, Syria, and Egypt, during the late memorable campaign, he was certainly in a situation peculiarly advantageous for observing the manners, customs, and habits of the Turkish nation, not only in peace, but in war. His profession afforded him many opportunities for improving these advantages, by an intimate communication not only with the Grand Vizier himself, but with the principal personages of the Ottoman empire.

In the course of his travels, he saw many things which, to him at least, were uncommon; and he was in the habit (partly to relieve

his mind from the irksomeness of his situation, and partly in the hope of gratifying his particular friends) to note down whatever appeared worthy of remark. On communicating these notes to those for whom they were originally intended, it was their wish to see them in print, as containing matter which, according to their partial opinion, was calculated to interest a still wider circle. Such a task, when he commenced his journal, he did not expect he should have to encounter; and this statement, in every respect consonant to truth, he trusts will shield him from the severity of criticism, which is most properly directed against such publications as are, from the first, intended to challenge the approbation of the Public.

He cannot flatter himself with the hope that these pages will be found equally agreeable to all readers. To some they will appear in parts defective, as they undoubtedly are; to others, the Author may seem occasionally prolix, in recording the particulars of conversations held with different individuals, either on the civil or on the military state of the countries in which he resided. Yet those books are perhaps the most instructive, and not the least entertaining, which record things as they really happened. "Truth," says an admired author, "needs no ornament; and in my opinion what she borrows from the pencil is deformity."

His professional duties led the Author to pay a particular and a minute attention to the climate and to the maladies of which it is

productive. That dreadful disease, which has been emphatically denominated the *Plague*, was necessarily a prominent object in this fatal catalogue; and, unfortunately for the army which he accompanied, few Europeans have had equal opportunities of witnessing its ravages. The information which he was able to obtain from the practitioners of the country he endeavoured carefully to compare with the facts which fell under his own observation: and he has laboured to divest himself of every prejudice in investigating the causes and nature of a malady which has depopulated whole countries, and destroyed myriads of persons in a short period of time; which bids defiance to every system, and baffles the skill of the ablest professors of the medical art.

In the orthography of names, whether of persons or of places, and of those local terms which relate to the particular usages of the countries he visited, the Author has not adhered to any written authority. In these cases there is a general disagreement among the learned: no rule has been established; nor is it practicable to a foreigner to refer to etymology in languages in which he cannot be profoundly versed. He has therefore pursued that method which, if not the most correct, was that which he could with most safety and convenience adopt, to be governed by the ear, and to note down these names as they were delivered by those to whom their oral use and general application had rendered them familiar.

The Author concludes this Preface with an act of justice. His grateful acknowledgments are due to Lieutenant-colonel (now Sir Charles) Holloway, and to Major Hope, for a copious supply of useful and interesting matter; also to Mr. Spilbury, late surgeon of his Majesty's ship the Tigre, for several accurate sketches taken by that gentleman upon the spot; and to Mr. Read, draughtsman, for his accurate sketch of Grand Cairo, and other places, which have proved at once ornamental and illustrative of the work.

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IN

ASIATIC TURKEY, SYRIA, AND EGYPT.

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MILITARY MISSION APPOINTED TO PROCEED TO TURKEY—OBJECT OF THE MISSION—NAMES OF THE OFFICERS WHO ACCOMPANIED IT—DEPARTURE OF GENERAL KOEHLER OVERLAND, AND OF THE AUTHOR BY SEA—THEIR RESPECTIVE ARRIVALS AT CONSTANTINOPLE—THE CEREMONIES OF CONSECRATING THE GRAND VIZIER'S STANDARD; OF THE CAPITAN PACHA'S DEPARTURE; AND OF THE VIZIER'S TAKING THE FIELD.

TOWARDS the close of the year 1798, a plan was formed by his Majesty's ministers to send to the dominions of the Grand Seignor a British military mission, which was to proceed to the seat of war, and to co-operate with the Turks against the common enemy, the French, who had by that time gained a strong footing in Egypt. For this purpose General Koehler, who had been at Constantinople on a former occasion, was selected, together with several officers belonging to the corps of royal engineers and royal artillery. These, with a certain number of non-commissioned officers and privates belonging to the corps of artillery, and a few artificers, composed the above mission, consisting all together of seventy-six persons.

The officers who were appointed on this occasion to act under General Koehler were, Lieutenant Colonel Holloway, of the royal engineers; Majors Hope and Fead, of the royal artillery; Major Fletcher and Captain Lacy, of the royal engineers; and Captain Leake, of the royal artillery: Captain Franklin, who was in the service of the Honourable East India Company, went in the capacity of secretary to General Koehler; Mr. Chandler as commissary; Mr. Whiteman, assistant commissary; Messrs. Read and Pink, draughtsmen; and Dr. Wittman, surgeon to the mission.

In order that no time should be lost in carrying into effect the important object which this mission had in view, Brigadier General Koehler, Lieutenant Colonel Holloway, commanding the engineers, Major Hope, commanding the artillery, Majors Fead and Fletcher, Captain Franklin, and Mr. Pink, set out from England, in the month of December, to proceed overland to Constantinople. It may readily be conceived that, at so inclement a season of the year, they had great difficulties to encounter in the prosecution of such a journey. But previously to entering upon this subject, it will be proper to narrate the progress of that part of the detachment which was to proceed by sea.

It was the beginning of April before the *New Adventure* transport, having on board the remainder of the officers, the non-commissioned officers, and the privates, together with the artillery and ordnance stores necessary for the expedition, sailed from England, under convoy of his Majesty's ship the *Charon*, of forty-four guns, and made a safe passage to Gibraltar, in the course of which no remarkable incident took place, except the usual occurrence at this

season of the year of bad weather in the bay of Biscay, when the transport being too heavily laden, sprang a leak, and a quantity of stores and some pontoons were obliged to be thrown overboard. A military artificer was unfortunately washed off the vessel by a surf, and was immediately drowned.

Early in the morning of the 3d of May we weighed anchor, and sailed from Gibraltar. At ten o'clock bore away with a fair breeze from the westward, which continuing to blow from the same quarter, we reached Palermo on the 11th of May, after a very agreeable passage of eight days. Our stay at Palermo afforded us leisure to admire the beautiful view of the city, its suburbs, and the adjacent country, which is extremely pleasant and well cultivated, and the level surface of which forms a striking contrast with the high and rugged mountains behind. Our curiosity was indeed wrought to a very high pitch, and, stimulated by this, and the aversion to the sea, so natural to those accustomed to live on shore, we felt a very ardent desire to land, but were disappointed. We sailed in the evening, and were thus prevented from viewing the many curious and interesting objects which Palermo contains.

On the following day we were becalmed on the coast of Sicily, from which we were at so small a distance, that we had a distinct view of Mount Etna and Strombolo, than which nothing could be more awfully grand. The Lipari islands added to the effect of this fine scene.

We passed on the 13th through the straits of Messina, and were swept along by the rapid current without experiencing any unpleasant sensation. On the contrary, as the day was very fine and clear,

we had a full view of the city of Messina, and the cheering prospect of a beautiful and richly diversified coast, sometimes clouded by the recollection of the dreadful earthquake which a few years since spread desolation through this delightful country.

On the 14th, we were becalmed on the coast of Calabria. On the 15th, we made some progress, notwithstanding the wind was contrary. Owing to this circumstance, we did not descry the island of Zante until the 18th, when it was distant about seven or eight leagues. It was in sight on the following day, the little wind that there was still continuing unfavourable.

Early in the morning of the 22d, we made Cerigo, which bore from us E. N. E. distant about seven miles. On the 23d, we descried Milo, whence, after several ineffectual attempts to procure a pilot, we were driven by a strong north-east gale upon the Morea. From that time until the 25th, we were engaged in working to windward, to regain our station, which we at length effected, but were driven back.

On the morning of the 27th, we were so fortunate as to pass between the islands of Thermea and Serfo, two of the Cyclades: the wind blowing extremely hard from the N. E. our mainfail was split. In the afternoon we were close in with Mycone, another of the Cyclades.

On the 28th, we passed the island of Nicaria. It blew a fresh gale, and we shipped a large quantity of water. Our stock of fresh provisions was by this time exhausted.

On the 29th, we passed near the island of Scio; and on the 31st, descried Mytelene.

On the evening of the 2d of June we were close in with the island of Tenedos; and, being becalmed on the following day, were driven by the force of the current, which set in from the mouth of the Dardanelles, too far to the westward to be enabled to make for the straits.

On the 4th, in the afternoon, we entered the Dardanelles; but, the wind dying away, were under the necessity of coming to an anchor soon after, at the distance of five miles within the entrance. We were there detained by contrary winds until the 11th, when a favourable gale springing up, we made sail at about eleven o'clock in the morning, and passed the town of Gallipoli at five in the afternoon.

Early in the morning of the 14th, we were in sight of Constantinople. We were shortly afterwards overtaken by a storm of thunder, lightning, and rain. At three in the afternoon we came to anchor in the harbour, the Charon and transport having fired a royal salute on passing the Seraglio, which the reader need not be informed is the palace of the Grand Seignor. This term has been vulgarly applied to all places where the oriental people confine their women, but, in fact, these are called Harams, and the word Seraglio is a strictly local appellation. The city, harbour, and environs, presented a magnificent spectacle, new in every respect to our eyes, both as to the architecture of the principal edifices and the construction of the city itself, but which was on the whole extremely fine and picturesque.

The whole of the mission was now assembled at Constantinople. The officers who had proceeded thither overland, had anxiously

waited our arrival; and on our side we felt an equal impatience to join them. Our mutual greetings were followed by mutual enquiries; and we collected from them the following particulars relative to their journey, and to the events which had occurred during their residence in the capital of the Turkish dominions.

Their journey, in the outset, had been attended by uncommon severities; such, however, as might have been expected from a season more rigorous than any which had been experienced for many years. In passing over to the continent, they had, at the entrance of the Elbe, been shipwrecked among the shoals of ice; and, to relieve themselves from this perilous situation, had been under the necessity of passing over the ice, to the extent of two miles, to gain the shore. By this effort, however, they were providentially saved. They now prosecuted their journey to Constantinople, where they arrived in the month of March 1799, having set out, as has been mentioned before, towards the close of the preceding year.

On the 17th of the following month, April, it was officially notified to them, that the Grand Vizier had appointed the following day for their first presentation. He had made choice of this day, as being that which was fixed on for the ceremony of the consecration of his standard, previously to his taking the field, and to his promotion to the rank of a pacha of three tails—a ceremony which could not fail to be highly gratifying to strangers. To this mark of attention our officers were not insensible.

At eleven o'clock in the morning they were conducted to the Sublime Porte, under an escort of a body of Janissaries, and attended by an interpreter. They were led to an apartment, whence they

had a view of the hall of the divan, and of an extensive court-yard, in which a very numerous body of Turks was assembled at prayers. A little before noon the standard, supported by several of the great officers of state, was brought with great ceremony from the hall, and carried to the bottom of a flight of steps, the different religious sects, the Mufti, Imans, Dervices, &c. being in front of the procession. A solemn prayer, in which the spectators joined, having been repeated, and the Mufti perceiving that the sun was at its meridian height, the standard was raised and planted. This part of the ceremony having been accomplished, twelve sheep were immolated, and the foot of the standard washed with their blood. In this state it was to remain during forty days, at the expiration of which time his Royal Highness was to take the field. The great officers, namely, the Mufti, the head of the Ulema, the Kiabey, the Reis Effendi, the Tefterdar, the Janissary Aga, &c. who had attended on this occasion, now took leave, the Mufti being accompanied to his carriage, a small close vehicle covered with scarlet cloth, by the Vizier himself. On the close of the ceremony the British officers were introduced to the Reis Effendi, or secretary of state for foreign affairs, by whom they were conducted and presented to his Royal Highness the Grand Vizier. They found him seated in the corner of a room, richly furnished in the Turkish style, and surrounded by a numerous body of attendants and mutes, all of them superbly and elegantly dressed. Our officers being seated, they were served, according to the custom of the country, with pipes, sweetmeats, coffee, sherbet, rose-water, and other perfumes. No mark of distinction due to their rank was neglected on this oc-

caſion ; and after they had been apprized that an early day would be appointed for a ſecond interview, they withdrew.

This interview was not delayed. It took place five days after the preceding one, on the 22d of April, at the kioſque at Kaithana, where his highneſs the Vizier had aſſembled a party of Turkiſh artillery, and a corps of infantry, for a review, and for artillery practice. The latter ſucceeded much better than our officers had been led to expect. The Turkiſh artillery-men beat down the target ſeveral times, and their mortar practice was by no means contemptible. Leſs praiſe was due to the manœuvres of the infantry, and to the ſham-fight which enſued.

The 26th of April was the day appointed for the ceremony of the Capitan Pacha taking leave of the Sultan, previoully to the ſailing of his fleet, which was to act in concert with the Ottoman land forces. The following was the etiquette obſerved on this occaſion, at which the Britiſh officers were preſent. The Sultan, ſurrounded by his guards, officers of ſtate, and attendants, all richly dreſſed, was ſeated in a magnificent kioſque, at a ſmall diſtance from the Seraglio point. The Capitan Pacha having been introduced, and having had a ſhort conference with the Grand Seignor, the purport of which was, as we conjectured, to receive his high commands and pleaſure, was inveſted with a rich caſtan, or robe of honour. Six of the captains of his fleet were next conducted to within a few paces of the Sultan, and having made their obeiſance, were inveſted with the caſtan. The Capitan Pacha now retired, being ſupported on each ſide by an attendant, as is cuſtomary with all Turks of rank on theſe public occaſions, and led by the proper

officers. He was in this manner conducted to a very elegant twenty-four oared barge of a great length, richly gilt and ornamented. Another barge of the same description carried his flag; and this was followed by four barges, with twenty rowers in each. Such were the ceremonials observed on the return of the Capitan Pacha to his ship, the Sultan Selim, the guns at the Seraglio point, and the men of war, saluting him on his way.

On the 20th of May, General Koehler and the officers proceeded to Scutari, in Asia Minor, opposite to Constantinople, to be present at the ceremony of the Vizier taking the field. His Highness having taken leave of the Grand Seignor, passed over to Scutari, the guns at the Seraglio point saluting him on his way. At Scutari, the streets through which he passed were lined with troops, both cavalry and infantry. He was attended by the Kaimacan, Capitan Pacha, and all the great officers of state, preceded by a band of Turkish music, and by a group of gladiators, who skirmished as the procession passed along. The troops, by whom his Highness was accompanied, consisting both of cavalry and infantry, were clad and armed in various ways. Some of them were enveloped in curious network coats of mail of steel; others wore yellow dresses, decorated with ribbons of different colours hanging from the shoulders, and brass helmets on their heads. Others again were clad in party-coloured dresses. While a part of them were armed with spears, or lances, from twelve to fourteen feet in length, others carried short, twisted, rifle-barrel guns, the rest muskets, carbines, &c. The whole of them wore swords and pistols in fashes

fastened round their waists. The Vizier, the Capitan Pacha, the Kaimacan, and other officers, were mounted on beautiful horses richly caparisoned. The one which his Highness rode made the most magnificent appearance, the embroidered trappings being studded with gems, pearls, &c. The hilt of the handjar, or dirk, which his Highness carried at his side, was covered with a profusion of diamonds.

It is impossible to contemplate these pompous ceremonies, and not to contrast them with the secrecy and silence with which the first movements of European armies are undertaken. It must be a trifling nation which can delay an expedition of importance, even for a single day, lest some little rite or ceremony should be omitted. And it is truly impolitic thus to advertise an enemy, for even months beforehand, of the advance of an army. When these circumstances, and the facts which will be hereafter related, are considered, the reader will not be surprised at the little success which commonly attends the Turkish military operations.

A number of dervises were distributed among the Turkish troops, who are constantly attended when they go to war by persons of this character, to exhort them to valour, and to kindle up their enthusiasm by their shouts and singing.

The Vizier's camp was formed about a mile without the town of Scutari. On this occasion a vast multitude of persons of both sexes, whom curiosity had drawn thither, attended, but not the smallest accident or disturbance ensued.

On the 1st of June his Highness proceeded on his march for

Syria. Major Fletcher, of the royal engineers, was ordered to accompany him on this service ; but was unfortunately taken ill a few days after he set out, and under the necessity of returning to Constantinople.

About the same time, Major Fead, of the royal artillery, was ordered to St. John d'Acre, to which place he proceeded in a Turkish ship of war. This excellent officer shortly afterwards fell a victim to a malignant fever.

CHAPTER II.

VISIT TO PERA—CAPTAIN FRANKLIN RETURNS TO ENGLAND—DESCRIPTION OF CONSTANTINOPLE—MOSQUES AND MINARETS—EXTERNAL APPEARANCE OF THE CITY—THE SERAGLIO—SUBURBS OF GALETA, PERA, AND TOPHANA—SCUTARI—THE BOSPHORUS—POPULATION—AMUSEMENTS—TURKISH SHIPS—INTERIOR OF THE TURKISH HOUSES—CEREMONIES—DOGS—POLICE.

ON the evening of the 14th of June, the day on which we landed from the transport, I walked to Pera. I should have observed, that the general and officers who had proceeded to Constantinople overland, had taken up their residence at Buyukdere, a village situated on the sea-side, within fourteen miles of the capital. This village was also destined to be my head quarters until the military operations should commence.

On the 15th, we had a visit from Captain Franklin, who dined with us: he had resigned, and was on the eve of his departure for England. I made another excursion to Pera.

On the 17th, Lieutenant-colonel Holloway, Major Hope, and Mr. Pink, one of the draughtsmen, set off to inspect the forts in the Dardanelles, and the adjacent coasts.

I now had sufficient leisure to examine Constantinople, its suburbs, and its dependencies, of which the following is a brief account.

Constantinople, comprehending its suburbs, some of which are so

large that several authors have been led to consider them as distinct cities, is of very considerable extent. It is in the form of an unequal triangle, having one of its sides towards the sea of Marmora, another in front of the harbour, and the third towards the land. Being built on seven hills, on the sides of which the houses are placed, it has at a little distance the appearance of a vast amphitheatre, stretching itself over a very extensive territory. The mosques, or places of public worship, of which the principal one was the celebrated christian church of St. Sophia, which name it still retains, are numerous, and several of them very large. They are not provided with bells; but each of them has one or several minarets, on which the muczins, or criers, are stationed to call the people to prayers. These minarets bear a strong resemblance in their form to a tall candle, having an extinguisher at its top.

Nothing can be grander or more beautifully picturesque than the external appearance of Constantinople and of its vicinity. Within it has less to recommend it, the houses being but indifferently built, and the streets very narrow.

The Scraglio, or palace of the Grand Sultan, occupies the space on which the ancient city of Byzantium formerly stood, at the extremity of the angle formed by the sea of Marmora and the Bosphorus. It is by far the most beautiful part of Constantinople, the projecting land on which it stands being covered by groves of cypress trees, which give a sublime effect to the magnificent buildings of which the palace is composed.

On the opposite side of the harbour, the towns, or, more properly speaking, suburbs of Galata, Pera, and Tophana, are situated; and,

on the Asiatic side, opposite the point of the seraglio, stands the town or suburb of Scutari. From the great sloping of the hills on which they are placed, these suburbs have a very fine and romantic appearance, the houses seeming as if built tier upon tier. Being, however, principally constructed of wood, which is soon fretted and decayed by the intense heat of the sun in such a climate, the grandeur of the scene is diminished on a near approach. Between them cypress trees rear their lofty heads, and add greatly to the sublimity of the general effect. The cemeteries are also thickly planted with these trees; and the scene is thus rendered beautifully picturesque. In short, the external view of Constantinople, and of its environs, is at once sublime and pleasing; and with this view the traveller ought to content himself, since, on a nearer inspection, he will find little to gratify his curiosity, or to excite his admiration.

The Bosphorus, a beautiful canal, or narrow sea, from a mile to a mile and a half in breadth, and about twenty miles in length, forms the communication between the Euxine, or Black Sea, and the sea of Marmora, the ancient Propontis. In the formation of its banks, which are lofty, and lined with an exquisite variety of beautiful trees and shrubs, nature has been lavish in the extreme. Several villages are interspersed; and at the sea-side the Grand Seigneur, the Vizier, Capitan Pacha, &c. have elegant kiosques, or pleasure-houses, for their summer residence. Throughout the whole extent of the canal the highest state of cultivation prevails, its shores being covered with vineyards, gardens, and orchards, containing a great diversity of the finest fruits. Were the Turks possessed of a taste at all proportionate to the advantages which this situation affords, and

at the same time placed under a government similar to our own, the banks of the Bosphorus would become one of the most beautiful spots in the world. They at present lose all the beauties of the perspective from the eminences, their villages being built close to the canal side, with stages or landing places projecting over the water. There the inhabitants assemble, and remain for several hours together, smoking their pipes, and enjoying the cool refreshing breeze.

Upon the Bosphorus a great number of boats are constantly in motion: they are neat and prettily decorated. The boatmen being very expert, they are rowed with great swiftness and address.

To return to Constantinople. Its population, which has been almost always over-rated, certainly does not exceed four hundred thousand souls; and a great part of this population is absorbed by the suburbs; no Frank, or Christian, being allowed to reside in the city, properly so called. The Franks inhabit Galata and Pera, in the latter of which suburbs are the houses of all the foreign ministers, who frequently give balls, concerts, and other entertainments to the Frank inhabitants. These entertainments are fully attended, more particularly by the Greeks, who are very fond of dancing. During the carnival there are masquerades, in which many of the characters are well supported,

The harbour of Constantinople is safe and commodious for shipping. The Turks pay great attention to the external decoration of their ships of war. Yellow is the predominating colour with which the sides of their ships are painted. Their merchant vessels, which almost exclusively navigate the Black Sea, are named caicks. Great

numbers of these vessels are lost through the ignorance and stupidity of the Turkish pilots, who scarcely ever venture out of sight of the land; and who, when they do, are almost sure to encounter some accident. The crews, both of the men of war and merchantmen, are for the greater part composed of Greek sailors.

The economy and arrangement of the interior of the Turkish houses are deserving of notice. The apartments are, in general, gaudily ornamented, the ceilings being of different colours. In each of them a part is set aside for a raised platform, which is elevated about a foot from the floor, and is in width from five to six feet. On this platform mattresses covered with cloth, or linen, are laid, and cushions placed from one extremity to the other, so as to give the whole the appearance of one continued platform. On the floor a handsome mat is spread. The windows are latticed, but not glazed. Neither tables nor chairs constitute any part of the furniture, and indeed they would be superfluous, the Turks constantly sitting with their legs under them like tailors. When a Frank is introduced to a Turk of distinction, the latter does not rise to receive him; but his visitor advances towards him, and bows, with his right hand placed on his breast, this being the customary mode of salutation for Christians in their intercourse with the Mahomedans. The Turk now waves his hand to his guest to sit down on the sofa, and the conversation is carried on through the medium of a dragoman, or interpreter. The uncovering of the head would appear as absurd to a Turk, as it would seem ridiculous elsewhere, if any one, in saluting another, was to take off his wig. The Turks, who are great smokers, are seldom without a pipe in the mouth.

In the streets of Constantinople there is an incredible number of dogs, which appear to be all of the same race, nearly resembling our shepherd's dog. They are a great nuisance. The howlings of these hungry and half-starved animals during the night are truly hideous. As they have no masters to acknowledge them, and to administer to their wants, they have to seek their precarious subsistence abroad, which they rake up from among the filth thrown out from the houses. So defective, indeed, is the police in point of cleanliness, that these dogs, and the vultures, are the only scavengers in Constantinople. In the cemeteries, great numbers of doves, which the Turks do not attempt to molest, inhabit the cypress groves; and, indeed, swarm wherever these trees are planted.

CHAPTER III.

REMOVAL TO BUYUKDERE—DESCRIPTION OF THAT VILLAGE—FAVOURITE AMUSEMENTS OF THE GRAND SEIGNOR—BARRACKS APPOINTED FOR THE MISSION AT LEVANT CHIFLICK—DESCRIPTION OF THAT PLACE—DYSENTERY PREVALENT AMONG THE SOLDIERS OF THE MISSION—INTRODUCTION TO THE PRINCIPAL OFFICERS OF THE SUBLIME PORTE—EXCESSIVE HEAT—DESCRIPTION OF THE TURKISH HORSES, AND THE MODE OF TREATING THEM—MISCELLANEOUS REMARKS ON THE NATURAL HISTORY, &c. OF THE COUNTRY—FROGS AND GRASSHOPPERS—EVENING WALKS AT BUYUKDERE, AND AMUSEMENTS OF THE GREEKS—DRESS AND MANNERS OF THE TURKISH WOMEN; OF THE GREEKS—ABUNDANCE AND CHEAPNESS OF PROVISIONS AT BUYUKDERE—OXEN AND BUFFALOES—HARVEST IN TURKEY—OPPRESSIONS EXERCISED BY THE MAHOMMEDANS ON THE CHRISTIANS—GRAND SEIGNOR VISITS CHIFLICK, AND DISTRIBUTES SMALL MONEY TO THE ENGLISH SOLDIERS—TURKS TAUGHT TO PRACTISE WITH RED HOT SHOT—DESCRIPTION OF KAITHANA, THE PLACE APPOINTED FOR ARTILLERY EXPERIMENTS—ON BOARD THE CHARON FIND TWO ENGLISHMEN REDEEMED FROM SLAVERY—LIBERAL CONDUCT OF A FRENCH OFFICER—GREEK REJOICINGS ON ST. JOHN'S DAY—ENTERTAINMENT AT THE RUSSIAN AMBASSADOR'S—VISIT TO CONSTANTINOPLE—ACCOUNT OF THE BAZARS—FURTHER REMARKS ON THE CITY—THE SERAGLIO—THE MINT—MOSQUE OF SANTA-SOPHIA—GREEK AMUSEMENTS—VISIT ON BOARD THE SULTAN SELIM—SICK AND WOUNDED SOLDIERS ARRIVE FROM ACRE—CONFERENCES WITH THE TURKISH SECRETARY OF WAR ON THIS SUBJECT—ORDER TO ATTEND THE GRAND SEIGNOR.

ON the 18th of June I removed my baggage, medicines, &c. to Buyukdere, where I took up my residence in a house provided for us close to the sea shore.

The village of Buyukdere is very pleasingly situated on the European side of the Bosphorus, not far from the entrance of the Black Sea, and is distant from Constantinople about twelve miles. As its name implies, it stands on a large level surface, buyuk in the Turkish signifying *great*, and *deré a valley*. It commands a most delightful and romantic view. In its front is a beautiful strand, and behind it several heights or promontories, the scenery of which is picturesque in the extreme. On account of the agreeableness of its situation, Buyukdere has been chosen as the residence of several members of the diplomatic corps, whose palaces are situated on the eastern side of the plain. To the west of the village there is an extensive meadow, in the centre of which is a groupe of very large plane trees. To this spot the Grand Scignor frequently retires in the summer season, and is entertained by companies of rope-dancers, mountebanks, &c. These pastimes, in the course of which the most indecent buffoonery is occasionally introduced, are highly agreeable to him. The castle of Buyukdere stands on a lofty mountain, its position being not unlike that of Dover-castle. It was built in the fifteenth century by the order of Sultan Mahomed, by whom the city of Constantinople was taken by storm, the emperor Constantine falling in the attack by the hands of two Turks.

In company with General Koehler and the other officers, on the 19th, I dined with the Russian ambassador at his palace at Buyukdere, where we were sumptuously entertained. In the morning the general and myself went to Levant Chiflick to inspect the barracks, which were destined to receive our detachment. This place

is distant about seven miles from Buyukdere, and nearly midway between it and Pera. A capitan pacha having formerly resided there, has bestowed on it its name, *levant* signifying *a sailor*, and *chiflick* *a farm*. Several of the country residences belonging to the Turkish grandees are also denominated *chiflick*, or *the farm*. Our ride was very agreeable. The country in the vicinity of Levant Chiflick is open and hilly, consisting principally of waste lands covered by fern and heath. There are, however, several spots laid out in gardens and vineyards. The soil, which is in some parts argillaceous, in others sandy with a mixture of slate, is in general poor; but in the valleys, which are best cultivated, tolerable crops of hay are produced. The quantity grown being however insufficient for the support of the cattle in winter, they then fall off, and become poor and lean. During the summer season they are kept in good condition by the feed on the waste lands.

On the 20th, twenty men belonging to the mission, and several women, were sent to the above barracks.

On the 21st, I went on board the *New Adventure* transport, lying in the harbour of Constantinople. In the afternoon I returned to Buyukdere by water. In the course of this day we had much thunder, lightning, and rain.

On the 22d, I rode to Levant Chiflick. The Turkish horses are in general small, from eleven to twelve and thirteen hands high, but they are sure footed. The Turkish saddle is somewhat inconvenient to Europeans; and as spurs are not employed, the rider is obliged to have recourse to his stirrups when he wishes the animal

on which he is mounted to quicken his pace. It was with much anxiety that I found the numbers on the sick list to have encreased, the prevailing complaint being dysentery.

On the 23d, the remainder of the detachment, with several of the officers, were sent to the barracks at Levant Chiflick, which I visited for the purpose of arranging my quarters, &c. for my occasional attendance. In these barracks we found a Turkish corps training to a more regular system of military tactics than they had hitherto been accustomed to. The other officers and myself were still to remain with the general at Buyukdere.

This day the military officers and the other gentlemen belonging to the mission, who had not already gone through that ceremony, that is, those among us who had reached Constantinople by sea, were introduced to the Kiamakan, Capitan Pacha, &c. We were received with the customary Turkish compliments, and were treated with coffee, sherbet, pipes and tobacco, and perfumes.

I dined this afternoon with Mr. Abbot, an English merchant, and treasurer to the Levant company, who had been settled in Turkey forty-five years. He gave me some very useful information relative to the plague, and informed me that there were at that time two cases of this disease at Pera.

On the 24th and 25th, I paid my customary visits to the barracks at Levant Chiflick. During the night of the 24th, Mrs. Wilkinson, wife to a corporal of the royal artillery, fell a victim to a dysenteric complaint. On that day we had very heavy showers of rain, with much thunder and lightning. The heat was excessive, the thermometer at six in the evening being at eighty-four in the shade, and

the barometer at thirty. In the mean time the number of sick, labouring chiefly under dysenteric complaints, was much increased.

On the 26th, on my return from the barracks, I dined with the general.

On the 27th, I rode to the barracks on a small grey horse of the country breed, which I had procured for the purpose. The mode of shoeing horses in Turkey differs essentially from ours. The whole of the foot is covered by a thin plate of iron, the centre excepted, in which there is a small perforation about the size of an English halfpenny. I did not observe that lameness was prevalent among these horses, who require much management. After one of them has been ridden, it is the custom to walk him in the open air for an hour or two, previously to his being put into the stable. The Turkish horses are fed, while in the stable, upon barley and chaff (or barley alone), and that sparingly, once or at most twice daily; once a day they have water; they litter them in their own dung, which is first dried in the sun. The Turks are excellent grooms; the skins of the horses are kept very clean and shining, as they frequently wash them all over with soap and water. In stables, and when not ridden, the horses are always fettered or tethered with cords, in order to prevent their lying down, and to keep them quiet, as the principal or best horses are stallions. The saddle is scarcely ever totally removed from the horse's back, except to clean him, even when in stable, and they are otherwise kept very warm, with thick clothes, and hoods, &c.

I shall now make a short digression from my journal to describe several particulars relative to the country in which I resided. The

frogs in Turkey are very large; and it is impossible to describe the noise they make, which must be heard to form a competent idea of it. The grasshoppers are also of a large size, and extremely noisy. In my rides to Chiflick my ears were perpetually dinned by the croaking of the former, and the discordant notes of the latter of these creatures.

Our evening walks on the strand in front of Buyukdere were very pleasant and cheerful. This spot has a strong resemblance to the beach at Weymouth. The Greeks, and indeed most of the inhabitants, assemble in the evening to walk, or to amuse themselves in boats, which are rowed up and down in front of the village. Music and singing constitute a part of these aquatic amusements, and, without being of the most exquisite kind, serve to diversify and enliven the scene.

Buyukdere may with some propriety be compared to the tower of Babel: individuals belonging to almost every nation residing there, a strange mixture of languages must consequently ensue. The dresses of the inhabitants are as varied as are the languages. The Turkish women are fair; they cover the face, the eyes and a part of the nose excepted, with a piece of white muslin: another piece of muslin envelops the head. This part of their dress is styled *mahràmah*. In stature they are rather low, and corpulent, the latter condition being much admired among themselves: they are usually clad in a long green garment, which hangs very low behind, with a square cape, resembling on the whole a riding dress, and it is called *feredgè*. They wear yellow boots with slippers over them, but the latter they take off on entering a house. They stain their finger-

nails of a red colour, or, more properly speaking, of a very deep orange, with the dried leaves, diluted with water, of the henna, or Egyptian privet (*Lawsonia inermis*, Lin.), a large shrub, which is much cultivated both in Turkey and in Egypt for this purpose.

The Turkish females always walk abroad by themselves; in fine weather they resort to some favourite spot without the towns, occupy the banks, or seat themselves on the tomb-stones in their cemeteries, where they sit quietly for hours together. They appear to lead a most indolent life; their recreations and exercises being extremely limited.

The Greek women have the face, which is beautiful and of an oval form, uncovered. Their eyes are black, as are also their eyebrows, to which, as well as to their eyelids, they pay a particular attention, rubbing them over, to bestow on them a deeper hue, with a leaden ore reduced to an impalpable powder, blended with an unctuous matter to give it consistence. Their complexion is generally pale. They wear their hair, which is of a great length, and of a deep shining black, in tresses, and sometimes turned back in a fanciful way on the head. In other instances it hangs loosely down the back, extending to the hips. They are commonly dressed in a pelice of silk, satin, or some other material: they are costly in their attire, in the choice of which they are not attached to any particular colour. On the head they wear a small cap. The dress of the men nearly resembles that of the Turks; but they are not allowed to wear the kowouk, or turban of white muslin, for which they are obliged to substitute the calpac, or blue turban, and none of the Greeks can wear yellow boots or slippers, except those who are in the service of the foreign ministers, &c.



A Greek Lady.

Engraved from a drawing by W. Phillips, 71 St. Paul's Church Yard

The Greek women marry at about the age of fifteen: they are short lived. At twenty-five they wrinkle and decay, bearing the appearance altogether of old women. They have fine children, who, however, partake of the palid complexion of the mothers. It is unquestionably to the too frequent use of the warm bath, to which the Greek women are so much habituated, that their very relaxed and debilitated state is to be ascribed; and this abuse, added to their natural indolence and their inaction, as certainly tends to shorten their lives.

In Plate I. will be found a faithful representation of a Greek woman.

During courtship, the Greek lover serenades his mistress either in front of her house, or from the water. On these occasions he recites, in a pathetic song, the warmth and sincerity of his passion, &c. These nocturnal serenades, which are devoted to love, are so frequent at Buyukdere, as to break in on the repose of its inhabitants; and a person of a lively fancy might be led to suppose that the deity of love had made it his favourite residence, from the beauty and amenity of this enchanting spot.

I have already observed that Buyukdere is the summer residence of several of the ambassadors: it is also that of many persons of property and distinction, who reside at Pera during the winter season. Nearly opposite to this village, on the bank of the Bosphorus, is a fountain overhung with beautiful clumps of trees, much frequented on moonlight evenings by the Greeks, Armenians, and others. This, however, happens at a particular season only of the year, when the clear transparency of the moon's light, illuminating the foliage which

surrounds them, as well as the distant objects, invites the company to spend late hours in the enjoyment of so charming a scene.

At Buyukdere mutton, beef and bread are plentiful, and sold at a very reasonable price; as are also poultry of every description. Eggs are in great plenty; but the cheese and butter are very indifferent. The wines, both red and white, made at Buyukdere, are very cheap, the *oke* (which weighs two pounds ten ounces, or somewhat more than an English bottle) being sold at from eight to ten paras, that is, from four pence to five pence English money. The vegetables, which are pretty nearly of the same kinds as in England, namely, broad beans, French beans, peas, cabbages, cucumbers, gourds, water melons, &c. are in great abundance. The fruits, which are no less so, consist of peaches, apricots, pears, apples (which, however, are all very insipid), figs, cherries, pomegranates, red currants, wood strawberries, and grapes. Besides these, there is a profusion of walnuts, filberds, and hazle nuts. As there is no procuring malt liquor here, the principal beverage is wine and water. The milk is good and tolerably cheap. The oxen are small, and are for the greater part of a light grey colour; they are employed, in common with the buffalo, an animal very unseemly to the view, in ploughing, for draught, &c. Here, as well as at Constantinople, Pera, and indeed in all this part of Turkey, the dogs are very numerous. They do not appear to belong to any particular masters, are very ferocious, and occasionally very troublesome.

A very agreeable dish called *yourt*, of which the natives are very fond, is made here, and brought in with the dessert. It is prepared by allowing a certain portion of milk to become sour, and throwing

into new milk as much of this acidulated fluid as will curdle it in a slight degree. It is then eaten with sugar, is very palatable, and, mixed with strawberries, becomes a good substitute for cream. The milk fold here is generally a mixture, being drawn from goats, sheep, cows, and buffaloes.

To resume my narrative. On the 28th and 29th of June, I visited the barracks at Levant Chiflick. The heat was less oppressive, the thermometer being at seventy-five. The harvest was now begun, and I saw, during my rides, the Turks busied in mowing their corn. They had a tolerable crop of bearded wheat (in all Turkey the wheat is bearded), which was of a good quality. Instead of threshing it, it is their practice to harness horses and oxen to a small car, the bottom of which is studded with portions of flint to cut and bruise the straw, the grain being disengaged by the trampling of the feet of the animals, who move in a circular direction, as if in a mill.

The 30th, on my return from the barracks, I dined and spent a very agreeable afternoon with Mr. Thornton, an English merchant at Buyukdere. His details relative to the oppression of the ryahs, under which common denomination are comprehended Greeks, Armenians, and indeed every description of Franks or Christians subject to the Turks, were melancholy in the extreme. They are liable to an annual capitation, or poll tax, varying according to their degrees and circumstances, from a guinea and a half to seven shillings and sixpence English money, on the payment of which a certificate is granted them; and this tribute, exacted from them by right of conquest, and considered as *the redemption of their heads*, for-

feited in perpetuity by their subjugated ancestors, leads to many villanous practices on the part of the Turks. It frequently occurs, for instance, that a Turk, on meeting a ryah, without scruple or ceremony, and without any regard to the engagements the latter may have, takes him aside to ascertain whether he is provided with a certificate, and, if this happens to be the case, to enquire into its authenticity, which he is certain to dispute, or to throw some difficulty or other in the way. Thus, whether the unfortunate ryah has or has not his certificate about him, he is obliged to make a pecuniary sacrifice, to rid himself of his oppressor's importunities. In other instances a ryah, who is in possession of a house, has his right to it disputed by a Turk, by whom false witnesses are suborned; and as the oath of the ryah is not valid in a court of justice, when opposed to that of a Turk, he is obliged, if the cause is brought to trial, to bribe his judge. He is thus, if he should come off victoriously, condemned to heavy expences. To these, and many other similar vexations and oppressions, the wretched Franks, or Christians, are incessantly exposed.

When their population is considered, it may at first view appear extraordinary that they do not endeavour to throw off so odious and oppressive a yoke, more especially as the Greeks, by far the most numerous among them, in reality possess, as individuals, considerable energy and courage. The severity, however, of the examples which have been made in their unsuccessful struggles to regain their independence, appears in a great measure to have damped their ardour, and broken their spirit. It must be recollected, that during the late war between the Russians and Turks, the Greeks made several efforts

which, through want of a proper concert with the former of these powers, were ineffectual. On a future occasion they may perhaps succeed better. When they rate their numbers as equal to those of the Turks, they certainly exaggerate. They are, however, very numerous, in the European provinces particularly, and possess many of the eminent qualities which have immortalized their ancestors. Among the ryahs in general great industry prevails.

On the morning of the 1st of July, I had a high gratification. Shortly after my arrival at Levant Chiflick, the Grand Seignor and all his principal officers came thither to spend the day. They were mounted, and their fine horses being very elegantly caparisoned, nothing could exceed the grandeur of the spectacle. Their arrival was announced by the firing of guns; and the whole of the troops were under arms; their music, consisting of drums, a kind of haut-boys, timbrels, and horns, was by no means disagreeable. Our men, who were called on, fired several rounds, and were complimented by presents of small gold coins of the size of a para, and in value a piastre and a half. Each of them received about two guineas. Between four and five in the afternoon, the Grand Seignor and his retinue left Chiflick, which is said to be the only place in the environs of Constantinople to which he goes on horseback.

On the 2d, I paid my customary visit to the above place, where I had the satisfaction to find the sick in a fair way of recovery.

On the 3d, by the order of General Kochler, and at the particular request of the Capitan Pacha, a furnace was erected at Kaithana, for the heating of shot. A successful practice was carried on with the red hot shot, to the great satisfaction of the Capitan Pacha, who

expressed a wish to see the whole of the mission on the following day.

Kaithana is a valley very pleasantly situated at the extremity of the harbour, and distant from Buyukdere about ten miles. It has been made choice of by the Turks for their artillery experiments, to which its even surface is well adapted. The vestiges of a building said to have been formerly a palace of the Grand Seignor are to be seen here; and near to them is a beautiful kiosk* for the Sultan's use. A fine meandering stream runs through the valley. In the evening I returned to Buyukdere.

On the 4th, we repaired, agreeably to our appointment, to the residence of the Capitan Pacha, with whom we made some stay, and were entertained with coffee, and other refreshments. Previously to our taking leave, he made each of us a small present, a gown piece, for instance, or some such trifle. The general was presented with a handsome snuff-box, set round with brilliants, as was also Mrs. Koehler.

* A kiosk is a pavilion, or pleasure-house, of one story, for summer residence. Its form is sometimes square, and at others round; and it is usually built of wood, painted and decorated both within and without, in the Turkish style. It has several openings, with shutters or latticed work, answering the purpose of windows.

The kiosk is generally raised some feet from the ground, and is furnished within, after the Turkish fashion, with sofas, or raised platforms, covered with cloth, and provided with cushions. The floor is covered with handsome mats fabricated in Egypt, a considerable manufactory of which is carried on at Menouf in Lower Egypt.

In the construction of these kiosks, the Turks usually make choice of an elevated ground. It is also their practice to place them near a river, or stream of water, situations of which they are passionately fond. They there indulge themselves in smoking for several hours together.

Small kiosks are frequently erected on the poops of Turkish merchant vessels, particularly of those which navigate the Black Sea. Beneath the shade of these, the crews smoke their pipes.

After this visit of ceremony, we went on board the *Charon*, Captain M^rKeller, where we were not a little gratified by the sight of two of our countrymen, who had been kept in slavery during two months in the vicinity of Constantinople, with a perfect ignorance of the cause of their detention. They had been liberated by the humane intercession of Captain M^rKeller with the Capitan Pacha. A French officer had kindly written to Captain M^rKeller in their behalf, and had transmitted to him a letter from these unfortunate men.

On the 5th, General Kochler left Constantinople for the purpose of joining Lieutenant-colonel Holloway and Major Hope, in the Dardanelles. This being St. John's day, the Greeks kept it with much parade. Opposite Buyukdere the river was crowded with boats filled with musicians, who played and sung during the whole of the day. In the evening, bonfires were kindled, and pistols discharged in the air: it was on the whole a scene of great riot and confusion.

On this occasion the Greek women were all of them very handsomely attired, the meanest among them, even the fishermen's wives, being clad in elegant dresses of silk or velvet, with pelices, lined with ermine of considerable value. This finery, of which they are extremely fond, is generally reserved for the holidays.

Having been indisposed for several days, I did not repeat my visits to Levant Chiflick until the 8th. On the 10th, however, I was so well recovered as to accept the invitation which we received from Monsieur Tomara, the Russian ambassador, to be present at the celebration of the birth day of the Emperor of Russia.

In the evening we repaired to his palace, where we found a very

large party assembled, all the foreign ministers, in their gala dresses, and decorated with their respective orders, being present, with their ladies and suites. The company, which consisted of individuals of almost every nation, in the different costumes by which each is appropriately distinguished, did not break up until between one and two in the morning. The dances were continued until a late hour, the Greek women being passionately fond of that exercise. In the course of the evening refreshments, consisting of sweetmeats, ice creams, cakes, &c. were served; and at midnight there was a cold collation, with wines and other liquors. The entertainment passed off very agreeably.

On the 11th, I rode to Levant Chiflick; and on the 12th, to Constantinople. I embraced this opportunity of paying a visit to the bazars, that is, the places set aside for the sale of different articles of merchandize, each trade, or in other cases the dealers belonging to the different nations subject to the Turkish domination, being arranged under a covered archway, somewhat similar to our Exeter exchange. Beneath these archways, or cloisters, which are of stone or wood, each tradesman, or dealer, has his shop in front, and behind it a warehouse for his goods. This arrangement is extremely convenient both for the feller and the purchaser; at the same time that the bazars, admitting a free circulation of the air, are very cool in summer, and consequently well adapted to the climate. The commodities sold in them are by no means contemptible. There is here a more regular market police (if the phrase may be admitted) than might be expected in this country. There are officers who take care to examine the weights and measures of those who sell

goods; and these officers daily go their rounds through the different bazars: woe be unto him who sells with light weights! he is made an immediate example: he either suffers on the spot the bastinado (which the reader need scarcely be informed is a heavy cudgel applied violently to the soles of the feet), or is condemned to the payment of a fine. The weights are of course destroyed.

If any fraud is to be apprehended, it is more especially among those whom the Turks rank as unbelievers, and particularly among the Jews, who maintain here the character with which they are too generally charged; they are prone to extortion, and in truth to deal with them requires much circumspection. From what I was able to observe in the bazars, I am inclined to think that the Turks are fair dealers. In speaking of the manner in which fraudulent tradespeople are treated, it may not be improper to mention, that a peculiar punishment is inflicted in this country upon bakers who transgress the law, either by selling bread of light weight or of bad quality: they have their ears nailed to their own door post for public view. In arbitrary governments the police ought to be good, for the punishments are always sanguinary and cruel.

In the course of my perambulation, I went into a shop, where I took a draught of sherbet cooled with ice. This liquor is made in various ways, with or without the acid: it is very cooling and refreshing, and is sold at the very moderate price of a para* the cup.

I was now confirmed in the observation I had made on my first arrival, that the streets of Constantinople are, without exception, nar-

* A para is nearly equal to a halfpenny; forty paras make one piastre, and one piastre is worth one shilling and sixpence of our money.

row, ill paved, and dirty. Almost all the houses are built with windows projecting to the streets, which nearly touch those of their opposite neighbours; this custom greatly obstructs the free circulation of air through the streets. The roofs of the houses are miserably ill covered; they are formed of a reddish tile, loosely put on without any fastening; occasionally loose stones are laid on here and there, but a cat running over the top of a house will frequently untile it; consequently they are wretchedly constructed for rainy or tempestuous weather. The external appearance of the houses is at the same time heavy and dismal, all the ornaments being reserved for the interior. I entered the outer court of the Seraglio, beyond which strangers are not allowed to pass, and had a sight of the mint, where the workmen were busily employed. It is situated within the enclosure. The silver coin has been debased to a very extraordinary degree, the silver it contains having been progressively reduced to about thirty parts in an hundred. This adulteration is said to have been introduced in aid of the public revenue; and as the coin still retains its ancient *nominal* value, the consequence has been, that the counterfeit money of the forgers is become of greater value than that issued from the public treasury, notwithstanding the dealers in this illicit traffic turn their speculation to a very good account.

From the mint I walked to the vicinity of the mosque of Santa Sophia, which is certainly a very massive building, but which, considered in an architectural point of view, is, in my opinion, very inferior to our St. Paul's. With the exception of the dome, and of the four minarets which are detached, there is nothing very singular or striking in the pile.

I proceeded thence to the *atmeydan*, the place or field of horses, or, as it was anciently called, the hippodrome, a very extensive open space or circus, set aside for athletic exercises and public spectacles. Here the Turks exhibit a kind of military sport, called the *djarid*. The combatants are mounted, and armed with a stick or wand of a considerable length, which is darted with great force by the assailant, and as skilfully avoided by his antagonist. This exercise is very much in vogue among the Turks of condition. In the middle of this space stands an antique column or obelisk, of a single block of granite, the sides of which are filled with various Egyptian figures and hieroglyphics. One of our party undertook to measure it, which he accomplished by a calculation drawn from a comparison between the shadow of a stick and that of the column, the height of which was found to be about sixty feet. The base is about seven feet in height, and is curiously sculptured in bas-relief with a great variety of human heads. At the extremity of the square there are the remains of a pillar, formed by the twisting of three brazen serpents. Formerly their heads made the capital of the pillar. Mahomet the second, when he took Constantinople, beat off the jaw of one of these heads.

Passing through a street, we came to another large and elevated antique column, called the Burnt Pillar, which, amidst the conflagrations that have so frequently occurred, and have unfortunately so much ravaged the city of Constantinople, has stood its ground. It has, however, a very dingy hue, and a considerable number of fissures, occasioned by the different fires which have taken place in its vicinity, inasmuch that it is now encircled by iron hoops to keep it together.

After our excursion, we dined on board the *New Adventure* transport; and in the afternoon went on board the *Charon* to take leave, she being on the eve of sailing from Constantinople for Gibraltar. I did not reach *Buyukdere* until midnight. The weather had been extremely sultry during the day, the thermometer being at eighty-eight in the shade.

On the 13th I rode to *Levant Chiflick*. On my return, I heard the *Charon* salute the Grand Signor in passing the *Seraglio* point.

On the evening of the 14th I went to a kiosk in *Buyukdere*, where the Greeks were assembled to sing, dance, and partake of other amusements. I joined the promenade afterwards in the meadow, in which there was a very numerous assemblage of Greeks, Turks, and others. It being Sunday, the inhabitants of all the neighbouring villages were collected; and the groups which were formed, by the variety of their costumes, and the characteristic traits peculiar to each nation, had a very pleasing, and to me a very novel effect. While the Greeks displayed all the gaiety and *nou-chalance* which belong to their character, the Turks, with much gravity, had recourse to their constant companion the pipe, and in the intervals of smoking, took coffee.

On the 15th I rode to *Levant Chiflick*, where I visited the Aga and several other Turks who were indisposed. On the preceding day we had made an appointment with Mr. Spurring, the English ship-builder at Constantinople, to visit the Sultan Selim, the ship which bore the flag of the Capitan Pacha. We were the more anxious to do this, as the Turkish fleet was to sail in the course of a few days for the *Dardanelles*. We went on board accordingly, and found her to be a re-

markably fine vessel: we were told, however, that her timbers were not proportioned to her size, and that she would work very ill in tempestuous weather, and in a rough sea. The Sultan Selim mounts one hundred and twenty forty-two pounders, besides other guns of a smaller caliber. The Capitan Pacha's cabin was fitted up in a very elegant style. At the sides were suspended a considerable number of rich and beautiful robes, pistols, and muskets, which, being set with a profusion of diamonds, and curiously inlaid with gold, made a very glittering and showy appearance. The furniture and other decorations of the cabin were in a corresponding style of magnificence. Several English prints, representing our celebrated naval victories, were hung up.

We were entertained by the captain of the ship, a great favourite of the Capitan Pacha, with sweetmeats, liqueurs, coffee, &c. He accompanied us in our visit to the different parts of the vessel, which was very clean, and kept in good order. She had on board fourteen hundred men, among whom that strict discipline by which the English men of war are distinguished did not appear to be kept up. The place set apart for the sick was very ill calculated for that purpose; and but little attention seemed to be paid to this part of the Turkish economy, than which nothing can be more momentous on shipboard. To the disregard with which the sick were treated, may be added, as a proof of the barbarism of this people, the little encouragement bestowed on those who had the charge of them. The surgeon of the Sultan Selim assured me, that his annual salary amounted to twelve guineas only of our money, inasmuch that his chief dependence, and that a very precarious one, was on presents. With so

inadequate a remuneration for his services, whatever might have been his talents, little was to be expected from his zeal. After this visit to the Sultan Selim, I dined on board the *New Adventure* transport, and returned to Buyukdere in the evening.

On the 16th and 17th nothing particular occurred. I rode, as usual, to Levant Chiflick. On my reaching that place, on the morning of the 18th, I was introduced to the Kai ma kan, and Hadgi Ibrahim Effendi, who had come thither for the purpose of a general inspection and exercise of the Turkish troops. Our men fired several rounds, and received a present of an hundred sheep and three hundred piastres. The parade being broken up, I returned to Buyukdere.

The 19th and 20th were without any interesting occurrence. On the 21st, in the afternoon, a party being made, we crossed the river from Buyukdere to Asia, and walked to the summit of the Giant's Hill, a very high mountain, from which we had a delightful view of the different windings of the Bosphorus, and also of the Black Sea.

On my arrival at Chiflick on the 22d, I was informed that a considerable number of sick and wounded Turkish soldiers, from Acre, in Syria, were hourly expected there. I agreed to see them on the following day.

On the 23d, after having visited the above mentioned sick and wounded Turkish soldiers, I returned, in the evening, to Buyukdere.

On the 24th I went to Constantinople, where I had an interview with his Excellency Hadgi Ibrahim Effendi, the Turkish secretary at war, on the subject of the Turkish sick and wounded in Levant Chiflick, and returned to Buyukdere in the evening.

On the 25th I reached Chiflick early in the morning, and had a

long conversation with Hadgi Ibrahim Effendi, and the Aga, or Commandant, on the business above referred to. It was agreed that I should make all the necessary regulations for the sick and wounded Turks; that I should direct the fitting up of the hospital bedsteads, &c.; and that I should be aided in my daily attendance by a Turkish surgeon. On the following day I met by appointment, at Levant Chiflick, the Grand Seignor's surgeon, the surgeon in chief to the army, and two other army surgeons, the latter of whom were appointed to assist me. I was informed by them that the Grand Seignor had given to each of the soldiers returned from Syria twenty-four piastres, and a schillink of silver to wear in his turban.

I pass over my immediate operations at Levant Chiflick, as not being of general interest, with the brief observation, that many of the Turkish soldiers being badly wounded, I was very fully and seriously employed, and proceed to the 30th, when I was called up at midnight, and a note delivered to me from Major Fletcher, to inform me that the Grand Seignor, who was to be at Kaithanah the following morning, to see the experiments which were to be made with red-hot shot, the artillery practice, &c. was desirous that all the persons belonging to the British military mission should be present on the occasion.

CHAPTER IV.

VISIT TO LEVANT CHIFLICK, IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE ORDERS OF THE GRAND SEIGNOR—PRACTICE WITH RED-HOT SHOT—PRESENTS DISTRIBUTED TO THE OFFICERS AND MEN—ORDERS TO ATTEND THE GRAND SEIGNOR AGAIN—INTERVIEW WITH HIM—CONSULTED BY THE AGA—GRAND PROCESSION ON THE OPENING OF THE FESTIVAL OF THE BEYRAM COURBAM—TURKISH ENTERTAINMENT—REMARKS ON THE PRODUCTIONS OF THE SEASON IN TURKEY, ON THE DISEASES OF THE COUNTRY, AND THE STATE OF MEDICAL SCIENCE THERE—PROCESSION AND FESTIVAL OF THE DERVISES—REMARKS ON THE CLIMATE AND WEATHER—VILLAGE AND AQUEDUCTS OF BELGRADE—CHARACTER OF THE TURKISH VILLAGES—VISIT TO THE ASIATIC SHORE—ORDER FOR REMOVAL OF THE TROOPS—FIRE NEAR CONSTANTINOPLE—DESCRIPTION OF SANTA SOPHIA—GREEK MARRIAGE—REMARKS ON THE TURKISH FORTRESSES—EMBARKATION OF THE TROOPS.

IN compliance with the intimation we had received, we breakfasted at half past three in the morning, and proceeded without delay to Levant Chiflick, where we joined our detachment. About eight o'clock we arrived at Kaithanah, and the Grand Seignor, his principal officers and suite, made their appearance shortly after.

During the artillery practice, the experiments with red-hot shot, &c. the Grand Seignor was seated in the beautiful kiosque, or pleasure-house, which I have already noticed. He paid a particular attention to every thing which passed; and when the whole was concluded, made each of us a trifling present. These presents were de-

livered to us by one of his suite, who tendered them to us respectively as we passed, one by one, according to our rank, in front of the Grand Seigneur. Each of us having received the present destined for him, bowed, and was desired to retire. This ceremony having been concluded, the non-commissioned officers were brought up to receive presents for themselves and the privates.

On the 31st, on my arrival at Chiflick, early in the morning, I met the Grand Seigneur's surgeon, with whom I visited the wounded Turks. Several of them were already in a state of recovery. In our own infirmary I found four cases of intermittent fever. The men who laboured under this complaint, had been sent to Kaithanah some weeks before to assist in the erection of the furnace for the heating of shot; and having been detained there for several days, were exposed to marsh miasma, which is well known to be a most powerful agent in the production of intermittents.

On the 1st of August, General Kochler, Lieutenant-colonel Holloway, and Major Hope, returned to Buyukdere from the Dardanelles.

On my reaching Chiflick to visit the sick and wounded, I received a message requesting me to wait, as the Grand Seigneur was on his way thither, and might wish to make some enquiries of me relative to the state of the wounded Turks, and the arrangements made for them. He arrived about noon, attended by his principal ministers, his officers of state, and a very numerous retinue, all richly dressed, and superbly mounted. His arrival was announced by discharges of artillery, and other public demonstrations of joy. It being a grand field day, the Turkish soldiers went through their manœuvres and exercises, after which each of them was marched to the front of the

Aga's house, where the Grand Signor was seated, and received a present of five piastres. I was now pointed out to the Sultan, and having paid my respects to him, received from him a trifling present, accompanied by a message to request of me to have the goodness to take all possible care of the wounded, for which service I should not fail to be properly remunerated. The Aga being indisposed, consulted me as to the nature of his ailments. I found him feverish, prescribed for him, and promised to see him, provided it should be necessary, at his residence at Bishiktash, on the bank of the Bosphorus, near Pera.

On the 2d, I went to Chiflick, where I visited the sick and wounded Turks, and afterwards rode to Bishiktash to see the Aga, who was still indisposed.

On the 3d and 4th, I repeated my visits to the above places, and found the Aga, as well as the greater part of the wounded Turks, in a fair way of recovery.

On the 5th, on my arrival at Chiflick, I saw his excellency, with whom I had a conversation relative to the wounded Turks. They were all of them doing very well, and in particular two, from the thigh of one of whom I had a few days before extracted a ball, and from the hip of the other a splinter of gun metal. It may strike my readers with surprise that the wounded men having been brought from so considerable a distance as Acre, these operations should still have been left to be performed.

On the 13th, on my reaching Chiflick, I found there the surgeon to the Grand Signor, by whom I was informed, that early in the morning of the following day the Grand Signor would go in procession from the Seraglio to the mosque of Sultan Achmet, to celebrate

the opening of the Beyram Courbam, or month of sacrifice, the second paschal feast. He invited me to Constantinople to be present at this ceremony.

The festival of the Beyram, which succeeds the Turkish ramazan, or lent, is the season of pleasures and festivities of every description. He must be poor indeed, who has not new clothes provided for the occasion; and among the better sort of people rich dresses are given and received as presents. The streets and public places are filled with groups, whose amusements and pastimes are varied according to the nation to which they belong. It may strictly be denominated a paschal feast, since, at its opening, sheep are sacrificed by the Grand Seignor, and by all the distinguished and opulent Turks. The animals thus immolated, have their horns gilt, and their wool nicely combed. It is so contrived as that these offerings should be made at the precise hour when similar sacrifices take place at Mecca.

At three o'clock in the morning of the 14th, I set out from Chiflick, where I had spent the preceding night, and was, on my arrival at Pera, joined by Captains Lacy and Leake. We reached Constantinople at five o'clock, and proceeded to the house of a surgeon, from whose shop we were to be gratified by a sight of the procession, as it passed. In this house we breakfasted, and were entertained in the following manner. Pipes and coffee were first served, and were followed by a very agreeable and palatable preparation of milk, called caimac, which was accompanied by hot sugared cakes, and melons. Our repast was concluded by a second service of coffee; and during our stay, sherbet and pipes were brought to us at intervals.

About eight o'clock the procession commenced; but the Grand

Seignor did not make his appearance until half-past nine. The dresses of all those who composed the procession were splendid and costly. The fine horses on which they were mounted, and more especially those of the eunuchs and principal officers of state, were most gorgeously caparisoned, the housings of many of them being of gold embroidery, studded with precious stones, by which a very brilliant effect was produced. In the turban of the Grand Seignor was a beautiful aigrette of very great value, the diamonds of which it was composed being of uncommon magnitude. Several of his horses, on which his shield and various trophies were carried, were led in the procession; and being very richly caparisoned, and ornamented with a profusion of diamonds, rubies, and other precious stones, gave a brilliancy and magnificence to the scene, which far exceeded any idea I could previously have formed of it.

During the procession, a Turkish officer was constantly employed in throwing on the heads of the populace handfuls of new paras. The contest which ensued, to pick them up, afforded to the Turkish spectators no little amusement.

The Grand Seignor, who was very superbly mounted, was followed by his sword-bearer, carrying his sabre, the hilt of which was profusely studded with diamonds. Next came several officers of his seraglio richly dressed, bearing on cushions his turbans, ornamented with diamonds and other gems. The streets were lined on each side with janissaries, whose dress-caps appeared to me both ridiculous and unbecoming. As the Sultan passed along, he from time to time bowed with great affability to the people, all of whom prostrated themselves on his approach.

The kishlah aga, or chief of the eunuchs, officiated at the mosque, and wore on his return a valuable pelice and a rich caftan, with which the Grand Seignor had presented him. Several other caftans, of qualities suited to the rank of those for whom they were destined, were distributed by the Sultan on this occasion.

The procession was conducted with great decorum, and throughout the whole of it the best order observed. It would be impossible for me to attempt to describe all the striking appearances it exhibited, or to enter into a detail of the great variety and extreme singularity of the magnificent costumes which were displayed. To be brief—it afforded to us strangers a spectacle truly novel and interesting, and fully repaid us for the trouble we had taken to be comprehended among the number of the spectators. By eleven o'clock the streets were cleared.

Selim III. the present Sultan, is extremely popular with his subjects, and by no means destitute of the talents and abilities which a sovereign ought to possess. He is descended from the house of Osman, by whom the fifth dynasty of the caliphs was established in the thirteenth century. Having received a more liberal education than has usually been bestowed in Turkey on those to whose lot the succession has fallen, Sultan Selim possesses a well cultivated mind, and has made himself acquainted with the policy of the more refined states of Europe. It is, therefore, not surprising, that he has introduced so many salutary innovations into his empire; and, from a conviction of their manifest superiority, has become so strenuous a partizan of the tactics and military discipline of England and France. In my subsequent details relative to the Grand Visier and the Capitan Pacha,

I shall have occasion to notice, in a particular manner, the improvements he has introduced in his army and marine. He is of a courteous and affable character; and his physiognomy is fine and full of expression. His figure is well proportioned, and his aspect commanding. His portrait is faithfully given in Plate II.

My companions and myself were invited, after the procession, to dine with the Grand Signor's surgeon, at whose house we were very well entertained in the Turkish style; and notwithstanding we were, in eating, compelled to adopt the mode practised by the Turks, that is, that we were unprovided with either knife, fork, or plate, we contrived to make a good dinner. The following is a concise description of these repasts. A cloth having been laid on the floor, a small table with the legs turned uppermost is placed on it, and on this again is laid a large circular waiter of tinned copper, round which the company seat themselves. Before each of the guests, bread in the form of a flat pancake, and two spoons are placed. The dishes are served up singly, one after the other; and if filled with soup or liquid food, the spoons are resorted to. If, on the other hand, they contain solids, the guests help themselves with the thumb and finger. However repugnant this custom must have been to the feelings and ideas of Englishmen, a keen appetite, and the favouriness of the dishes, in some measure reconciled us to it; and custom, which sways us so powerfully, enabled us, in the sequel, entirely to get the better of our squeamishness. The meats are in general cut small for the convenience of those who are to partake of them; but on the present occasion whole ducks were served. These the donor of the feast pulled in pieces with his fingers, and distributed the portions to his guests.



The Grand Signior.

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Pipes and coffee were brought in after dinner, and we at length took our leave.

On the 15th, in the morning, I accompanied General Koehler to Pera, and from thence to Constantinople, where we had an interview of nearly two hours with his Excellency Hadgi Ibrahim Effendi, with whom the general had some particular business to transact. In the course of this visit, a silver salver, containing conserve of roses, and other sweetmeats, was handed round, in addition to the usual refreshments of pipes and coffee. When we were about to take leave, each of us was presented with two finely wrought muslin handkerchiefs. I ought not to omit here the concluding part of the ceremony. After we had taken a draught of sherbet, which was presented to us, our hands were sprinkled with rose water, and a silver vessel brought in, containing odoriferous gums in an inflamed state. The ascending vapours of these gums are by the Turks received on their beards; but as we were destitute of that ornament, we contented ourselves with smelling to them, and receiving them in our hands, which we rubbed together to retain the odour. We then bowed and retired.

Much rain fell this day, accompanied with loud claps of thunder, and very vivid flashes of lightning. The storm continued throughout the evening.

On my arrival at Chiflick, on the morning of the 16th, I found that several of the wounded Turks who had been under my care, being now perfectly cured, were to set off the next morning for Alexandria, with a detachment of two hundred and fifty Turkish soldiers.

On the 17th, the Turkish surgeons who had lent me their assistance there, having embarked the preceding evening with the detachment,

I had no other than my own exertions to depend upon. In returning to Buyukdere, I observed that the country exhibited a new and very pleasing aspect since the fall of the late heavy showers, which had come very seasonably to enable the country people to plough and the till their lands. Grapes were now in season, as were also melons: latter were of two kinds, the musk melon, and the water melon, and were both cheap and in plenty.

The grapes, which were extremely large, and fine, were sold at three and four paras the oke.

Among the prevailing diseases in Turkey, the rickets are very common in children, and blindness in adults.

The lame and deformed objects who constantly obtrude themselves on the view, are in such numbers as to excite astonishment.

Pulmonary complaints, as far as I had occasion to observe, are by no means prevalent in this country; the catarrhal and asthmatic affections prevail most among elderly people.

The Turks are certainly not subject to the multitude of diseases which infect some other nations. Sores and wounds are managed and healed with more facility; much may be ascribed to their temperance. Fontanelles, or issues, are in common use; and somewhat lessen the evils resulting from the indolent, and inactive life which the Turks in general lead. Cutaneous affections, herpetic and tettery eruptions are common, particularly upon the head: dyspepsia, and other stomach complaints, prevail very generally. Their greasy food, inactive life, their excesses in the use of smoking tobacco, and opium, may give rise to these disorders. Hernias are common. Besides plague, they are occasionally subject to malignant and bilious remittent and intermittent fevers in autumn.

In Constantinople, Pera, and the suburbs, there are, it is said, nearly five thousand persons who profess the different branches of the medical art. They are natives of almost every nation, but consist more particularly of Turks, Greeks, Armenians, and Italians, and are for the greater part utterly ignorant of the principles either of medicine or of surgery. There are, however, some exceptions to this observation, and among them a Mr. Ruiné, an Italian, whom I accidentally met with a few days before the period of which I am now treating. He occasionally attends the Grand Seignor, when indisposed, as well as the Harem, and many of the principal officers of state. For these services he has no salary, but is paid for his visits. His practice is extremely lucrative. The person who at present holds the appointment of physician to the Sultan, is a Turk, who, notwithstanding he is entirely unacquainted with medicine, receives an annual stipend of nearly five thousand pounds sterling. Almost every individual in Turkey has a nostrum for some disease or other.

On the 18th, in the afternoon, in company with some of our officers, we crossed over to the Asiatic side of the river to see the procession of the dervises, it being the birth-day of the founder of that sect. We were unfortunately too late to be present at this ceremony, which, as we afterwards heard, was very numerously attended. We had, however, a very agreeable walk in the delightful valley in which the assembly was held. The Janissary by whom we were accompanied for our protection, in his eagerness to get our boat ready, was pushed into the water, and otherwise maltreated, by a boatman belonging to the Sultana Valida, or Queen Mother, who had come privately to witness the above ceremony. This insult

being in a manner considered as offered to ourselves, a representation of the particulars of the affray was made by General Koehler, to whom an apology was afterwards sent.

On the 21st, the heat of the weather was very oppressive, the thermometer being, at eight o'clock in the morning, at 115 in the sun.

On my arrival at Chiflick on the 22d, I found one of the men belonging to the British mission dangerously ill with a fever.

On the 26th, it being the fête of the assumption of the blessed Virgin, which the Greeks celebrate with much pomp, in the evening great numbers of them were assembled in the meadow, and in their holiday dresses.

On the 27th, another of our men was seized dangerously ill with a fever.

The reader will perhaps find the frequent mention of the changes of the weather somewhat tedious, but nothing serves so well to give an idea of the climate and situation. In the course of this afternoon there was much thunder and lightning, and throughout the whole of the day very heavy and sudden showers of rain fell.

On the 28th much rain had fallen during the night; and on the 29th the rains continued to fall with unabated violence.

I dined at Buyukdere, in company with all the officers belonging to the mission, and with Count Ludolf, the Neapolitan envoy, who gave us a very polite reception, and entertained us with great hospitality. The evening was very cool and pleasant, and it was to be presumed that as the rains had now fallen in great abundance, they would be succeeded by fine weather. During the months of Sep-

tember and October the weather is in general very pleasant and agreeable in Turkey; and this season the natives call the little or second summer.

On my arrival at Chiflick, on the morning of the 30th, I found that a military artificer, Greenhalch, had expired in the course of the preceding afternoon.

On the 1st of September the officers of the mission dined with General Koehler, and met there Count Ludolf, the Neapolitan envoy; and in the evening went to the palace of the Russian minister, Monsieur Tomara, where there was a ball. It being Sunday, some repugnance was felt at being present at these entertainments: it was, however, prudent to conform to the established usages.

On the 4th I visited Chiflick, and found that Kannaird, a military artificer, had departed this life in the course of the preceding afternoon.

On my reaching Chiflick on the 5th, I was called to the child of a private belonging to the royal artillery, whose skull had been fractured by a fall from a window. It survived this accident a few hours only.

A party having been formed on the 7th, we made an excursion to the village of Belgrade, distant from Constantinople twelve or fourteen miles, and to the aqueducts in its vicinity. Among these we saw that which was erected in the reign of Justinian, and under his immediate direction. We visited the interior of this aqueduct, a large magnificent structure, in a very fine style of architecture, and passed through the different galleries or passages. Our promenade ended there; and we returned to the woods near the village of Bel-

grade, where, our provisions having been spread on the green sod, which served us for a table, we dined beneath the cool and refreshing shade of a cluster of lofty trees.

The country in the vicinity of Belgrade abounds in groves and fine woodland scenery. To us, who had remained so long in the environs of Constantinople, it presented a scene of equal novelty and interest. It was our first visit to this enchanting spot; and brought to our recollection all the encomiums which Lady Mary Wortley Montague has bestowed on it in her Letters. If it is not precisely the paradise she has described, it is unquestionably one of the most beautiful spots in that part of the world. We passed through two small villages, which were of the same description with those I had hitherto seen in Turkey; that is, the houses and the inhabitants were alike in a wretched state. To render the face of the country more agreeable and picturesque, a few scattered hamlets were wanting: the aqueducts, however, by intersecting the villages, gave to the scenery a considerable degree of interest.

On the 8th, the officers of the mission dined with the Russian ambassador, where we were as usual sumptuously entertained.

On the 12th I made an engagement with the officers belonging to a Russian man of war lying in the harbour, to accompany them to the Asiatic shore on the following morning.

On the 13th, at ten in the morning, we crossed over to Asia. The day was delightful; and we made a very agreeable excursion into the country. On our return, carpets were spread in the shade, and a cold collation served. The Russian sailors entertained us with several songs, which the surgeon accompanied on a kind of harp.

Nothing deserving of notice occurred until the 20th, when the Magnet, an English merchantman, which had been long expected anchored off the Seraglio Point. This day General Koehler shifted his residence from Buyukdere to Galata. On my reaching Chiflick, on the 22d, I found Smith, an artificer, labouring under an attack of malignant fever.

The succeeding days were marked by no particular occurrence until the 28th, when, on my visit to Chiflick barracks, I found that Smith, the artificer, the symptoms of whose fever had daily assumed a stronger degree of malignity, had died in the course of the preceding evening. His body was already in a high state of putrefaction; and the same fever having broken out among the inhabitants of Chiflick, I wrote to General Koehler, to advise that our people should be immediately removed. From the general I learned in return, that the detachment was to be embarked on board the transport then lying off Tophana, and to proceed in her to the Dardanelles, as soon as the steps preparatory to the expedition should have been taken.

On my return from Chiflick, on the 29th, I rode towards an ancient tower, which Europeans have denominated the tower of Ovid, and which is conjectured to have been originally a signal tower, from which the inhabitants were warned of the approach of the vessels of the Cossacks, whose piracies on the coasts of the Euxine Sea, near which this tower stands, were formerly so much dreaded.

On the 1st of October, in the evening, a large fire broke out in a village near Constantinople, situated above the arsenal. It was a

truly grand and awful spectacle; but the whole of the damage was confined to the destruction of some houses.

In the morning after this event, I went to Constantinople, where I visited the mosque of Santa Sophia, and the mad-house, situated at the extremity of the Hippodrome, or Atmeydan.

Santa Sophia, as has been already mentioned, was formerly a christian church, and built by the Emperor Justin. It was converted by the Turks into a mosque, still however retaining its original name. This building, which always attracts the attention of travellers, is a hundred and fourteen paces in length, and eighty in breadth: the dome, which covers the centre of the building, is in the form of a half globe, rather depressed, and is altogether singular in its style of architecture.

Within side the mosque there is a porch that ranges round its sides, which supports another gallery thirty paces broad, both vaulted over, and supported by a great number of beautiful pillars, many of which are of verd antique. These columns uphold the building. You arrive at the upper gallery by means of an easy winding, but paved ascent (or stair case), up which horses can easily ascend. At one end of this gallery there is an enclosed place, with a gilt grating or lattice work, for the Sultan's use, when he visits this mosque.

On the outside there are four tall minarets, or steeples, and fountains where the Turks perform their ablutions always previous to prayer. Many small lamps, ostrich eggs, &c. are suspended as ornaments in the centre of the mosque, the part which the pious principally occupy when at prayer. The floor is covered with mats. To

enter this, as well as all other mosques, it is necessary to be provided with clean slippers to pull on over the boots or shoes of Christians, as the Turks will not allow them to enter without observing this ceremony.

To procure admittance, however, within the mosques, a Frank must be furnished with a firman, or written authority from the Turkish government; but the Mussulman after all makes him pay handsomely for the gratification of his curiosity.

After having amused myself by walking through the different bazars, I returned to Buyukdere in the evening.

On the 3d, in the morning, I called on Mr. Spencer Smith, the British minister, who had just received the melancholy tidings of the death of Major Fead, of the royal artillery. On the 13th of the last month, being on board *Le Tigre*, commanded by Sir Sydney Smith, he fell a victim to an attack of malignant fever, in the prime of life. He was an active and zealous officer.

On the 4th, in taking my customary ride to Chiflick, I observed that the vintage was begun. The inhabitants were all busied in their vineyards, in gathering the grapes, which, having been picked from the stalks, were thrown into barrels, and these laid across the backs of horses to be conveyed home.

Our final orders having been received on the 5th, to proceed to Galata on the following Monday, the 9th, we were busily employed during the whole of the day in the necessary preparations for our removal.

On the 6th, in the evening, I was present at another festivity, that of the marriage of the daughter of a Mr. Hidey, a Greek mer-



chant. The young girls of that nation, who were assembled to celebrate the nuptials, were decked in their gaudiest apparel, and the evening was spent in dancing and other amusements.

On the morning of the 7th, the officers belonging to the British mission left Buyukdere.

On the 8th, in the morning, I proceeded up the Bosphorus in a boat as far as its junction with the Euxine Sea, and landed at the most distant village on the European side, where the inhabitants were busily engaged in salting a kind of mackerel of a very large size. Near to this village, upon the shore, there is a very capacious lantern erected, by the light of which by night vessels are directed into the Bosphorus from the Black Sea; so named, I imagine, from the black clouds and stormy weather which frequently come over this sea. There is a rock standing in the water, and contiguous to this village, upon which formerly (it is said) a pillar of marble stood, vulgarly called the pillar of Pompey.

For some time past the weather had been cold and rainy, the thermometer having been so low as 55.

On the 10th, a model of the upper castle at Sultania, or Chennecally, on the Asiatic side of the Dardanelles, made under the direction of Lieutenant-colonel Holloway, with the improvements suggested by him, was presented to his Excellency Hadgi Ibrahim Efendi, secretary at war, for the Grand Seignor. I should have observed, that those Mahometans who perform the pilgrimage to Mecca, are ever after called hadgi's, or pilgrims, and much respect is paid them by the Turks.

It may not be improper in this place to say a few words relative

to the Turkish fortifications in general. For the greater part, they consist of old turreted castles, situated on eminences, and surrounded by high walls. Little or no attention is paid to the keeping of them in repair; and, as it is very much to be doubted whether they would be of any efficacy in case of a foreign attack and invasion, they ought, rigorously speaking, to be considered merely as so many citadels, to awe the inhabitants, and to serve, in cases of intestine commotion, as a shelter for the weaker party.

The pachas of the different provinces, at whose charge these works ought to be supported and kept in repair, being quite uncertain how long they may be maintained in the enjoyment of their respective governments, make it their sole study to enrich themselves as promptly as they can. Indeed, the avarice and indolence by which the Turks in general are so strongly characterized, and which effectually exclude all improvement, prevent them from bestowing either pains or expense on their fortifications. To these considerations may be added the fatalism they profess. They declare themselves sensible of the approaching decay of their empire; but have at the same time received an assurance from the koran, that it is to rise again in greater splendor than ever. The supine and torpid state in which they are thus immersed, can only be equalled by the patience and resignation which, under all misfortunes, they derive from the same source. In each adverse trial they express themselves by saying —“ it is the will of Heaven.”

On the subject of fortifications, they have an ancient proverb which says, that “ it belongs to infidels to build, and to Mussulmen

“to take them.” This, like all other proverbial sayings, had once a ground for its support, but by no means applies to the present condition of the Turkish empire, and to its relative situation with the neighbouring christian powers.

On the 12th, in the morning, our artificers embarked on board the transport; and on that day a Russian fleet bound to Naples, with troops on board, destined to form the body guard of his Neapolitan majesty, anchored in the harbour. On board this fleet were two Englishmen, one a surgeon, the other a lieutenant, who had been some years in the service of Russia.

On the 13th, on my return from Chiflick and Galata, and after having paid a visit to the imperial palace, I went on board the transport to see the convalescents. Orders were given for the detachment of artillery to quit Chiflick on the following day, and to march to Buyukdere. In the evening the officers of the mission were present at a ball and supper given at the Russian palace, in compliment to the general of that nation, who commanded the troops destined for Naples.

On the 15th the detachment arrived at Buyukdere from Chiflick; and on the 16th I rode to Belgrade, and returned to Buyukdere: for several days past much rain had fallen. I brought home with me some of the air of Belgrade to examine. The situation of that place is delightfully rural, but subject to intermittent complaints, occasioned by the marsh miasma, exhaled from a valley in its vicinity. The house of the British minister stands on a higher ground than the other buildings, and is consequently the most agreeable, as well as the most salubrious residence in the village.

On the 17th, orders were received at Buyukdere to embark the whole of the detachment on the following Sunday for the Dardanelles.

On the 19th, in the evening, we had a storm of thunder and lightning, attended by occasional showers.

On the 21st, in the morning, I left Buyukdere with the detachment, which was, without loss of time, embarked on board the transport.

The wind being foul, so as to detain the transport in the harbour, I had sufficient leisure, during the two succeeding days, to visit all my friends and connections, and to take leave.

CHAPTER V.

DEPARTURE FROM CONSTANTINOPLE—VOYAGE TO CHENNECALLY—SESTOS AND ABYDOS—TOWER OF LEANDER—ARRIVAL AT CHENNECALLY JOIN THE CAPITAN PACHA'S FLEET—VISIT OF THE OFFICERS ON BOARD THE SULTAN SELIM—CHARACTER OF THE CAPITAN PACHA—PRESENT STATE OF THE TURKISH MARINE—DISHONESTY OF A TURKISH MARINE—VISIT TO THE ANCIENT SIGÆAN—RECOVERY OF SOME CURIOUS REMAINS OF ANTIQUITY—DESCRIPTION OF THE PLAIN OF TROY, AND THE TOMBS OF ACHILLES, PATROCLUS, AND AJAX—MOUNT IDA—DESCRIPTION OF CHENNECALLY—CASTLES OF THE DARDANELLES—ABYDOS—DECAPITATION OF A TURKISH ADMIRAL—DARDANIA—ORDERS RECEIVED TO RETURN TO CONSTANTINOPLE—ARRIVAL THERE.

ON the 23d, the wind having become fair, we sailed from the harbour of Constantinople. In passing the Seraglio-point, we fired a royal salute, and came to anchor in the evening off Selyvrie, a little beyond Buyukcheckmegi, the pilot being apprehensive that we should otherwise reach the narrows before day-light, and that the safety of the vessel would thus be endangered. Early the next morning we weighed anchor, and steered towards our destination. During the three following days we were becalmed between the islands of Marmora and Gallipoli. In this interval a gunner belonging to the detachment fell a victim to a dysenteric complaint.

On the 28th we anchored in the Dardanelles, opposite Mito, in the bay of Nagara. We were close in with the Asiatic shore, within half a mile of the ancient city of Abydos, and about two miles dif-

tant from the castles of Chennecally, to which we were bound. The station we had taken up was truly classical, being very near the spot where Leander, if the poets may be credited, swam across the Hellespont to Sestos, to procure an interview with his beloved Hero. On the ancient medals of his native city Abydos, he is seen in the act of swimming, and endeavouring to reach the tower, on which, in commemoration of this event, Hero afterwards placed a torch. The vestiges of what is said to have been the tower, which in later times was employed as a light-house, are to be seen standing on a rock at the sea side.

About two hours after we had dropped our anchor, the ship drove, and we were in danger of being carried over to the opposite shore. To prevent this we were under the necessity of cutting our cable, and of making sail. We anchored soon after within the Capitan Pacha's fleet, and about two miles below the town of Chennecally.

On our coming to anchor, we saluted the Capitan Pacha with seventeen guns. Our salute having been returned, he came alongside the transport in a very beautiful barge, manned by a considerable number of rowers, and invited General Koehler on board his ship. The invitation was accepted; and in the interview which took place it was settled that on the following day all the officers belonging to the mission should be presented to the Capitan Pacha.

In the morning of the 20th, the general and officers went on board the flag-ship, the Sultan Selim, of one hundred and thirty guns. They were there presented to the Capitan Pacha, by whom they were received with the utmost attention and politeness; they were then entertained with pipes, coffee, and a variety of refresh-

ments, and were treated, in addition to the usual ceremony, with tea *à l'Anglaise*, out of an elegant and superb tea equipage. The Capitan Pacha did them the honour to accompany them to every part of his ship, which they inspected minutely, and ordered his crew to go through the exercise of the middle deck guns. This was done by the word of command, and the manœuvres executed with the greatest precision and regularity. On his being complimented on the excellent order and good discipline observed on board his ship, he handsomely declared, that all the merit was due to Captain Samuel Hood, of the Saturn, who commanded the station off Alexandria, previously to the arrival of Sir Sydney Smith. On many subsequent occasions he has expressed his obligations to that very meritorious and intelligent officer, for the essential improvements which, through him, he has been enabled to introduce into his fleet.

Kuchuk Houssein, the present Capitan Pacha, or High Admiral, was originally a Georgian slave, and being a great favourite of the Sultan, with whom he spent his childish years, was elevated to his present office and dignity without having served in any subordinate station in the Turkish marine, in the amelioration of which, however, he has displayed great zeal and ability.

It may be recollected, that at the end of the contest between the Russians and Turks, the marine of the latter was in a very wretched condition. Kuchuk Houssein has since exerted himself, and not wholly without effect, to place it on a more respectable footing. Being divested of the prejudices by which the Turks in general are so powerfully actuated, he has, in concert with the Grand Seignor, introduced every innovation which could lead to improvement, and



*The Captain Bachi,
in his Dress worn on public Occasion.*

Engraved by J. P. Miller - in St. Paul's Church Yard

profited by every information he could collect relative to the more advanced state of naval science in the great maritime states of Europe.

In Plate III. is to be seen a portrait of a Capitan Pacha, one of his predecessors, habited in the robes of ceremony in which he appears on all public occasions.

It is somewhat singular that, notwithstanding the Grand Seignor possesses more ports and havens than any other European power, and is master of the Black Sea, the coasts of which supply him with materials for the construction of his ships of war, and although his capital is established on one of the finest harbours in the universe, still his navy has for a series of years made but a very insignificant figure in the history of maritime nations. There was a time, indeed, when it vied with the navies of Spain, of Venice, and of several other powers, then deemed of considerable importance by sea; but it has not kept pace with the progressive improvements other countries have made. Under the present Capitan Pacha it is now assuming a much more promising aspect. In addition to the more advantageous system of naval tactics he is gradually introducing, several experienced ship-builders from England, France, and Sweden, have been invited to the Turkish dock-yards, where they have recently built several fine ships of the line, together with frigates and smaller vessels. Thus, was there not a probability that other causes may operate to the decline of the empire, there would be a prospect that the Ottoman navy might be raised to that respectability to which it seems naturally entitled; for it should be recollected that the Grand Seignor is the sovereign of those nations, by whom the first

rudiments of maritime knowledge were taught, namely, the Phenicians, the Rhodians, the Greeks inhabiting the coasts of the Archipelago, the Cretans, &c. nations from their local situation destined, it should seem, to the science and practice of navigation.

Levanti is the term which the Turks apply to the seamen of their own nation, as well as to all the foreigners employed in their marine. It would appear that it is a corruption of the Italian language, being applied by the Italians themselves to the inhabitants of the coasts of Greece, and of the Archipelago, whence the greater part of these seamen are procured. They are in general a very unprincipled and turbulent set of men, as was more particularly manifested in Constantinople, and in the suburbs of Pera and Galata, a few days before the sailing of the Capitan Pacha's fleet.

To return to my narrative. On the 31st the officers and detachments landed for the purpose of putting into execution the different plans which had been laid before the Grand Seignor, and approved by him; and he had given the necessary authority to have them carried into the fullest effect.

On the 2d of November, the Phaeton frigate, Captain Morris, arrived in the Dardanelles, having on board his Excellency the Earl of Elgin, his Britannic Majesty's ambassador to the Sublime Porte, with his lady and suite. The general and all the officers of the mission immediately went on board to pay their respects to his Lordship, and compliment him on his arrival. The Phaeton saluted the Capitan Pacha with nineteen guns, which were returned by an equal number. His Excellency, together with Lady Elgin, Captain Morris, and the principal persons of the suite, paid a visit to the

Capitan Pacha on board the Sultan Selim. They were saluted on their way by both the ships; and accepted of the Capitan Pacha's invitation to partake of a Turkish supper.

On the morning of the 3d, the Phaeton frigate, with the above-mentioned persons on board, sailed for Constantinople.

On the 5th, a serjeant belonging to the military artificers, in preparing money for the payment of the detachment, in the presence of a well dressed galangis, or Turkish marine, quitted the room for a moment, and left the money lying on the table. On his return, the galangis had disappeared with an hundred and twenty piaftres.* This circumstance having been made known, and the person of the delinquent described to the Capitan Pacha, the galangis, from a conviction that the inquiry which the Pacha had instituted would inevitably lead to his discovery, came on the second evening after to the general's house, and confessed the robbery. The general, with great humanity, yielded to his sollicitation, to endeavour, by a timely interference, to save his life, and applied to the Pacha in his favour. Several days elapsed before this affair was brought to the conclusion which the general wished. During that interval, from his anxiety to prevent the unfortunate culprit from being strangled, he had expressed some doubts relative to the identity of his person. In reply to this, the Pacha very handsomely, and without hesitation, declared his full conviction that the galangis in question had taken the money, as he was certain that an Englishman would not tell an untruth.

On the 7th, at eight in the morning, I accompanied the general and officers to Koum Kali, which we reached between ten and eleven

* A piaftre is equal to about one shilling and sixpence English.

o'clock. We there paid our respects to the Bey, Adam Oglu, governor of the four fortresses, and of the district of the Dardanelles. He gave us a very civil reception, and supplied us with horses to proceed to the village of Giawr-keuy, or Janizari Cape, built on the site of the ancient Sigæum, and standing on an eminence which commands the plain of Troy. The purport of our journey thither was to procure a very curious bas-relief, and the celebrated Sigæan inscription, for Lord Elgin, who had seen them, and was desirous to transmit them to England. To accomplish this, a firman was procured from the Capitan Pacha, who also furnished a chaous to be the bearer of it. We were not long in coming at these valuable antiquities, which we found at the entrance of a small Greek chapel. The Greeks, by whom the village was exclusively inhabited, were extremely averse to their being taken away. Their reluctance, we were told, arose from a superstitious opinion they entertained, that by touching these stones agues were cured. We were, however, more fortunate on this occasion than the Count de Choiseul Gouffier was some years before, in his attempt to remove the marble containing the Sigæan inscription. He failed, notwithstanding the firmans of Haffan Pacha, who had aided him with all his influence over the Greeks: but our chaous, with the Capitan Pacha's firman, effected his purpose. The block of marble on which the Sigæan inscription, so frequently mentioned by antiquarians, is cut, constituted originally the pillar of an hermetic column. The words of the inscription itself are alternately written backwards and forwards, a peculiarity which denotes it to be of the highest antiquity. On the bas-relief we found five figures very finely sculptured, but the heads of which, with one exception only, were unfortunately

broken off. As this curious remnant of antiquity has, as well as the Sigæan inscription, been since conveyed to England, any further details relative to it would be superfluous.

We next visited the tumuli, or barrows, which tradition has described as the tombs of Achilles and Patroclus. At some distance from them we saw another barrow, which is styled the tomb of Ajax.

The plain of Troy, over which we rode, is of very considerable extent; being about twelve miles in length, and from five to six in breadth. It is fertile, and in a good state of cultivation. A great part of the land is laid out in pasturage, on which numerous herds of cattle browse. The rivers Scamander and Simoeis run meandering through the plain; and near to their confluence stands the village of Bourna Basli, on the site, as is supposed, of the ancient Ilium. At an inconsiderable distance from this village are to be seen the vestiges of an ancient temple dedicated to Apollo. Several other small villages are interspersed. The Scamander being at present but scantily supplied with water, a part of its bed affords herbage for cattle.

From Giawr-keuy we had a fine and distinct view of Mount Ida, and also of the tomb from whence Polites, the son of Priam, reconnoitred the forces of the Greeks. We were under the necessity of deferring till a more convenient opportunity our projected excursion to Alexandria Troas, or, as it is now styled by the Turks, Esca Stamboul. We slept in a house which the Bey had prepared for us.*

* For a more minute description of this highly celebrated spot, I refer the reader to the Remarks and Observations on the Plain of Troy, published in 1800, by Captain Franklin, in the service of the East India Company; wherein the author expresses himself thoroughly satisfied with the correctness of the poet Homer in his beautiful description of Troy.

On the 8th we paid an early visit to Adam Oglou, who accompanied us on our return to Chennecally, in compliance with an imperious message he had received from the Capitan Pacha to repair thither. On this occasion he was extremely dejected, and appeared to labour under strong apprehensions that his visit to the Capitan Pacha would be attended by very serious consequences. Indeed he did not scruple to confess as much to General Koehler, whom he solicited to interfere in his behalf. In this the general was successful, but not before the Bey had been exceedingly alarmed at the appearances which manifested themselves against him. He had previously declared to several of our gentlemen, that he had constantly at his command ten thousand fighting men, and that in the space of three days he could assemble an army of forty thousand. With so considerable a force in his hands, such is the system pursued in Turkey, and such the consequences to be apprehended from a menacing message received from a minister or other person high in authority, that Adam Oglou found himself placed in a very precarious and hazardous situation.

In the afternoon I made an excursion of several miles into the interior of the country. Chennecally is situated on the Asiatic side of the Dardanelles, in a flat territory, which extends for several miles, and is terminated by a lofty chain of mountains reaching from Mount Ida. On the east and south-west sides the town is surrounded by marshy grounds, which, being contiguous to it, must unquestionably subject the inhabitants to intermittents. On the eastern side there is a very fine grove of sycamore trees. About eighteen months before the date of this part of the narrative, the plague extended itself to Chennecally, and carried off daily from thirty to forty of the inhabitants.

It is said that the Dardanelles are never infected by that disease, unless when it rages with great and uncommon violence at Constantinople. A still more singular fact has also been stated, namely, that in the town of Mito, on the European side, and opposite to Abydos, the inhabitants are not susceptible of the plague; and that the infected persons, who have occasionally been brought thither by stealth, have all recovered.

The water in Chennecally being brackish, and of a taste disagreeable to the palate, the inhabitants are under the necessity of obtaining their supplies from the neighbouring fountains. The surrounding plain is in a tolerable state of culture, and abounds in vineyards, in addition to which there is some produce of cotton, hemp, and different kinds of grain. Camels and buffaloes are employed for agricultural and other purposes. The town is filthy in the extreme, the streets very narrow, and the houses, which indeed resemble almost all those that are to be met with in the Turkish towns and villages, wretchedly bad.

Game is in great plenty at Chennecally, as are also turkeys, geese, ducks, and fowls. The mutton is of a good quality; and there is a constant supply of excellent vegetables, as well as of fruits of every kind, when in season. We had not as yet been able to ascertain whether there was any public market for fish. The wine made at Chennecally is pleasant and cheap.

At this place there is a manufactory of earthen ware, and another for the preparation of the skins which are converted into the red, yellow, and black Turkey leather, held in such universal estimation. Near this place the Capitan Pacha brings his fleet to anchor once a

year, to collect, for the Turkish government, the annual tribute from the adjacent districts. He was expected to sail for Constantinople in the course of a few days.

The Dardanelles are principally defended by four castles, on which are mounted a considerable number of guns, many of them of an uncommonly large caliber, having, in some instances, a diameter of not less than thirty inches. In one of these guns a Turk was seen by our party, seated, and in the act of eating his meal. One of the castles is situated at Chennecally, and another on the opposite side of the straits at Kelletbahar. The other two are at the entrance of the Dardanelles, one at Settelbahar, on the European side, and the other at Koum Kali, on the Asiatic side.

At the time when Lieutenant-colonel Holloway and Major Hope were engaged in the survey of the castles and coast, a practice was made by the Turks from the great guns at Chennecally for the purpose of convincing the English officers that their large marble and granite balls, discharged *à ricochet*,* would reach quite across the Dardanelles. They indeed furnished a melancholy proof of this; a family of three individuals, sitting in a field on the opposite side, having been killed by one of the shots.

On the 9th, in the morning, the officers and men belonging to the British military mission assembled on the esplanade, to receive the

* In firing *à ricochet*, the piece is no more than half charged, inasmuch that it carries the ball to a certain distance only. In its fall, the latter skips, rolls, and makes rebounds (*ricochets*), as is the case with pebbles thrown in a horizontal direction on the surface of the water, in skimming which they produce what by boys are called *ducks and drakes*. This practice is employed to sweep and clear a covered way, a rampart, &c. and its invention is ascribed to the celebrated Vauban.

Capitan Pacha, who came thither in state to inspect the nature and situation of the proposed additional works, which had been traced out for that purpose. He was saluted by the men of war and castles, his Kia Bey, with a numerous retinue, attending on the beach.

The inspection having been gone through, and the necessary explanations made to him, the Pacha paid many compliments to the general and officers, and expressed his full and entire approbation of all that was proposed to be done. The works were accordingly commenced without loss of time.

On the 11th, much rain, accompanied with thunder and lightning, having fallen the preceding evening, and the storm having continued during the whole of the night, we experienced a very great and sudden change of weather. The wind had shifted to the north-east; and as we were without fires, we found the cold, which had come upon us thus unexpectedly, very unpleasant. In riding out this day, I examined the spot on which the ancient Abydos is said to have been situated, and found upon it scattered fragments of old bricks, stones, &c. which furnish an evident proof that it was the site of some ancient town. Near to this spot a late Capitan Pacha erected a kiosque ornamented by a fine fountain, and also a mosque. The kiosque being situated at the head of a bay, which, during the winter months, serves for the anchorage of the Turkish ships of war, is a favourite residence of the present Capitan Pacha.

On the morning of the 12th I rode to a Turkish village, distant from Chennecally about three miles. It was of the same description with the villages I have already noticed. The late heavy falls of rain had set the country people to work: while some of them were busied

in pruning their vines, others were employed in the fields in ploughing and in sowing their barley.

On the 15th the Capitan Pacha, who had moved his fleet to the bay of Nagara, near Abydos, promoted one of his captains to the rank of rear-admiral. We were given to understand that this promotion took place in consequence of a Turkish admiral having been decapitated for neglect of duty, in suffering Bonaparte to make his escape by sea from Egypt. The newly created admiral was saluted on the occasion by the ships of the Turkish squadron.

On the 18th I received a visit from Dr. Rhazi, physician to the Capitan Pacha, with whom I had made an acquaintance the preceding evening at the house of the Russian consul. On the following day, after having accompanied him to the general's house, we visited together two of the Turkish captains who were indisposed. A confirmation of the news of Bonaparte's escape from Egypt reached Chennecally this day.

On the 21st I walked to the site of the ancient Abydos, which I had more leisure to inspect than on my first visit. In addition to the abundance of fragments of bricks, and heaps of stones and rubbish, which were scattered over the entire surface of the ground, I noticed a small portion of a wall of a tower of considerable thickness, the only vestige of a ruin still standing.

For several preceding days the weather had been cold, rainy, and tempestuous, the thermometer ranging from 42 to 45 degrees. It cleared up on the 25th, when I had a pleasant morning's ride to the spot where the ancient Dardania stood. On the ground I found fragments of bricks profusely scattered. These, together with the stones

and rubbish with which they were blended, were irrefragable proofs of the remote existence of buildings on the spot, near to which I observed the vestiges of an ancient fort.

On the 26th I made an excursion to the mountains, whence I had the satisfaction of surveying one of the most beautiful prospects imagination can paint. In my rear was Mount Ida; and in front the Dardanelles, together with Imbros, Samothrace, and the Saronic gulf. Tenedos, Lemnos, and the Ægean Sea, were to the left; and to the right Gallipoli, Marmora, and other distant objects. The sun shining very bright, the tops of Mount Ida, and of the Samothracian hills, glittered with accumulated masses of snow.

The Capitan Pacha having this day given an order that several un-serviceable guns should be broken in pieces, the Topgis Bashi, or commandant of Turkish artillery, took the following method to carry it into execution. A large pile of wood having been laid on the guns, was set fire to in the evening, and kept burning until early the next morning, when an account was brought that a Turkish gunner had been killed, and the Capitan Pacha's chief gunner wounded, by the bursting of one of the guns in the fire. In accounting for this accident, various opinions were entertained. It was ascribed by some to the circumstance of a quantity of cold water having been thrown on the heated metal by the Turks employed in the operation; but it appeared to us still more probable that, having neglected to withdraw the charge, an explosion took place on the gun being heated. Several of the fragments were thrown to a considerable distance. The poor Topgis Bashi was so much alarmed by the disastrous event which had occurred, that he immediately betook himself to flight, as did

also his brother, from an apprehension of the consequences of the Capitan Pacha's displeasure.

On the 30th the Phaeton frigate arrived from Constantinople with letters which occasioned the removal of the mission to that place, as a step preparatory to its being employed on some important service. Orders were in consequence issued by the general that the officers and detachment should hold themselves in readiness to embark the following morning on board the transport. The wind being northerly, however, there was a prospect of our being detained at Chennecally for some days.

On the 1st of December I embarked on board the transport with my baggage; and on the following day the officers and detachment embarked. The general was to proceed to Constantinople in a Turkish boat. In the morning I went over to Mito, on the European side, and purchased a cask of wine at six paras the oke, somewhat less than three pence English per bottle. In the afternoon we sailed for Constantinople, with a fair and steady breeze, and passed Gallipoli late in the evening. On the 3d we entered the Sea of Marmora with a fresh gale; and on the 4th at noon, the transport anchored in Constantinople harbour. On our landing we found that the general was not yet arrived, which happened two or three days afterwards. The officers paid a visit to Lord Elgin, by whom we were invited to dine on the following day.

CHAPTER VI.

RECEPTION AT CONSTANTINOPLE—CASTLE OF THE SEVEN TOWERS—PALACE OF BELISARIUS—APPREHENSION OF THE PLAGUE—EXECUTION OF SEVERAL TURKS FOR ROBBERIES—THE HANS, OR RESIDENCE OF THE TURKISH MERCHANTS—SUDDEN CHANGES OF WEATHER AT CONSTANTINOPLE—FALL OF SNOW—PANORAMA OF CONSTANTINOPLE—FATAL EFFECTS FROM BURNING CHARCOAL—SEVEN LADIES OF THE GRAND VIZIER SUFFOCATED—USE OF THE BATH IN TURKEY—TRAVELLING IN TURKEY—SINGULAR RELIGIOUS CEREMONY—DIFFERENT SECTS OF DERVISES—INTERCEPTED DISPATCHES FROM THE FRENCH ARMY—THE RAMAZAN—SPLENDID ILLUMINATIONS—GREEK MARRIAGE—CEREMONIES ON BOARD A RUSSIAN SHIP OF WAR—FEAST OF BIRAM—THE CHIEF OF THE WHITE EUNUCHS—SHOCK OF AN EARTHQUAKE—VIOLENT CHANGES IN THE TEMPERATURE—SINGULAR PUNISHMENT INFLICTED ON A TURK FOR ASSAULTING AN ENGLISHMAN—FORMIDABLE HORDES OF BANDITTI IN THE VICINITY OF THE METROPOLIS—SINGULAR MODE OF COMMUNICATING THE PLAGUE TO A FRENCH OFFICER—LAUNCH OF A TURKISH SEVENTY-FOUR—LEANDER'S TOWER—TOWN OF SCUTARI—CELEBRATION OF EASTER AMONG THE GREEKS—DARING ROBBERY IN THE OPEN STREET—SEVERE EXECUTION OF JANISSARIES AND SEAMEN—CAPITAN PACHA SAILS FROM CONSTANTINOPLE—BEAUTIFUL APPEARANCE OF THE ASIATIC SHORE—FEAST OF THE BIRAM COURBAN—PRAYERS ON BOARD THE TURKISH ADMIRAL'S SHIP—DESCRIPTION OF THE MOSQUES AT CONSTANTINOPLE—EXECUTION OF THE PACHA OF NICOMEDIA—FÊTE GIVEN BY LORD ELGIN ON HIS MAJESTY'S BIRTH-DAY—PREPARATIONS FOR THE DEPARTURE OF THE MISSION TO JOIN THE GRAND VIZIER'S ARMY—ANECDOTE OF THE GRAND VIZIER.

ON the 7th of December I went over to Scutari, where I was present at the burial of two persons who were said to have fallen victims to the plague. To denote the cause of their death, the bodies were covered by a red cloth.

On the 12th a grand diplomatic dinner, at which sixty-two persons were present, was given by Lord Elgin. All the officers belonging to the mission partook of this splendid fête. In the morning I inoculated Master Sydney Smith, who had been under preparation for some days.

On the morning of the 14th I made a tour through the city of Constantinople, in company with Mr. Thornton, the English merchant, who, upon a variety of occasions, had manifested much friendly attention to his countrymen. The weather was remarkably fine, but at the same time cold, it having frozen during the night. We took boat at Galata, and landed within a small distance of the ancient castle denominated by Europeans the Seven Towers, and by the Turks *Yeddikuli*. Four only of the towers, erected in the ancient wall, are left standing, the others having been thrown down by the great earthquake of 1768.* From this place we prosecuted our walk without the walls of the city, and visited a Greek church, and also a Turkish cemetery, whence we had a fine view of the castle of the seven towers, and of the sea. In the course of our perambulation we saw the ruins of the palace of Belisarius, below which we at length took boat, and arrived at Galata in the afternoon.†

On the 15th I dined with the Danish charge d'affaires, Baron Hubsch, and in the evening paid a visit to the internuncio, who had a public night. Much rain having fallen for several days successively, and the temperature of the air being precisely such as to favour the

* Within these towers state and other prisoners are confined. The resident French minister, charge d'affaires, at Constantinople, with several other persons of the same nation, were sent hither when the war broke out between France and Turkey, and these people were liberated from their confinement when the late peace was signed.

† I am inclined to believe that the circumference of the city of Constantinople does not exceed fourteen or sixteen miles, independently of the suburbs, which appear nearly as large as the city itself.

production of the plague, I felt much uneasiness lest that terrible scourge should become prevalent in Constantinople before our departure. My apprehensions were increased on the 17th, by an incident which happened to myself. I had sent my boots to be repaired to a shoemaker, at whose house I afterwards found the plague had broken out. In consequence of this event my boots were detained; and I learned on inquiry that the infected person had been conveyed to the pest-house.

Several Turks who had recently committed robberies were apprehended on the 18th, and executed in a summary way. They were hung to door-posts, on which the bodies were to remain suspended during three days as a public example.

On the 19th I rode through Constantinople to the Adrianople gate. I dined afterwards at the German palace, and went thence to the English palace, where Lord Elgin had a public night.

On the 21st, in an excursion through Constantinople, I inspected the hans, or, as their name implies, public buildings, set aside for the Turkish merchants, who have small apartments for their residence, and for the lodging and sale of their goods. At the bottom is a large open square, and above a colonnade or gallery, which invests the whole of the building. This gallery conducts to the apartments of the merchants, which are neat and commodious. In Constantinople the hans differ essentially from those which are met with in travelling through the different parts of Turkey, the latter being in every respect inferior. Those of the capital are in general spacious structures, which the munificence of the sultans and Turkish grandees have supplied, for the advantage of commerce, and for public benefit. Being constructed of stone, they are proof against fire; and in several of them there are

three stages of apartments, in which the merchants who resort to the capital from every part of the Turkish empire, are, as well as the commodities they have brought thither by the caravans, conveniently accommodated.

On the 25th, being Christmas day, all the officers belonging to the mission dined with the general. The following day was warm, and remarkably fine, similar to the weather in England in the months of May and June; but on the 27th, the chilling rains again set in. These sudden transitions are very frequent in Turkey, and certainly have a strong tendency to the production of disease. The rains continued to fall at intervals for several succeeding days, and the air became cold and raw, the thermometer having fallen from 54 to 40 degrees, at which it stood on the 31st. It was most probably owing to this very unsettled state of the atmosphere that, on the day of the new year, I was seized with rigors, accompanied by symptoms of fever, which confined me for some time to my bed. In the interim, as the cold became more intense, the weather became more settled: during three days there was a constant fall of snow, and the thermometer stood at 16.

On the 4th of January, 1800, the *Young James*, an English merchantman, arrived in the harbour of Constantinople: she had on board Mr. Barker, junior, the draughtsman, the object of whose voyage was to make drawings of the most interesting and striking views of Constantinople for his panorama. I must add, in justice to Mr. Barker, that he has been extremely successful in his two views of that place, than which nothing can be more correct.

Nothing material occurred until the 8th, when, finding myself tolerably recovered from my late indisposition, I dined with Lord

Elgin, and returned to Galata in the evening, in the midst of a heavy fall of rain. Owing to the unusual severity of the weather, and the want of fire-places, the practice of burning charcoal in the apartments to heat them had become very frequent both among the inhabitants and strangers, and was indeed in a manner indispensable. For this purpose the charcoal was put into earthen pans, called monguls, from whence it exhaled its mephitic vapours, and must have been productive of much mischief in close and confined apartments, if we could judge from the effects it produced on us, who took every precaution to renew the air. The most sensible of these effects were headach, vertigo, nausea, and a violent throbbing pain in the temples. We found that fatal consequences had already resulted from this practice in the course of the present season, several persons, in whose rooms charcoal had been burned during the night, having been found dead the next morning. Among these we were told of seven ladies belonging to the Grand Vizier, who had been found dead in their apartments a few mornings before, and whose death was to be ascribed to no other cause. Added to its usual noxious qualities, the charcoal made in Turkey is extremely bad, and by no means sufficiently charred.

The natural small-pox had lately been very prevalent in Constantinople, and was extremely fatal in its effects. The great mortality it occasioned was in some measure to be ascribed to the mode of treatment, and the methods employed. The heat of the apartments in which the sick were confined, and in which charcoal and other inflammatory substances were burned, was equal to that of a hot-house; and being extremely oppressive to persons in health, could not fail to have a sinister tendency in cases of eruptive fever, which

required indeed a treatment altogether different from that which was pursued.*

It was reported, on the 10th, that several persons had died of the plague in the quarter in which we resided. The weather was still cold, rainy, and unpleasant.

On the 13th, in the evening, a party was made to the bath. From the following account of the processes and operations to which we were subjected, it will be seen that the employment of the baths in Turkey differs very essentially from our ideas of bathing. It is a luxury which contributes at once to the health and enjoyment of the natives of the east, who may, perhaps, the women especially, be accused in some instances of employing it to excess, so as to induce a general debility of the system.

We undressed in an outer apartment, or vestibule, of a square form, and very spacious and lofty, in the centre of which was a fountain, round which wooden platforms were raised, and on these mattresses and pillows laid for the convenience of the persons coming out of the bath. In this outer apartment the thermometer stood at 50; and my pulse beat sixty strokes in a minute. I had at the time a slight headach. Instantly on my entering the inner apartment, my body was covered by a suffusion of moisture. In the centre was a large

* The Earl of Elgin having happily introduced into practice the inoculation of cow-pox at Constantinople, the mortality from variolous disease will in future, I trust, be considerably lessened.

His Lordship began with the inoculation of his own child: the disease, on its production, was so extremely mild, that several Christian families speedily followed his Lordship's laudable example. This success induced the Turks to lessen their prejudices; and several instances occurred, before I quitted Turkey, in which they had submitted to the vaccine inoculation upon their children with the usual happy consequences.

marble slab, raised about a foot from the ground, on which a coloured napkin was spread, and another rolled up in the form of a pillow. My companions and myself being now equipped, each of us with a napkin round his middle, were laid down, and our joints kneaded and pressed by the attendants, one of whom directed his attention to each of the party. During this operation we perspired very copiously, at the same time that the heat was by no means disagreeable. We remained in this apartment twenty minutes, the thermometer standing at 117, and my pulse having risen to 120. My headach was entirely subdued. We had now a second process to undergo, and were for that purpose conducted into another apartment, likewise heated by concealed stoves, the stone pavement of which was so hot as to be very unpleasant to the feet, which were, however, in some measure defended by a kind of wooden pattens with which we were provided. We were there rubbed over with a glove, or strigil, made of cloth manufactured from camels' hair, the friction from which was far from disagreeable. In the course of this operation, large portions of the cuticle fell off. We were now carefully washed with warm water, and the ablutions and frictions continued alternately for the space of several minutes. The third and last process consisted in our being well lathered with soap from head to foot by the means of a linen mop. The suds having been washed off, we were nicely enfolded with clean linen, and conducted to the outer apartment, where we had undressed ourselves. Previously to our quitting the heated room, I examined the thermometer, which stood at 104. The heat of the water employed in the ablutions was 114 degrees, and my pulse rose to 128, being at

the same time full and firm. We now lay down on the raised platforms I have before described, and on which clean linen was spread for us. We were next presented with coffee and pipes of tobacco; and, finally, our bodies were kneaded and pressed, with a view to the absorption of the perspirable matter, which continued to flow from us very copiously for a considerable time after we had quitted the bath. It was no longer sensible at the expiration of two hours, when we began to dress: I experienced, however, at that time so great a degree of thirst, that I was obliged to have recourse to a draught of water. My pulse, which was still firm and full, subsided to 80; and my headach returned, with a throbbing pain of the temples. In returning home, we took the precaution to be well covered. We paid two piastres and a half each at the bath.

In Constantinople the number of public baths is very considerable. Several of them, for the accommodation of the indigent, have been successively founded by the munificence of the Sultans. The private baths are equally numerous, there being scarcely a house of any respectability unprovided with one of them, in which every convenience is to be found. This will not appear extraordinary when it is considered that the practice of bathing, independently of its being a luxury so well adapted to the climate of Turkey, is, among the Mahometan institutions, the one to which, from motives of cleanliness, the most strict observance is paid.

On the 15th I went on board the *Young James*, the English merchantman lately arrived, to visit a seaman who was dangerously ill. On the 17th I went from Galata to Constantinople, where I saw the Grand Seignor and retinue go in procession to the mosque. Prepa-

rations were making by the general and several of the officers to proceed to Syria by land; and in the interim the transport was ordered to be got ready for the conveyance of the remainder of the officers and the detachment, by sea. It was evident that the overland party would have to encounter a very harassing journey, and many difficulties. Instead of the inns which elsewhere furnish solace and refreshment to the wearied traveller, it is true that hans or kanns are to be found in every town, and in the greater part of the villages, for the accommodation of both man and horse. As, however, no dependance can be placed on finding refreshments in them, the traveller is under the necessity of providing himself with whatever may be requisite to his support. These kanns are spacious buildings, having on each side a raised floor, on which the travellers spread their mats, or carpets, to repose themselves, while the centre is occupied by the horses. They are constantly open to receive those who are in need of an asylum for rest. In travelling, the Turks are in general furnished according to their rank and consequence, and to the service they have to perform. They are usually accompanied by a Mikmendar, a Chiaous, a Cavalhe, or a Tartar, whose duty it is to procure provisions, and provide every thing requisite to the accomplishment of the journey. Such, however, is the rapacity of these attendants, that, often not content with having every necessary supplied by the needy and suffering inhabitants, they demand what in Turkish is called *kere el dars*, which implies something for the use of the teeth.

The 18th being her Majesty's birth-day, I was present at a ball

and supper given on the occasion by Lord Elgin. The company was very numerous, and the tables splendid and well served.

On the morning of the 19th, General Kochler, Major Fletcher, Captain Leake, Mr. Pink the draughtsman, and Mr. Carlisle, from the British ambassador's palace, all of them equipped as Tartars, left Constantinople to proceed to Syria by land.

On the 20th I was present at a religious ceremony of the dervises, or Turkish priests. The house in which they assembled was of an octagon form, with two galleries, the upper of which, supported by pillars, was occupied by musicians, who played very soft and solemn music. In the lower gallery were stationed the Turks and others who attended to witness this very singular service. Round the apartment were hung in frames several Arabic sentences, one of which, in particular, was suspended exactly over the head of the superior of the dervises. He was seated; and each of the dervises, on entering, bowed to him, and then took his place in the lower gallery. Between twenty and thirty of these monks being assembled, the superior repeated a prayer, during the continuance of which they kneeled, and bowed their heads to the floor, which they occasionally appeared to kiss. After they had chaunted for some time, with the accompaniment of the music in the gallery, the superior rose, and with a slow and solemn pace walked three times round the apartment, bowing when he passed the Arabic inscription, beneath which he had been seated. The other dervises now rose, and having repeated this ceremony after him, the superior again seated himself.

The strangest part of the service was yet to come. The fanatical



The Superior of the Derviches.

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dervises next threw off their mantles, and suddenly letting drop a kind of cloth, or woollen petticoat, began successively to spin round, each of them taking a station, on which he continued to whirl, as if on an axis, during the space of twenty minutes, without coming in contact with those who were nearest to him. In this exercise, in the course of which they turned round with great celerity, to augment the giddiness which was to produce a holy intoxication, they had at first their arms crossed, with their hands placed on their shoulders. As the velocity of their motion increased, they held them up; and finally extended them in a horizontal position, but still without encountering those who were within their reach. This ceremony, which was thrice performed, was constantly accompanied by the soft music from the gallery; and throughout the whole of it great order and solemnity prevailed. The costume worn by these dervises is of a light quaker colour; and a competent idea of it will be formed from Plate IV. in which one of their superiors is faithfully represented.

There is another sect of dervises very different in their habits from those whose religious ceremonies I have just described, and who are styled Mewliachs. These are the Tafta Tepens, or board-beaters, the regulations of whose order are still more dismal and austere. I had not an opportunity to be present at their *devout* exercises, which, as I was told, require an exertion of the lungs equal to that of the limbs in the circular motions of the preceding sect. As, in performing these motions, the Mewliachs acquire a greater energy in proportion as the giddy intoxication increases, and whirl round with more precipitancy, so the board-beaters, following each other with

great solemnity round their chapel, repeat aloud the word *Allah!* to the beat of a drum, until its strokes are at length quickened to such a degree, as to produce, in many instances, by the streperous exertions with which they are followed, a spitting of blood. The dervises in general are regarded as prophets by the deluded multitude.

The intercepted dispatches from the French army of Egypt, which have been the subject of so many conversations, and have been since given in an English dress, were, on the 22d, brought to Constantinople, having been forwarded to Lord Elgin by Lord Viscount Nelson.

On the 25th, Captain Lacy left Constantinople with important dispatches for the Grand Vizier. Corporal Wilkinon, belonging to the mission, lay at this time dangerously ill of a putrid fever.

On the 28th, the Ramazan, a Turkish fast similar to our lent, commenced. It was to continue during a month, in the course of which a most rigid abstinence was to be observed from sun-rise to sun-set. In the evening I went to Tophana, to witness the illuminations, festivities, and popular amusements, which were to succeed to the penance of the day. The sun was no sooner set than all the mosques of Constantinople, and of the suburbs, were lighted up, both internally and externally, with coloured lamps. The minarets, or towers, were also decorated in the same manner; and the effect of these, and of the other illuminations, was very lively and picturesque. Taken altogether, it was one of the most splendid sights that could be witnessed. I had taken my station very conveniently to enjoy all the brilliancy of the spectacle. In the mean time nothing was neglected which could tend to amuse and gratify the people: the

shops of the pastry-cooks and confectioners, together with the coffee-houses, and other places of public entertainment, were nicely decorated and lighted up; while exhibitions of low humour and buffoonery presented themselves at almost every step to attract the notice of the populace. The streets were every where crowded with groups, whose festivities were to be prolonged until the morning's dawn, when the fasting was to recommence. I did not of course wait until the termination of the scene, but returned home after a most agreeable evening's entertainment.

On the 31st I made an excursion to the towers situated on the banks of the Bosphorus. On the 4th of February I had an interview with his Excellency Hadgi Ibrahim Effendi, from whom I had received an invitation to that effect. On the 7th I went to the tower of Galata, where Mr. Barker was busied in sketching one of the views of Constantinople for the panorama. I was much pleased at the correctness and precision which he displayed in its execution.

On the evening of the 9th, a Greek marriage was solemnized at the palace of the Russian ambassador. It had attracted a very numerous and brilliant company, which I found assembled. The ceremony was performed by the Greek patriarch. The bride and bridegroom were very elegantly dressed, as indeed was the case with the company in general, a great profusion of diamonds being displayed by the females. The bride was decorated by long flowing streamers of gold tinsel, which, extending from the top of the head, trained on the ground. She distributed to her young female friends portions of these streamers, a custom which seems to correspond with ours, of giving white ribbons as wedding favours. The cere-

mony being concluded, the evening was spent in dancing waltzes and Greek and English country dances, after which a splendid supper was given.

On the following evening a ball, at which I was present, was given by the bride's father, M. Pifani, the principal interpreter to the British embassy; and on the 12th I was invited to a ball and supper given at the German palace, to celebrate the birth-day of the Emperor of Germany.

The weather had been for some time cold and raw, with occasional falls of snow; but on the 14th it became more temperate, in consequence of the heavy showers which had fallen during the preceding night. On the 15th, intelligence reached Constantinople that a convention had been agreed to, by which the French troops were to evacuate Egypt. By the same courier we learned that General Koehler had reached Koniah, in Asia Minor, after having experienced many difficulties on his route thither.

The 16th being the birth-day of Mrs. Spencer Smith, the lady of the British secretary of legation, there was a masked ball in the evening at the German palace. Several of the characters were supported with much humour. On the following evening a ball and supper were given by Lord Elgin in compliment to the newly married Greek couple. It was truly the season of festivities at Constantinople, both among the Christians and Mahometans. With respect to the latter, indeed, not a night passes during the continuance of the Ramazan, without its being marked by some particular festival.

On the 18th I went on board a Russian ship of war lying in the harbour, in the vicinity of Tophana, having received an invitation

to a public breakfast given by the captain, on the occasion of the promotion of one of his officers. The reception I met with was extremely polite and attentive; and in the course of the entertainment some singular ceremonies occurred, which it will not be amiss to detail. Previously to the breakfast, tongues and liqueurs were presented to us—a custom which we were given to understand is constantly observed by the Russians. During the breakfast, which was of the most sumptuous kind, several toasts, given by the captain, were drank, and cheered three times. The captain now entertained us with a Russian dance, while a part of the crew, cleanly dressed for the occasion, sung to an accompaniment of Russian music. After a short interval, the captain fell on the deck, apparently from accident, when the singers took him in their arms, and tossed him in the air, repeating certain phrases. Each of the guests afterwards underwent the same ceremony. The next singular occurrence was, that, on the health of the Russian minister at Constantinople being given by the captain, he demanded aloud what others would do for him. Instantly a Russian officer, and nearly twenty of the crew, jumped from the cabin window into the sea, with their clothes on. The stern ladders were the only resource they had to get on board again; and on their entering the cabin with their wet clothes, they danced round the captain, occasionally prostrating themselves at his feet. On our going on shore, the greater part of the barge's crew threw themselves into the water, and swam by her side until we reached the beach. A few piastres distributed among them were, as I apprehend, considered by them a sufficient recompense for the ducking to which they had subjected themselves.

This being the season of the carnival, there were frequent masked balls at the palaces of the different ministers. I was present on the evening of the 19th, at one given by the Prussian envoy, which was very fully attended. On this and other similar occasions many of the characters were well supported; and much mirth and festivity prevailed among the guests. The relaxations of the carnival were rendered the more striking by the tameness and insipidity which, at other times, characterized the entertainments and amusements of the place in which we resided.

On the 20th a fire broke out at Constantinople; but it was very speedily subdued. About this time reports of the prevalence of the plague were again abroad. They were confirmed by the repeated opportunities I had of seeing the corpses of persons whose death was ascribed to that cause, carried for interment, with the customary sign or token of a red cloth thrown over the bier, and enveloping the dead body. At the burial of one of these pestiferous subjects, a few days before, I was not a little surprised at seeing one of the men employed in removing the corpse from the bier to the ground, previously to its being deposited in the grave, take, with all the indifference imaginable, between his teeth, one of the ends of the red cloth in which it was enclosed. He did this to raise up the corpse the more readily, it being none of the lightest. It was, according to the Turkish custom, interred without a coffin, and naked, as is almost invariably the usage. Neither the corpse in question, nor those I had seen buried on former occasions, discovered any particular marks differing from those which manifest themselves in cases of the fatal termination of malignant fever. There was of course no appearance

of pestilential tumours. Three houses at Pera, in which the plague had broken out a few weeks before, still remained shut up.

Precisely at two in the afternoon of the 23d, the *biram* was announced by the firing of guns. This festival, which succeeded the fast of the Ramazan, was to last for three days, during which the Turks were to feast, and to indulge themselves in every possible licence, as a compensation for the severe penance to which they had been obliged to submit during the preceding month. On the following morning, at four o'clock, I went with a party to Constantinople to see the procession of the *biram*. We found the streets through which it was to pass already lighted up, and all the necessary preparations made. Shortly after day-break the ceremony commenced; and between six and seven o'clock the Grand Seignor, richly dressed, and attended by a numerous and splendid retinue, passed by the spot where we had taken our stand. Many new and elegant satin dresses were displayed on this occasion; but as the ceremonial differed but little from the procession of the *biram courbam* I have already described, I shall dismiss the subject by observing, that the Capitan Pacha attended with his *chiaoufes*;* and that the procession went, as in the former case, to the mosque of Sultan Achmet.

* The *chiaoufes* are a description of subordinate officers, or messengers, acting under the Chiaous Bashi, and whose employment resembles in some instances that of our yeomen of the guards, with this striking exception, however, that they hold themselves in constant readiness to be dispatched to every part of the empire on public business, and are entrusted with the firmans, dispatches, &c. They likewise precede the Sultan, and great officers of state, either on foot or on horseback, with silver sticks, from the top of which small balls of the same metal are appended, as a badge of their office.

In all similar processions the Grand Seignor is preceded by the Capi Aga, or Capi Agassi, a Turkish officer of high rank and dignity, and the chief of the white eunuchs. He is governor or grand master of the gates of the Seraglio, attends constantly on the Sultan's person, and introduces ambassadors to their audiences. It is through the medium only of this officer that any person is permitted to enter the apartments of the Grand Seignor; and he constantly accompanies the latter when he visits the apartments of the Sultanas, taking his station withoutside the door. In the portrait of a Capi Aga, Plate V. it will be seen that he is without a beard and without mustaches, the reason of which will be readily understood, when it is remembered that he is the chief of the eunuchs. The capigis, acting under him as porters, or door-keepers, are employed in the execution of a Pacha, or other person of rank, who is to be poisoned, strangled, beheaded, or otherwise taken off, according to the nature of his offence, or the degree of consequence he may have possessed.

During the latter part of the month of February, and the commencement of March, the changes of weather were sudden and extraordinary. At intervals the snow fell in abundance, with a cold and raw air; while at other times there was a considerable degree of heat in the atmosphere, accompanied by heavy showers of rain. These unusual and frequent alterations of the weather were productive of catarrhs, coughs, and sore throats, which became very general in the Turkish capital and suburbs. The 7th of March being a very fine and warm day, I took a morning's walk in the environs of Bishiktash, and saw, for the first time during the season, several very young lambs. Their flesh is not allowed to be eaten in Turkey until



*The Capu Ayal.
The Governor of the Gates of the Seraglio
and Chief of the White Eunuchs.*

the month of April. Among the Mahometans there is an entire prohibition of pork, which is, notwithstanding, allowed to be brought to market, at the commencement of the spring season, for the use of the foreign ministers, and other christian residents. This indulgence afforded us an opportunity of purchasing a joint of pork, which, very unfortunately, we sent to a Turkish baker to be cooked. The discovery which ensued had nearly subjected us to some very unpleasant circumstances; and the poor baker was made to pay a fine of twenty piastras.

On the 10th, a slight shock of an earthquake was felt at Galata.

On the 12th the weather again became unpleasantly cold, with falls of snow: during the night the thermometer was below the freezing point. This intemperature of the air, which could scarcely have been expected in such a climate, now that the spring was fast advancing, continued, with almost unabated severity, till towards the close of the month; not, however, without some of those transitions which I have had such repeated occasions to notice, and which were necessarily productive of many ailments. It appeared that in Asia the weather was much milder, and indeed altogether different from that which we experienced at Constantinople; for on the 23d, I purchased several bunches of violets and narcissus flowers, brought from that quarter. They were at that time sent in great abundance from the interior of the Asiatic territory to the capital; but were nowhere to be seen on the banks of the Bosphorus.

A few days prior to the last date of my narrative, an incident occurred which terminated in a singular way. One of the men belonging to the British mission was, without any provocation on his

sider, assaulted by a Turk, who attempted to stab him with his yatikan. On a report of this outrage being made to the Capitan Pacha, to whose retinue the Turk belonged, he came to a resolution to have him decapitated, as an expiation of his offence. By the mediation and entreaties of Lord Elgin, a mitigation of the punishment ensued: the Turk, after having received fifty strokes of the bastinado on the soles of his feet, was sentenced to twenty years imprisonment in the college of Pera, *to learn the Arabic language.*

Intelligence was received on the 26th, that a formidable band of robbers, in number four or five thousand, had proceeded to the town of Burgas, which, although at a very inconsiderable distance from the capital, they had ravaged with impunity. Similar bands had, during our residence in Turkey, infested the neighbourhood of Adrianople, and furnished a striking proof of the enfeebled state of the Turkish government, which permitted the high roads within a few leagues of the seat of the empire, to be beset to such a degree by these hordes of banditti, that travellers were at every step in imminent danger both of their lives and property. It was however reported, that the Levant Chiflick regiment was under orders to set out without delay for their dispersion.

On the 28th, further accounts relative to the devastations of these banditti were brought to Constantinople. It was reported that they had burned several villages, and murdered such of the inhabitants as had not had time to betake themselves to flight, together with the young children. The inhabitants of the places situated within their reach, were every where betaking themselves to flight; and a letter from Ridosto stated, that that place was crowded with people,

who had come thither for shelter, or to procure boats to facilitate their escape from these ferocious bands. The inhabitants of Ridosto were employed in digging a ditch round the town, and in contriving other means of defence, being in the daily expectation of a visit from them, and of being exposed to the alternative of paying the heavy contributions they exacted wherever they came, or, in case of their incapacity, of having the town burned, and themselves put to the sword. In consequence of the rapid progress of these plunderers, the Turkish government had at length come to a resolution to dispatch, in their pursuit, from eight to ten thousand infantry and cavalry. The precautionary measure had also been taken, both in Constantinople and in Pera, of apprehending all those who were suspected of having maintained a criminal intercourse with them; and such as were found guilty were instantly hung to a door-post, or tree, the bodies remaining suspended for public view during three days. One of these bodies was seen hanging by several officers belonging to the mission, at an extremity of the suburb of Pera, in the vicinity of the plague hospital.

On the evening of the 30th, Major Bromley arrived at Constantinople, with dispatches to Lord Elgin from Sir Sydney Smith. He was also the bearer of letters from General Koehler, and from the officers by whom he was accompanied, dated at Cyprus, where he had left them about a month before. The general had forwarded a letter to the Vizier, and was in daily expectation of an answer. The information received from Mr. Carlisle purported, that he had embarked on board *Le Tigre* to proceed to the station off Alexandria, at which place, I was informed by Major Bromley, the plague raged

with great violence. He related the particulars of the death of a brother of the French general officer, Julien, who received the infection by taking a pinch of snuff from a box, out of which a person who had the plague on him at the time had also taken snuff.

On the 2d of April I accompanied Lord Elgin and his suite to the arsenal, to be present at the launch of a ship of seventy-four guns. We set out on horseback, at seven in the morning, and were shewn into a kiosque, which had been prepared for his Lordship's reception. The launch was announced by the firing of guns, by music, and other public demonstrations of joy; and several sheep were sacrificed on the occasion. A little after eight o'clock the launch took place, and being conducted in a very masterly manner, afforded us much pleasure. The Grand Seignor, surrounded by all the great officers of state, and Turkish grandees, was seated in the balcony of the Capitan Pacha's ship. The great variety of colours which were displayed gave an additional brilliancy to the scene. The Turkish mode of launching differs essentially from ours: in entering the water, the ship carries with it a considerable quantity of timber, which had served it for a cradle while building.

The launch being over, we proceeded to a stone basin, recently constructed by Captain Rowdey, a Swedish engineer, the only one in the ports of the Turkish empire, into which a ship of seventy-four guns was to be received, it being the first time of its being used. The Grand Seignor went thither in his barge, which had twenty-four rowers, and was about eighty feet in length, with a canopy richly and elegantly fitted up. On his passing, a salute was fired from the off side of the men of war. Being landed, he took his

station at the window of a kiosk, fitted up expressly for the occasion, in the vicinity of the basin. The ship was with great address conveyed into the basin; and, on the whole being concluded, both the ship-builders, and those by whom the basin had been constructed, were complimented with pelices of different values, and other presents. Several castans were also distributed.

In the vast concourse of persons assembled to witness the launch, and the operation which followed, there were many Turkish women, who were, however, separated from the men. Notwithstanding every part of the harbour was covered with boats filled with spectators, we did not hear of any accident having occurred; neither did we witness the smallest confusion. Much of the praise was due to the Capitan Pacha, who was extremely active throughout the whole of the business, and who every where enforced obedience, and maintained good order. The ship which was launched had been ready several weeks before; but it had been deemed expedient to delay the launch until a favourable report should be made by the *astrologers* and *dealers in magic*, who at length predicted, that the 2d of April would be a favourable day for that purpose.* She was constructed by Monsieur Le Brun, a French builder.

On the 5th, in a morning's walk in the environs of Bishictash, I went into a house where the kymack was prepared daily, to see the process employed in making it, which is as follows: Large shallow vessels of copper having been filled with new milk from the cow, are placed over a gentle wood fire, and the milk kept simmering for the

* It is scarcely credible that such folly should exist in any part of Europe at the close of the eighteenth century. Can such a people be formidable?

space of twenty-four hours, when the fire is removed, and the milk allowed to cool. On the following day the surface, which has assumed a consistent form, is taken off, cut into small portions, and rolled up for use. This is the kymack, which is so generally employed, and so highly esteemed in Turkey. It is an excellent substitute for butter; and is eaten by some with honey or sugar, by others with salt. The process I have just described has some affinity to that employed in making the clotted cream, which is to be met with in the western counties of England.

On the morning of the 6th, General Koehler and Major Fletcher returned to Constantinople from Cyprus. The weather, which had been cold and ungenial for a considerable time past, and which was still so on the 9th, suddenly became fine and warm, inasmuch that on the following day the transition was so great as to resemble a rapid passage from winter to summer. Such a change was indeed much wanted, great numbers of persons, both in the capital and suburbs, labouring under complaints which evidently resulted from the late uncommon rigour and inclemency of the season.

On the 13th I went in a boat with the Rev. Mr. Hunt, chaplain to the British embassy, to Leander's tower, situated on the Bosphorus, between Scutari and Constantinople. We sought the well, or spring of fresh water, which history reports to have existed there, but could not discover the smallest traces of it. We were led, therefore, to consider this tradition as apocryphal, and to infer, that if fresh water was at any time found there, it was owing to the rains. The persons who resided in the tower were obliged to procure from a distant spot their supply of water, which I tasted. They conducted us to the part

which is occasionally lighted up, to direct, by night, the vessels sailing into the harbour. It was from this tower that Mr. Barker made one of his views for the panorama; and it afforded us a delightful prospect of the city, suburbs, and surrounding country. The Scraglio more particularly was seen with a charming effect from this commanding eminence. After having satisfied our conductors, we went in the boat to Scutari, an ill built town, with narrow, winding streets, or rather lanes, which, as it presented nothing that could gratify the traveller's notice, we soon quitted, and returned to Galata.

I was told, that at Brusfa, in Asia Minor, a town situated at the distance of a day's journey from Constantinople, there are hot baths and mineral springs, which are found extremely useful in the complaints prevailing in Turkey, more especially in the rheumatism; and that many persons, having great confidence in these waters, went thither, during the month of May, from the capital, to spend two or three weeks.

On the 15th accounts were brought to Constantinople that the Levant Chislick regiment, which had been sent against the bands of robbers who infested Romelia, had succeeded in dispersing them; but that the commandant of the regiment, a German, had been wounded.

On the 21st the weather was oppressively warm. I walked to the cemetery withoutside of Pera, and was there witness to a very pleasing and novel scene. It being the Easter of the Greeks, amusements of every description were exhibited; and the colours and varieties of the costumes displayed by the immense crowds of persons collected together, rendered the spectacle highly interesting. There were wrestling matches, stalls filled with sweetmeats and sherbet, and groups of

persons seated on the grass, playing at different games of chance, while others were engaged in dancing in rings, to the music of an instrument not unlike our bagpipe. This scene reminded me of a country wake in England, to which it would have borne a still stronger resemblance, if a considerable number of frying pans had not given it somewhat the odour of our Bartholomew fair. They were employed, not for frying sausages, but liver, lights, &c.

On every such day of festivity, the Greeks, of course, display their best dresses, which, in many instances, are both tasteful and costly. The sobriety of their demeanour cannot be equally commended; since it too frequently happens that, by launching out into every excess, they require the interference of the Turkish guards, stationed purposely to repress the tumult and disorder in which the giddy scene may chance to terminate.

During their lent they subsist on oil and fish, observing a most rigid abstinence. I have been told that this diet is, both among them and the Armenians, productive of herpetic complaints, scrophulous affections, ophthalmies, and several other diseases.

On the 25th I walked out with a party, with the intention of crossing over to Constantinople, to make an excursion round the walls. On our reaching Tophana, we witnessed a most daring robbery (committed in the open street, at eleven in the morning, and in the presence of many persons who were passing at the time) by two galangis (seamen) belonging to the Capitan Pacha's fleet. They attacked an Armenian, from whom they took two sequins, and were proceeding to rifle him still further on our coming up. We were armed; and on our manifesting our displeasure at the conduct of these villains,

they suffered the Armenian to depart, but not until they had forced him to kiss one of them, as a token of acknowledgment for their forbearance. In passing through the same street, for the distance of a quarter of a mile, the people were assembled, and on the look out, but dared not take any steps to apprehend the robbers. This is one of many features which might be recorded of the shameful negligence and inattention of the Turkish government. The galangis in question afterwards robbed two women at Galata; on our reaching which place we were informed by Messrs. Chandler and Whiteman, belonging to the mission, in the qualities of commissary and assistant commissary, that they also had been robbed there, near the tower. The crews of the men of war belonging to the fleet, which was preparing to sail, had for several days kept the inhabitants of Constantinople, Galata, and Pera, in a constant state of alarm, plundering and assassinating with impunity all whom they encountered, and who were incapable of defence. Their excesses are always most to be dreaded when the fleet is on the eve of its departure, at which time the inhabitants constantly take the precaution to shut their shops, to guard as much as possible against their lawless excesses. On the above occasion we relinquished the plan of our excursion to Constantinople, which we now considered as too hazardous.

It was announced on the 26th, that Seid Ali, a Turkish rear-admiral, who had been sentenced to be decapitated, had, through the humane interference of Lord Elgin, the British ambassador, had this capital punishment remitted, on condition of his being banished to the island of Cyprus. A considerable number of Janissaries and Galangis, amounting, it was said, to an hundred and twenty or an hun-

dred and thirty, were executed about this time, in consequence of the atrocities lately committed by them in the capital and suburbs. A timely prevention of the crimes of which they had rendered themselves culpable, would have been better than this tardy punishment.

On the 28th a present was received from the Capitan Pacha, for the widow of the late brave and meritorious officer, Captain Millar, of his Majesty's ship the *Thefeus*, who lost his life on board that ship on the coast of Syria, by the bursting of several shells. This present was given in acknowledgment of the services which that much lamented officer had rendered to the Turkish government.

On the 29th the squadron of the Capitan Pacha, consisting of seven ships of the line, four ships of fifty guns, and seven frigates and smaller vessels, sailed from the harbour of Constantinople for Egypt. On its way it was to touch at Gallipoli, and several other towns in the Turkish provinces, to levy contributions, and take in a supply of biscuit for the voyage.

The weather was at this time become warm, settled, and agreeable. In the course of the morning, a party being made, we took boat, and crossed over to Asia. We landed near the ruins of an ancient imperial palace, over which we walked. On our penetrating into the country, we found the state of vegetation several weeks more advanced than on the European side. The fields were overspread with flowers and odoriferous shrubs in bloom; the wheat was already formed in the ear; and the grass in the meadows nearly fit for mowing. In short, the general appearance of the country, and the smiling and verdant scenes by which we were surrounded, formed altogether a striking contrast to what we had recently contemplated on the other side

of the water. We walked over the plain of the ancient Chalcedon, on the site of which stands a Turkish village, called Cady Kui. There, beneath the shade of the branches of a fine oriental plane tree, we took our coffee on the grass, absorbed in the contemplation of the objects by which we were encompassed. In addition to the fine prospects which the interior of the country afforded, we had a distinct view of the gulf of Nicomedia, and of the Dæmonesi, or Princes' Islands. If we could judge from the numerous groups of men and women scattered over this delightful country, it must have been well peopled. Among them I saw, for the first time, a Turkish woman at her prayers, in the open field. Such an incident, which is very common among the men, very rarely occurs among the females. Towards the afternoon the weather became oppressively hot; and this hastened our return at three o'clock, when we took boat to cross to the European side.

On the 30th letters were received from Captain Lacy, and from Mr. Morier, secretary to Lord Elgin, who had spent some time with the Turkish army, with the details of the defeat of the army of the Grand Vizier, by the French troops commanded by General Kleber.

On the 1st of May, garlands of flowers were hung over the doors of several houses, in the suburb in which I resided, in commemoration of the day. I was told that in several parts of Turkey, more particularly at the Princes' Islands, this festival was celebrated by the Greeks and others by great public rejoicings.

On the following day, in walking through the streets in the vicinity of Tophana, I saw a great number of sheep collected in pens for sale, as is the custom in England. This was preparatory to the feast of

the biram courbam, when every Turk of any rank or condition was to sacrifice a sheep, and, having eaten a portion of it, to distribute the remainder to the poor.

On the 4th the festival of the biram courbam, which has been already described, commenced. As soon as the new moon was discovered, by men stationed expressly for that purpose, it was announced to the people by discharges of artillery, musketry, &c. On this day it was lawful for the Turks to begin to eat lamb; and accordingly I saw several flocks of young lambs driven into the capital.

On the 5th, advices were brought from Palermo of the capture of the Guillaume Tell, a French line of battle ship, by the squadron commanded by Lord Nelson.

I pass over the occurrences of the succeeding days, as being of but trifling import, and proceed to the 17th, when several of the officers of the mission, in the number of whom I was comprehended, accompanied Lord Elgin, the British ambassador, with his band of music, on board a ship of the line commanded by Ali Bey, a Turkish admiral. During the entertainment, which was conducted in the usual Turkish style, his Lordship's band continued to play until sun-set, when the admiral ordered the whole of his crew to prayers, and invited us to be present at the ceremony. It was conducted with great solemnity and decorum; and the various gestures, attitudes and prostrations observed by the Mahometans at their devotion, were performed with the utmost regularity and precision by every individual belonging to the crew, so as to have a very striking effect.

A firman, or written order from the Sultan, having been procured for that purpose, a party was made on the 18th to visit the interior

of the mosques at Constantinople. The ornaments are extremely simple, consisting principally of large marble tablets, on some of which are inscribed Arabic sentences, and passages from the Koran, while on others the names of the Deity, of Mahomet, and of his principal disciples and successors, are written. The domes are in general, and more particularly that of the mosque of Santa Sophia, wrought in mosaic, which the barbarism of the Turks has, however, in a great measure, defaced: beneath them are suspended great numbers of coloured lamps, interspersed with gilt ornaments. Several leading passages of the Koran, before which the Turks make genuflexions, and pray with great fervency, are hung up near the pulpit, behind which is the sanctuary. Adjoining to the great corridor there is a chapel; and a gallery, appropriated to the women, surrounds the whole of the interior of the building. The nave is supported by columns of porphyry, granite, &c.

The Pacha of Nicomedia, Husein Pacha, on his return to Constantinople from Ridosto, whither he had been sent some time before for the purpose of dispersing the bands of robbers collected in Romelia, was decapitated on the 22d. On this occasion a remarkable instance of Turkish duplicity occurred. His reception by the Kia ma kan, on his reaching the capital, was highly flattering; and he was invited by him to proceed to the Seraglio, and there receive the rewards due to his good and meritorious conduct. On his entering, however, the gate of the Seraglio, after the Kia ma kan had saluted him, and wished him a good morning, he was seized by the guards, and instantly decapitated. It was reported, that he had been guilty of several gross acts of misconduct; and it was urged, among other accusations, that

he had not opposed so effectual a resistance to the banditti as he might have done; and that he had levied heavy contributions on the inhabitants of Ridosto, and of the other towns of Romelia.

On the 26th General Kochler, and all the officers belonging to the mission, went in procession through the streets of Constantinople to the Porte. Several horses richly caparisoned, under the charge of one of the Grand Seignor's equerries, and led by as many sais, or Turkish grooms, were, together with a party of janissaries, and other troops, in waiting at the landing place to conduct them to the Porte, on their reaching which, they were presented to the R^{ois} Effendi, Kia ma kan, and Kiabey, each in his particular apartment. After the usual compliments had been paid them, the General and Lieutenant-colonel Holloway were invested with pelices, and the other officers with beniches, or robes of honour. Embroidered handkerchiefs, and other presents, were also distributed. Having taken leave, they returned in procession, observing the same order as in setting out. This visit of ceremony had been appointed by the Porte, previously to the departure of the mission for Syria, to join the army of the Grand Vizier, for which purpose the detachment was under orders to embark on board the transport.

On the 4th of June a superb fête, in honour of his Majesty's birthday, was given by Lord Elgin. On this occasion all the members of the diplomatic body, with their families, were invited, and a very select and fashionable party formed. In the front of his Lordship's palace at Belgrade, a booth was fitted up, and the royal standard displayed. The awning and avenues leading to the palace were fancifully decorated with branches of oak, and festoons of flowers; and in

the centre of the table, within the tent or booth, a bank of flowers was disposed, the top of the tent itself being ornamented with festoons of rose branches. Precisely at three o'clock the dinner, which consisted of every delicacy the season could supply, and the place afford, and to which more than an hundred persons sat down, was served. Before the dessert was placed on the table, the King's health was given; and on this signal, his Lordship's band played God save the King, the company joining in the chorus. This was followed by three cheers, all the guests standing up; and next succeeded a salute of twenty-one maroons. After dinner the company withdrew to the palace, where several select pieces of music were played by the band; and in the evening the country dances commenced beneath the tent. At eleven o'clock a cold collation was served; and the entertainment was concluded by country dances, which were continued within the palace until two in the morning, when the company broke up, highly gratified by the amusements of the day, which were rendered still more pleasing by the fineness and serenity of the weather. The effect of the dances beneath the tent was singularly picturesque.

Our departure for Syria having been seriously decided on by the Turkish government, the men belonging to the mission were about this time embarked on board the transport. The wind, however, continuing contrary for some time, the officers did not embark until the 13th. On our quitting Belgrade for that purpose, we were accompanied to the transport by Lord and Lady Elgin, who took their leave of us in a most cordial and friendly manner. All our arrangements having been made, we waited for a favourable breeze only to

ſucceed the calm which prevailed, and to convey us ſafely out of the harbour.

Before I take my leave, for the preſent, of the capital of Turkey, I muſt intrude upon the reader's patience to introduce an anecdote tending to ſhew that the Turkiſh empire has produced men not deficient in judgment and acute penetration, who, with minds better cultivated, would be the boaſt and ornament of any nation whatever. A caſe of uſury was brought before the Grand Vizier. A Turk had lent to another a ſum of money equal to a thouſand pounds ſterling, at an intereſt which was immoderate even in this country, where the legal intereſt, in ſome inſtances, amounts to twenty per cent. The borrower kept this money in uſe during ten years, when he refunded it to the lender, but refuſed to pay the intereſt, on the ground of its illegality. The Grand Vizier acknowledged the juſtice of his plea; but with great ready wit, and a nice diſcernment of the caſe, ordered him to lend to the Turk, whoſe debtor he had been, without intereſt, an equal ſum for the ſame ſpace of time.

CHAPTER VII.

THE MISSION SET SAIL FROM CONSTANTINOPLE—ANCHOR AT PRINCES ISLANDS—VISIT TO ADAM OGLOU—GREEK ISLANDS—DESCRIPTION OF PATMOS—STANCHO—IMMENSE ORIENTAL PLANE—CYPRUS: DESCRIPTION OF THAT ISLAND—PLAGUE OF LOCUSTS—ARRIVAL AT JAFFA—DESCRIPTION OF THAT PLACE AND ITS VICINITY.

NOTWITHSTANDING the wind which had sprung up was unfavourable, such was the anxiety expressed by the Porte for the departure of the mission, that we were in a manner obliged to get under way on the 15th. We were provided with firmans to the different Pachas and Agas of the islands at which we might have occasion to touch, with instructions to afford us every possible assistance, and to furnish such supplies as might tend to facilitate the object of our voyage.

At half past ten in the morning we weighed anchor, and sailed from the harbour of Constantinople; but, the wind falling off, could not proceed further than Princes' Islands. At three in the afternoon we anchored between Antigone and Kirka, which form a part of the group, and are situated at a small distance (eight or ten miles) from the Seven Towers. In the vicinity of the safe and commodious harbour in which we lay, at the back part of the island of Antigone, we perceived a small village, inhabited entirely by Greeks. This was an in-

ducement to us to go on shore in the evening, when we found the heat extremely oppressive.

On the 16th, the wind having shifted to the northward, we weighed anchor, and sailed with a fresh breeze, which continuing to favour us, we descried Gallipoli, at nine in the morning of the 17th, and by eleven o'clock were past that town. We saw the wreck of a Turkish man of war, which had been cast away some time before, lying in the bay. At half past one we anchored opposite to Mito, and close in with Abydos, in the Dardanelles. We were to remain there two days, to take on board our stock, and other necessaries for the voyage. An English merchantman, the Southwold, on her way to England, anchored near us in the afternoon; at which time the son of the consul of Chennecally came on board, and informed us, that an imperial ship from Alexandria, having the plague on board, was at anchor on the other side of Chennecally. The captain and several of the crew having already fallen victims to that disease, every communication between the vessel and the shore had been cut off.

On the 18th we paid a visit to Adam Oglou, who was then at Chennecally, by whom we were invited to dine on the following day. In the evening a Tartar arrived with dispatches from Lord Elgin to the general.

On the 19th, agreeably to our invitation, we set out on our visit to Adam Oglou, the general and a part of the officers proceeding thither by water, and the others on horses richly caparisoned, which the Bey had sent for our accommodation. We met with a very polite reception; and shortly after our arrival, pipes and coffee were, as usual,

presented to us. The dinner, which was similar to those I have already described, and in the course of which wine was handed to us, was served about noon. It consisted of fifteen dishes, which presented a great variety of Turkish cookery, and the last of which was, according to custom, a morsel of pilaw. Before we sat down to dinner, and after the repast was concluded, soap and water were brought to us, to wash our hands: this is a point of cleanliness which the Turks never neglect.

Pipes and coffee having been again brought in, a party of Turkish wrestlers, about fourteen or sixteen in number, naked, and besmeared with oil, according to the usage of the country, exhibited in front of the Bey's house. Before they commenced, a herald proclaimed the combat, describing the opponents, and expatiating on their skill in wrestling. This amusement, to which the Turks are very much attached, requires in the performance a great share of strength and address. As soon as one of the combatants had thrown his adversary on his back, he received from Adam Oglou a present of ten piastres. We staid with the Bey till near four o'clock, when we took our leave, and proceeded to the beach near Abydos, whence we went on board the transport.

During our stay, Mrs. Koehler was in the Harem. We learned from her that Adam Oglou's wife was very richly dressed, and carried about her a profusion of diamonds. Mrs. Koehler was attended by the wives and female relatives of the consul.

During the night it blew a strong gale from the southward, with thunder, lightning, and heavy showers of rain. At eight o'clock in the morning of the 20th, we got under way, and sailed from the

Dardanelles, saluting the forts as we passed, and receiving from them in return a like number of guns. A fresh breeze springing up from the north-west, we passed the lowest fort, Koum Kali, between nine and ten o'clock; and by half past eleven were opposite the castle situated in the island of Tenedos. At half past six in the evening we passed the island of Mitylene, amidst a smart squall of wind and rain: at that time the islands of Scio and Nicaria were in sight. The effect of the setting sun was extremely fine, the rays, which were of a beautiful rose colour, resembling those we had on a former occasion noticed off Sicily.

During the night we passed the island of Ipsera; and by seven in the morning of the 21st were off the islands of Scio and Nicaria, having Samos in our view. By noon we had passed Nicaria, a wretched island, which affords nothing but wood for charcoal, to its half civilized inhabitants, who reside in caves. At two in the afternoon we passed Samos and the Fournis Islands: the former is in one part extremely lofty, insomuch that it is considered by some to have an elevation almost equal to that of Gibraltar. At the above hour the island of Patmos was in sight, distant from ten to twelve leagues. Being still favoured by a strong breeze from the north-east, we were off the harbour of that island between five and six o'clock in the evening; but, being obliged to make several tacks in going in, did not come to an anchor till an hour after.

Patmos has an excellent harbour; and the town being situated on the loftiest part of the island, makes a pretty appearance in entering. The houses being constructed of a white free-stone, have a peculiarly neat aspect, very different from what we had hitherto seen in this

quarter of the globe. It has been calculated that the town has an elevation of nearly five hundred feet above the level of the sea. In its centre is a large convent dedicated to St. John the evangelist, who was banished to this island. It was here that he wrote the Revelations; and after we had landed, we saw, in walking to the summit of the hill, the grotto in which he is said to have composed them. We next visited the convent, which has a resident bishop, with a considerable number of monks, and in which is a college for the education of the young men of the Greek persuasion. Over the gateway of the entrance are three large bells; and the chapel within has a neat mosaic pavement. In ascending the island the road winds considerably, and presents otherwise great difficulties, inasmuch that it cost us no little labour to reach the summit. In those parts of the island which the inhabitants were able to cultivate, we saw several small fields, or patches of corn, banked up with stones to prevent the soil from being washed away by the rains: it appeared, however, that it was capable of producing but an inconsiderable quantity of grain.

The town, which contains about two hundred houses, all of them provided with balconies, is, as well as the rest of the island, inhabited exclusively by Greeks. The women are to the men in the proportion of five to one. They are pretty; and wear on their heads a high turban of a peculiar form, made of white crape, a narrow slip of which falls down behind, and nearly reaches the ground. The inhabitants procure sheep and cattle from the neighbouring islands, their own being so barren as to make but a scanty return to the labour and industry they bestow upon it. It was very late

before we returned to the transport, extremely wearied with our evening's excursion, and highly pleased, at the same time, at the opportunity which had been afforded us to land on so celebrated a spot.

Early in the morning of the 22d we weighed anchor, and sailed with a steady and favourable wind at north-west, which, at a quarter before three in the afternoon, conveyed us to our anchorage off Stancho, a very beautiful and fertile island, abounding in corn, fruits, and vegetables. Among the fruits which were in season, we saw, on our landing, grapes, figs, lemons and oranges in abundance. We also met with capers, which grew wild, and required no culture. Over the plains numerous flocks and herds were dispersed.

After the usual ceremony of saluting the fort, we waited on the governor, who with great civility sent a person to accompany us to the gardens, in which we had a very agreeable walk, and were conducted thence to the house of the late Capitan Pacha, the great Hassan Pacha. In passing through the town, we saw several fragments of antique statues and columns. The inhabitants consist partly of Turks, and partly of Greeks.

We were highly gratified by the view of a beautiful oriental plane tree of surprising dimensions, situated near the entrance of the fort, and overshadowing a large tract of ground. From the outside of its branches to the opposite side, it measured an hundred and twenty-nine feet; and its trunk was thirty-four feet in circumference. Its enormous branches were supported by large and beautiful columns of marble and granite, about twenty in number, which had been brought purposely thither; and beneath its shade was the tomb of a Turkish saint, together with a fountain, and Turkish coffee-houses.

On the 23d, at four in the morning, we failed from Stancho, with a fresh breeze from the north-west, for Rhodes, which we descried at half past six. At nine we were becalmed; but the wind again springing up at noon, we came to an anchor off that island at six in the evening. Its appearance from the water was very pleasing; but we did not land.

We failed on the following morning at seven o'clock, with the wind at west; and at two in the afternoon saw several brigs ahead of us, steering in the direction of Rhodes. On one of them approaching us, we hoisted our colours, and were answered by the imperial flag.

On the 25th we had light winds from the south-east, the weather being at the same time extremely warm. We expected to make Cyprus in the course of the day, but were disappointed. When the evening came on, we had nearly lost sight of the land, which we afterwards contrived to approach, and passed Cassel de Roso during the night.

On the morning of the 26th the land was out of sight, and we were nearly becalmed; but a gentle north-west breeze springing up at noon, we were shortly after enabled to descrie the land, which was, however, at a great distance from us. In the course of the afternoon we saw several strange sail, one of which, an English snow, bound to Rhodes, hoisted her colours. At five o'clock we perceived the low land of Cyprus.

At eight in the morning of the 27th, we were close in with Cape Bianco, steering with a light breeze for Limesol, in Cyprus: at

noon we came to anchor in seven fathom water off that place, which had a pleasing appearance from the ship. We were informed that the inhabitants of Limesol were free from the plague; but that at Nicosia, situated in another part of the island, it was then making great ravages, in so much that fifty individuals perished daily. It was agreed that we should make a short stay here, to take in ballast, and recruit our stock of provisions.

On the 28th we went on shore early, and paid a morning's visit to the consul of Limesol, Signor Demetrio Nicolo Frankuli, with whom we dined, and afterwards walked in the town. The houses are white, and flat-roofed, being built of clay and straw, intermixed with stones. Within side, the ceilings of the apartments are arched and lofty, to render them as cool as possible. The inhabitants consist chiefly of Turks and Greeks. The appearance of the part of the island in which Limesol is situated, was, at the time we were there, somewhat dreary: this, we were told, had been occasioned by the dreadful havoc made by the locusts some weeks before, at which time, we were assured by the consul, these devouring insects were strewed on the ground, in some places, nearly a foot thick. They had eaten the foliage of the orange and lemon trees, and had destroyed all the herbage in the vicinity of Limesol. In certain years they visit the island at a stated period, to renew their destructive ravages.

The shrub which bears the caper grows wild at Cyprus, and has a very pretty blossom. Among other vegetable productions, we saw medzanes, okers, cucumbers, gourds, and melons, the three latter

extremely large. Provisions, vegetables, fruits, and wine, which are in general sold at a very moderate price in this island, were become dear on account of the havoc which the locusts had made. Cyprus wine of a good quality cost us from four to five piastres the measure, which contains eight okes, or nearly eleven English quarts.

After having paid a visit to the Aga, who made us a present of several sheep, we purchased the different articles of which we had need, and among others a good store of green almonds and apricots, the former of which, as well as mulberries, grow wild in abundance. During our stay at Limesol, we were incommoded by the excessive heat, which was augmented by the reflection of the sun from the white buildings. In returning to the transport in the evening, we met with the captain of a vessel who had left Jaffa, the place of our destination, three days before, and who had seen there, at the time of his departure, Sir Sydney Smith, and the Capitan Pacha. We also fell in with a considerable number of Turks, who had deserted from the army of the Grand Vizier at Jaffa, and were on their way to Constantinople.

We weighed anchor, and bore away on the following morning at half past eleven, with a south-west wind; and on the 30th, at noon, found, by our dead reckoning, that we had run a hundred and three miles since our departure from Limesol, in the space of somewhat more than twenty-four hours. We were then in the latitude of 32 degrees, 56 minutes, and without sight of land. During the night the wind was scanty; and this occasioned us to experience a very unpleasant motion from the rolling of the transport.

On the 1st of July an observation was taken at noon, and we found ourselves in the latitude of 31 degrees, 28 minutes. The seamen at the mast-head fancied they could perceive the land on our starboard bow, in consequence of which we shaped our course to the south-east. In a little time the land was seen distinctly; but our pilot was utterly at a loss to conjecture where we were. It was suspected, however, that we were below Gaza; and that the land descried was Ascalon. We in consequence hauled up to the north-east at six in the evening.

On the morning of the 2d, our pilot was still in the same state of incertitude as to our absolute situation; but on a supposition that we were too far to the southward, our course was somewhat altered. At seven o'clock we saw a strange sail; and at ten descried several others at anchor off Jaffa, which was now distinctly in our view. At a quarter past one, we anchored off that place, in fifteen fathom water; and found lying there twenty vessels of different burdens, chiefly Russian, but none of them English. We saw the Grand Vizier's encampment distributed in the outskirts of the town, which stands on a circular eminence close to the sea shore. The houses are white, and are all of them provided with domes and square-towers. The colours of the different nations were flying over the houses of the consuls. The soil in the vicinity of Jaffa is sandy, and presents a dreary and forlorn aspect. I shall have occasion very shortly to enter into some particular and interesting details relative both to the town and to the surrounding country. We landed in the evening, and proceeded to the house of the British Consul, where

we found Mr. Morier, secretary to Lord Elgin, with whom we took up our immediate abode. We were now debarked on the Syrian coast, to be the spectators of great military events, in which we were ourselves to be engaged; and that in a country on which history, both sacred and profane, has conferred the highest celebrity.

CHAPTER VIII.

JUNCTION WITH THE GRAND VIZIER—ALARMING INFORMATION CONCERNING THE BREAKING OUT OF THE PLAGUE—ENCAMPMENT NEAR JAFFA—DANGERS AND INCONVENIENCIES OF THIS SITUATION—INTELLIGENCE RECEIVED OF THE ASSASSINATION OF GENERAL KLEBER—TURKISH ARTILLERY—AMUSEMENT OF DJERID—ENCAMPMENT OF THE MISSION—TURKISH OFFICERS OF STATE—CHARACTER OF THE GRAND VIZIER ; OF THE REIS EFFENDI—DESCRIPTION OF JAFFA—STORMING OF THAT PLACE BY THE FRENCH—INHUMAN CONDUCT ASCRIBED BY THE TURKS TO BONAPARTE—WARM BATH IN THE CAMP—ERUPTIVE COMPLAINT—ANECDOTE EVINCING THE EXTREME IGNORANCE OF THE TURKS IN MATTERS OF SCIENCE—INSURRECTION AT NABLOUS—UNDISCIPLINED AND DISORDERLY STATE OF THE TURKISH SOLDIERY—SCENE OF THE MASSACRE COMMITTED ON THEIR CAPTIVES BY THE FRENCH—MILITARY EXERCISE OF THE TURKS—PLAGUE BREAKS OUT AMONG THE MAMELUKES—RUSSIAN AGENT AT JAFFA DIES OF THE PLAGUE—REVIEW OF THE TURKISH ARMY—PLAGUE CONTINUES TO RAGE AMONG THE MAMELUKES—DESCRIPTION OF AN ARAB VILLAGE, AND ITS INHABITANTS—FIRST STONE LAID OF THE NEW FORTIFICATION AT JAFFA—DISSECTION OF A CAMELION—MAMELUKE CHIEFS DIE OF THE PLAGUE—INSOLENCE OF THE ARNAUTS, AND WEAKNESS OF THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT—EGYPTIAN JUGGLERS—CAMP INFESTED BY LARGE PACKS OF JACKALS—DEsertION OF ARNAUTS—ACCOUNT OF THE DEHLIS.

EARLY on the following morning, July 3d, the Grand Vizier having sent horses from his camp for our accommodation, we paid a visit to his Highness, and another to the Reis Effendi. From each of them we met with a very polite and friendly reception ; and, the general having been invested with a pelice, orders were imme-

diately given to pitch tents for our officers and men. A Turkish mikmendar, or provider, appointed by his Highness the Grand Vizier, waited on General Koehler to receive his orders and instructions relative to the encampment of the mission, and the provisions which would be requisite for them. A choarbagis, or colonel of Janissaries, and some of his people, were also attached to the mission.

We found the Turkish troops encamped in the most confused and irregular manner, without any order in the positions they occupied, each individual having pitched his tent on the spot which was most agreeable to his inclination. The only regulation that seemed to border somewhat on system was, that each Pacha, or military governor, was surrounded by his own men. The encampment was on a white sandy soil; and I observed a considerable number of tents converted into cook's shops, while others were set aside for the sale of various commodities, particularly coffee and tobacco, of which, among the Turks, there is a great and constant consumption. This traffic in the camps is for the greater part carried on by Janissaries. The troops were spread over a very considerable extent of ground.

On a soil similar to that which I have described, the heat, in the month of July, could not be otherwise than very oppressive in such a climate as that of Syria: we accordingly found, on our landing from the transport, a very sensible alteration in that respect. From the same cause we felt also a painful sensation in the eyes, which will not be deemed extraordinary, when it is considered that, during the summer solstice, the natives themselves are in general subject to violent ophthalmics.

On the morning which followed our debarkation, our feelings

were strongly excited by the information we received that an individual, dwelling under the same roof with ourselves, laboured under the plague, by which he had been attacked about ten days. At so remote a distance from our relatives, from every object of our tenderest solicitude, our sensations, when this intelligence was imparted to us, can be better felt than described. No sooner were we embarked in a service which obliged us to maintain a strict and constant intercourse with the Turks, who, from a variety of concomitant causes, which I shall hereafter have occasion to explain, are incessantly exposed to the ravages of this devastating scourge;—no sooner were we landed in the midst of the Turkish encampment, than we began to breathe the pestilential miasmata which hovered in the atmosphere of our abode. Those only whom their duty has severed from their dearest connections, and who, in distant regions, have had to encounter perils more imminent than those which result from the murderous weapon of the adversary, can duly estimate the sad reckoning of our feelings and sensations.

Signor Boseri, physician to the Grand Vizier, afforded me some consolation at our meeting, by the assurance he gave me that the camp was at that time in a tolerably healthy state, the prevailing diseases being bilious fevers, which did not terminate fatally. He observed, that the plague had recently manifested itself in a few instances only, and those of the mildest nature, which had yielded to the remedies administered.

The situation which had been chosen for the camp manifested an incredible degree of ignorance and imprudence on the part of those who had been entrusted with the marking out of the ground: being

placed to leeward of the town, the sea breeze, which constantly prevailed during the day time, distributed to every part of it the putrid noxious effluvia which the streets of Jaffa produced. The tents were absolutely pitched among the abodes of the dead; and the bodies of those who had been interred were in general so superficially covered over by the earth, that the putrid exhalations which were thus generated were intolerable to the passenger, and must have been as baneful as disgusting to those who were constantly exposed to them. To complete the horrors of this scene of filth and depravity, the carcasses of dead animals, such as camels, horses, and asses, were scattered in great abundance among the tents, to corrupt and moulder away, without giving the smallest concern, or apparently offering any kind of molestation to the Turkish soldiery. It will not be surprising, in the sequel, to find them very sickly, unless we could suppose that their mode of living, and the air which they have been accustomed to inspire, should have rendered their temperament unsusceptible to the operation of such baneful causes.

On the subject of the plague, Sonini is of opinion that it is not endemic in Egypt and Syria; but that, whenever it has raged in the capital of Turkey, it has been brought thither from other parts of the Turkish empire, properly so called, that is, from the neighbouring provinces. Without entering, on this occasion, into a dispute which would require a long series of observations to decide, I shall confine myself to the mention of a fact which strongly militates against this opinion, namely, that since the communication with Egypt has been intercepted, Constantinople has been almost entirely free from the plague.

Mr. Wright, of his Majesty's ship *Le Tigre*, arrived at Jaffa late in the evening from Cairo, to which place he had gone with dispatches, and had passed twelve days on his route. He brought intelligence of the assassination of General Kleber; of Menou, who had turned Mahomedan, and taken the name of Abdallah, having succeeded to the command of the French forces; and of the situation of Mourad Bey, who had rejoined his camp. He represented the new French commander in chief, Menou, as making every preparation to oppose a vigorous resistance; and described the French troops, who were extremely exasperated at the death of General Kleber, as being in excellent health and spirits. They were clothed in red; they did not lie in tents; and were become very hardy, and well inured to the climate. The French had established a corps of troops, mounted on dromedaries, of which they formed a breast-work, when exposed to the enemy's fire. In this case the French soldiers dismounted from them, tied one of the fore legs, and placed themselves under shelter, in the rear of the animals. From eight hundred to a thousand of the French troops were thus mounted, and did great execution when opposed to the Turks.

Mr. Morier sailed on the evening of the 7th, in the *New Adventure* transport, for Cyprus, on his way to Constantinople. The return of the transport, which was to take in wood and water at Larneca, was to be expected in the course of eight or ten days.

On the morning of the 8th, an English gun-boat, commanded by a lieutenant, arrived from Rhodes, and anchored off Jaffa. We were informed by her commander, that the velocity of the current of the Nile (which began to rise about the middle of the last month) into the ocean, was at least equal to four miles an hour.

On the 9th, at five in the morning, we accompanied the general to the ground occupied by the Turkish artillery: we found the Vizier there, attended by his principal officers, and a band of musicians. A good practice was made with the field-pieces and howitzers; and the target was beaten down by a topgis, or Turkish gunner, who received from the Grand Vizier a present of several sequins. On the return of his Highness to his tent, he partook of the amusement of a djerid party, which I have already explained to consist of several combatants, mounted, and armed with long sticks, or wands. These they dart at each other with great dexterity, checking their horses while on full speed, each skilfully avoiding the stroke his adversary aims at him. In this military sport, or exercise, the Grand Vizier displayed great address and good horsemanship; while several Mamelukes and Turks were galloping round the field, and amusing themselves in the same manner.

On this day we were encamped with the Turkish army, all the necessary preparations having been made to that effect. Our tents were very agreeably pitched in the midst of gardens filled with orange, lemon, pomegranate, fig, and mulberry trees: on the whole, indeed, our situation was very eligible, and contiguous to a well of excellent water. We were, however, but indifferently supplied with vegetables, which consisted merely of a few gourds, ockres, and cucumbers; but we had plenty of excellent mutton and poultry. Our provisions were furnished by the Grand Vizier; and, in addition to the mikmendar, or provider, I have already noticed, a bayraktar, or standard-bearer, together with a party of Janissaries, commanded by a colonel, were attached to the mission, and encamped with it.

After having amused himself, as I have described, the Grand Vizier inspected our men, who were drawn up in readiness to receive him, and who went through the manual exercise to his entire satisfaction. From the information I could collect, it appeared, that the Turkish forces in the encampment consisted of about fifteen thousand fighting men. It was expected that the Mamelukes, several hundreds of whom were already attached to the Turkish army, would furnish a very considerable augmentation.

The principal officers of the Porte at the encampment were the Grand Vizier, the Kiabey, or Vizier's lieutenant, who transacts the affairs of the home department, the Tefterdar, or treasurer, and the Reis Effendi, or secretary of state for foreign affairs. A concise account of the Vizier, and of the Reis Effendi, the most distinguished of these personages, will probably not be unacceptable to the reader.

Youzouf Zia Pacha was, at the time of our arrival in Syria, about sixty years of age. He was originally a Georgian slave, and became the Toutoun Bachi, or master of the pipes, of the Pacha of Erzoum. This office, which he held with great fidelity, affords me an opportunity to introduce the portrait, Plate VI., of an Ich Aga, or Toutoun Bachi, in his appropriate costume, and bearing the insignia or implements of his office.

On the death of his master, Youzouf Zia Pacha succeeded to his government, and conducted himself with so much prudence and moderation, as to gain the entire confidence and affection of his subjects. Having in this station acquired great riches, he afterwards obtained the rank of pacha of two tails, and, at the commencement of the war between Turkey and France, was elevated to the dignity



*The Tontoun Bashi of the Grand Vizier.
or, Chief of the Tobacco.*

of Grand Vizier. In the month of April, 1799, he was ordered by the Grand Seignor to take on him the command of the army, which was about to act against the French in Egypt; and was at that time raised to the rank of a pacha of three tails.

In consequence of an accident at a djerid party, Youzouf Zia Pacha has lost an eye. He is affable and courteous; and has, on a variety of occasions, evinced his humanity, never inflicting a punishment unless on the most urgent occasions.

Mahmoud Reif Effendi, the Reis Effendi, was, at the time above mentioned, between forty and fifty years of age. During a residence of four years in England, as secretary to the Turkish ambassador, he acquired a great fund of general information: he speaks the French language very fluently, and is justly considered as a man possessing much ability and information.

An opportunity will occur, more consistently with the order of my narrative, of presenting the reader with a particular account of the Turkish army in camp; I shall, therefore, proceed to a concise description of Jaffa, in the vicinity of which it was stationed. Jaffa is situated on an eminence: nearly in the centre of the town is an old ruinous building, called the citadel, on the top of which is a round casemated tower, provided with one or two wretched pieces of ordnance. This work, which by no means appears calculated to repel the attack of an enemy from without, seems rather intended to overawe the place itself, in the event of intestine commotion.

The city is surrounded by a stone wall, provided, at certain distances, with towers alternately square and round. Notwithstanding this wall cannot boast of any great strength, it sufficed to force

Bonaparte's army to break ground, and to erect batteries against it to the southward. After a breach had been effected, the French troops stormed, and carried the place. It was probably owing to the obstinate defence made by the Turks, that the French commander in chief was induced to give orders for the horrid massacre which succeeded. Four thousand of the wretched inhabitants, who had surrendered, and who had, in vain, implored the mercy of their conquerors, were, together with a part of the late Turkish garrison of El-Arish (amounting, it has been said, to five or six hundred) dragged out in cold blood, *four days after the French had obtained possession of Jaffa*, to the sand hills, about a league distant, in the way to Gaza, and there most inhumanly put to death. I have seen the skeletons of these unfortunate victims, which lie scattered over the hills, a modern Golgotha, which remains a lasting disgrace to a nation calling itself civilized. It would give pleasure to the author of this work, as well as to every liberal mind, to hear these facts contradicted on substantial evidence. Indeed, I am sorry to add, that the charge of cruelty against the French general does not rest here. It having been reported that, previously to the retreat of the French army from Syria, their commander in chief had ordered all the French sick at Jaffa to be poisoned, I was led to make the enquiry to which every one who should have visited the spot would naturally have been directed, respecting an act of such singular, and, it should seem, wanton inhumanity. It concerns me to have to state, not only that such a circumstance was positively asserted to have happened; but that, while in Egypt, an individual was pointed out to us, as having been the executioner of these diabolical commands.

After the French had retreated from Syria, the Turks filled up the breach which had been made, and repaired the wall and other damages.

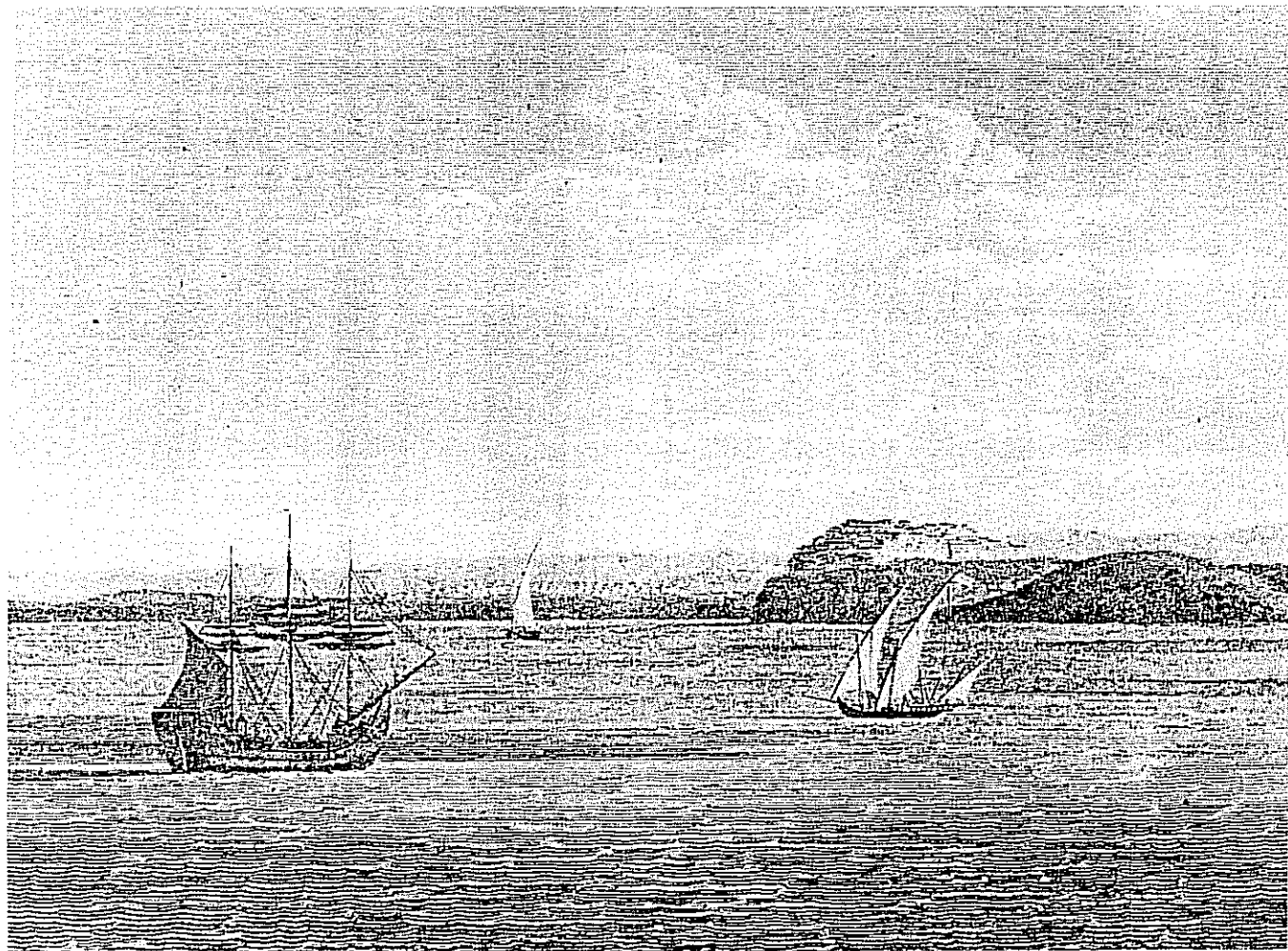
Owing to its rocky and shelving coast, Jaffa is pretty secure from an attack by sea, which would be rendered extremely hazardous by the violence of the surf, and the heavy swell from the westward. The anchorage off the port is very bad, owing to the extreme unevenness of the ground, which abounds in rocks and shoals for a considerable extent of coast.

There are at Jaffa two convents, or monasteries, one belonging to the Greek, the other to the Latin church. In these religious establishments the pilgrims reside, on their way to Jerusalem, which is distant about twelve leagues, or hours, journey; but are obliged to pay for the hospitality with which they are welcomed. As well as Jerusalem, Jaffa makes a part of Palestine, or the Holy Land, and is the Joppa of the sacred writings. The inhabitants, before the place fell into the hands of the French, consisted almost exclusively of Arabs: they are now a mixture of Arabs and Turks; but the former are still the most numerous. On the successful progress of the French in Syria, the principal and more wealthy of the inhabitants fled to Jerusalem, with their effects and merchandize, in consequence of which trade was altogether at a stand during our stay there. In times, however, of greater tranquillity, its commerce cannot be otherwise than flourishing, since, independently of the advantages of a sea-port, it maintains an intercourse by land with Damascus, Jerusalem, and several other places of no little importance in its vicinity. Its present population may be estimated at from one thousand to fifteen hundred souls. The streets are very narrow, uneven, and dirty, and are rather

entitled to the appellation of alleys, than of streets. The houses are constructed of a white, friable, calcareous stone, and terraced; but, on the score of filth, as well as of want of space, many of them are little better than pig sties. It is not unusual, indeed, to see the inmates and the cattle herd together in these dwellings.

On the French entering Jaffa, in the possession of which they remained during forty days, it underwent a complete pillage, inasmuch that the women and female children lost the few ornaments they carried about them, and with which they decorated the head, neck, and ears. These ornaments were of various descriptions of coins, such as paras, sequins, piastras, &c. The gardens of Jaffa have been long celebrated; but since the visit the French paid to that place, and the subsequent cantonment of the Turkish army in its vicinity, they have ceased, in a great measure, to possess the beauties which rendered them thus worthy of notice.

While I am engaged in this description of the place, I am induced to anticipate the order of the narrative by an observation, that Jaffa, being the principal *depôt* for the Grand Vizier's army, and the only port on the coast of Syria adapted to the important military service in which he was engaged, his Highness was, from these considerations, anxious to give it every possible security. For this purpose plans were delivered to him by General Koehler, and directions given to Lieutenant-colonel Holloway, to carry them into execution. They were accordingly in a great measure completed, when General Moore came to our encampment from the British army, under the command of Sir Ralph Abercrombie, with the glad tidings of its arrival at Marmarice Bay.



Engraved from an original sketch taken on the spot by Mr. Pittman.

Taffa, with the Encampment.

A faithful view of the town of Jaffa will be found in Plate VII.

On the 11th, in the morning, I set out at sun-rise, in company with Signor Bosari, physician to the Grand Vizier, to ride through the Turkish encampment: after visiting every part of which, we alighted at the tent of Mohammed Cashef, a Mameluke chief. We were there entertained with fruits, cheese, pipes, coffee, and other refreshments. In the evening we went to a bath within the camp, being the one which was frequented by the Grand Vizier. On our entering, the thermometer was at 86 in the shade. We remained in the apartment of the warm bath half an hour, and went through the usual discipline of scrubbing and washing. The heat was very agreeable, the thermometer not rising higher than 104: my pulse beat 80 strokes in a minute, and the perspiration was by no means so profuse as on the former occasion, in the baths of Constantinople. On our return to the outer apartment, which consisted of a tent fitted up with bedding and other conveniencies, we reposed ourselves for half an hour, during which time we were furnished with pipes and coffee. We departed, highly refreshed by our bath, for which we paid each two piastres and a half. It would appear by this recital, that the Turks, even when in camp, do not neglect to provide themselves with the luxuries which their domestic habits have in a manner rendered indispensable. In a situation like the above, the fitting up of a warm bath, with all the requisites and conveniencies which the Turks require, must have been an undertaking of no easy accomplishment.

About this time several of our people were affected with an inflammatory cutaneous eruption, which spread itself over the surface of the body and limbs, and produced a very unpleasant sensation of smarting

and itching. It proved to be the prickly heat, by which strangers are usually attacked on their coming into a warm climate; and may, perhaps, be ascribed to the check given to the perspiration, which is very profuse during the intense heat of the day, by the cool air of the mornings and evenings. Volney makes mention of an eruption peculiar to Egypt, in the months of June and July, which seems to correspond with the above-mentioned complaint, and which he ascribes to a separation of vicious humours.

On the 13th I paid a visit to Osman Bey, one of the Mameluke chiefs, who was indisposed; and also, at his request, to one of the caches. I took the precaution to be accompanied by an interpreter. Osman Bey, who was advanced in years, his age bordering on sixty-five, appeared not to be ill informed, and was very inquisitive relative to the manufactures and commerce of Great Britain. We had much conversation together on a variety of topics.

During the day time the wind blew from the south-west, from sunrise to sun-set, when the land breeze came on, and prevailed during the night, throughout the whole extent of coast. This local wind extends two or three leagues only at sea, on this account, that the air, rarefied by the heat of the day, and afterwards condensed by the cold of the night, rushes alternately from the land to the sea, and from the sea to the land.

This evening Captain Lacy arrived at the encampment from Constantinople, having executed the orders entrusted to him by Lord Elgin, in carrying dispatches to the Vizier, &c.

For a considerable time there was an utter stagnation of events in the Turkish camp; but on the 26th it was very currently reported

that the French had reached Catich in great force. In consequence of these rumours, the erection of several new works having been suggested to the Grand Vizier, they were immediately commenced, under the direction of Lieutenant-colonel Holloway. In the concise description I have given of Jaffa, I have already observed that, as it was deemed the most convenient sea-port on the coast of Syria for the operations of the Ottoman forces, the intention was to convert it into a general *depôt*.

I introduce the following anecdote to evince, among other facts, the very unenlightened condition of the Turks, without excepting even their principal men, in whatever regards the sciences. General Koehler was requested by the Grand Vizier to have a map of the world sketched out for him. This request having been complied with, a conversation ensued, in which the general, having the plan before him, told his Highness, among other particulars, that the earth was round. This information caused no small degree of surprise to the Turkish minister; and it appeared, by his reply, that he was disposed to doubt the truth of the assertion. "If," he observed, "the earth is round, how can the people, and other detached objects on the half beneath, be prevented from falling off?"—When he was told that the earth revolved round the sun, he displayed an equal degree of scepticism, observing, that if that was the case, the ships bound from Jaffa to Constantinople, instead of proceeding to that capital, would be carried to London, or elsewhere. So much for the astronomical and geographical knowledge of a Turkish statesman!

On the evening of the 27th, as Mr. Read, the draughtsman, and myself were returning from a short pedestrian excursion, we were

assaulted by two Turkish soldiers; one of whom, a black, behaved in a most disrespectful manner, and even threatened our lives. He went so far, indeed, as to put his hand to his sword; but, on our assuming a bold and spirited air, he seemed surpris'd at our confidence, muttered something, and allowed us to pass.

On the following morning the troops commanded by Mahomed Pacha returned to the encampment. They had been sent to Nablous to suppress an insurrection, said to be excited by the Pacha of that place, who was suspected of meditating a plan to join the army of Dgezar Pacha. This was one of the accounts: but it was said, on the other hand, that the movement of Mahomed Pacha had for its object the laying of the Pacha of Nablous under contribution, and extorting from him a sum of money. Be this as it may, the affair was amicably settled.

The Janissary Aga had this day a conversation with General Koehler, in which he warned the British officers not to walk singly in the camp, as in such a case he could not be answerable for the conduct of his people. He therefore recommended to us to be constantly accompanied by a Janissary, as a guard. This circumstance is mentioned to evince the peculiar and very delicate situation in which we were placed among the Turkish troops.

On the 31st the Kallem Bashi, the officer who has the charge of the Vizier's writing implements, &c. was found murdered in the camp.

On the 2d of August the New Adventure transport arrived from Cyprus, which place she had left fourteen days before, having been swept by the currents towards Alexandretta.

In the evening I rode through the gardens of Jaffa, where I saw a great abundance of prickly pear-trees, which are employed as fences, and are admirably well adapted to that purpose. The natives are very fond of the fruit. The grapes were ripened, and were, as well as the figs, of an excellent quality. With respect to the water-melons, they were so large, that at dinner, some days before, one was brought to us which weighed twenty-five pounds.

A party of Turkish soldiers, consisting of about three hundred, left the camp on the morning of the 3d, for El-Arish; and, in the evening, Mahomed Pacha, with two thousand men, set off for the same destination.

A considerable reinforcement of troops from the eastward reached the camp on the 5th; and in the evening we were informed, that several laden camels, with their attendants, had come in from Grand Cairo.

On the morning of the 6th, Captain Lacy, of the royal engineers, set off for El-Arish, mounted on a hedjin, or dromedary, as were also the persons who accompanied him. On the following day, Mr. Whiteman embarked on board the *New Adventure* transport, bound to Cyprus. He was the bearer of dispatches for Lords Elgin and Grenville, which were to be forwarded to their respective destinations by the British consul at Larnica. The transport did not, however, sail until the 9th, at two in the morning, when she took the advantage of the land breeze, which generally prevails at that early part of the day.

At the same time six hundred Albanians left the camp for El-Arish. I made an excursion, in the evening, to the sand hills (situated near

the sea-side, and about three miles distant from the encampment), the scene of the horrid massacre of the captured Turks and Christians, by the order of the French commander in chief, Bonaparte, some days after he had taken possession of Jaffa. I have already touched on this act, so inglorious to its perpetrator, in the account I have given of that place; and I shall add here, that the distance of time which elapsed after these poor wretches had surrendered, and which furnished a fit opportunity for cool reflection, and the distance of the spot to which they were led, at least a league from the place of their captivity, manifest a spirit of diabolical revenge, of atrocious tyranny, which, for the honour of human nature, it is to be trusted will never recur on any future occasion, among civilized and enlightened nations, to blacken the page of history, and to sully the military character. The surface of the ground had been some time before thickly covered with the skeletons of the victims; but at the time of my visit they were much reduced in number, the Grand Vizier having ordered a large hole to be dug, into which as many as could be well collected were thrown. Skulls, bones, remnants of clothing, &c. &c. were still, notwithstanding, scattered over every part of the hillocks:

In consequence of an invitation from the Grand Vizier to General Koehler and officers, to be spectators of the skill and dexterity of the Turkish soldiers in the use of their sabres, we assembled, on the 11th, in front of his Highness's tent.

A *caouk*, or turban, being placed on a stool, the Turks cut at it with their sabres. Those who made the deepest cuts were immediately rewarded with several sequins, which they received from the hands of the Vizier.

As the turban was composed of a mixture of wool and cotton, covered over with thick cloth, it required no little adroitness and dexterity to penetrate into its substance by a blow of the sabre. Such, however, was the effect of practice, that the impressions made by the Turkish soldiers were very deep.

Letters were received on the 13th from Captain Lacy, who was arrived at El-Arish, and had experienced a flattering reception. In the evening I took a ride along the sea-side, and saw several jackals, which abound in this part of the world.

On the 14th the Turks began to dig in the environs of Jaffa, to prepare the ground for the erection of several works for the better defence of the place, under the direction of Colonel Holloway. It was at this time reported, that the plague raged with great violence among the Mamelukes, in consequence of which strict orders were given by the general to avoid all communication with them. Monsieur Franchini, a Russian agent, lay dangerously ill of the plague at Jaffa.

In the course of the night we were much alarmed by the circumstance of a stranger having found his way into our tent. On calling to the sentinel, we found, after a little search, that our unseasonable visitor was a poor insane Turk, who had been pursued by one of his countrymen from the camp, and had sought refuge in the tent.

Monsieur Franchini died on the 15th at night. He had been sent by the Russian minister at Constantinople as an agent to keep up a communication with the Turkish ministers in camp, and to give an account of the military operations. He had caught the pestilential infection from two domestics belonging to the Vizier's new dragoman,

who were recently arrived from Constantinople, and both of whom had fallen victims to the disease. Monsieur Franchini languished six days after the attack.

On the morning of the 17th two hundred Janissaries arrived in the camp from Constantinople. In making an excursion towards Gaza in the afternoon, I met with the body of an unfortunate man, who had just been assassinated. He had received two strokes of a sabre, one of which had nearly severed the head from the body. His turban had been carried off; but the stick which lay behind, and the style of his dress, pointed him out as a wandering Arab.

On the 18th in the morning, General Koehler and the officers went to a plain in the vicinity of the encampment, to be present at a review of the Turkish troops by his Highness the Grand Vizier. Adjoining to his own tent, which, being fitted up in the oriental, or Persian style, far exceeded, in richness and magnificence, any thing we had seen before, a tent was prepared for our reception. The infantry and artillery were drawn up in three bodies, that is, a main body and two wings, nearly in a line, with the guns in front. While the whole advanced slowly, a firing was kept up exclusively by the artillery; and the movement having been continued for the space of six or seven hundred yards, the troops faced to the right about, when, the guns being again brought to their front, they returned to their former ground, firing in the same manner as when they advanced. This absurd manoeuvre was the only one they displayed. During the whole of the time the infantry remained with their arms shouldered, the Arnauts or Albanians shouting. In returning, the Grand Vizier was mounted on a fine Arabian horse, richly caparisoned. His Highness

was elegantly dressed, as were also his principal officers and attendants. We were invited to join in the cavalcade, on its way back to the encampment.

About this time, in a conversation with our officers, the Grand Vizier, in speaking of the convention of El-Arish, compared what had been done on that occasion to a physician, who, having given to his patient a dose of medicine by which he was relieved, administered to him an after dose, which rendered him worse than he was at first.

We were informed that the plague continued to rage with great violence among the Mamelukes, inasmuch that on the preceding day, the 17th, one of their caches, or chiefs, had lost eighteen of his men. There were at that time about sixteen hundred Mameluke troops in the camp.

A gun-boat belonging to Sir Sydney Smith's squadron arrived on the afternoon of the 20th from Alexandria, with dispatches from Sir Sydney and the Capitan Pacha to the Vizier and General. Through this channel we were informed, that the Mercury, an English frigate of twenty-eight guns, commanded by Captain Rogers, was to be daily expected at Jaffa.

Mr. Reynolds, commanding the gun-boat, and Mr. Spilsbury, the surgeon, dined with us at the camp on the 22d. The latter described the twelve cases of plague which he had seen on board *Le Tigre*, in the course of the last year, while that ship was off Acre. Major Fead, he told me, had, before his death, all the symptoms of yellow fever. In general, the subjects who were attacked were of a robust temperament; and, among the predisposing causes, were to be reckoned the abuse of spirituous liquors, and more especially, *the dread and apprehen-*

sion of the plague. Mr. Spilisbury laid much stress on the latter of these causes, giving it as his decided opinion, that the death of Colonel Philipoe, who constantly laboured under the most alarming apprehensions of an attack of that disease, was entirely owing to the anxiety with which his mind was tortured by these distressing fears.

Two men were beheaded at Jaffa on the 23d, for selling spirits and wine to the troops.

Within the last two days several of our men, who had imprudently left off their flannel dresses, were attacked by symptoms of fever arising from obstructed perspiration. The evenings had latterly been cool and damp, with considerable falls of dew. The plague continued to make great ravages among the Mamelukes, who had, according to report, lost four hundred men, nearly the fourth of their whole number.

The gun-boat, commanded by Mr. Reynolds, left Jaffa on the 24th. She was to proceed to Acre, and thence to Cyprus, and, lastly, was to join le Tigre, at that time cruising off Cape Baffa. Another of our gun-boats, the Mary Ann, had, we were informed, been lost on the rocks near Larnica.

On the 25th, Mahmoud Raif, the newly appointed Reis Effendi, arrived at the camp from Constantinople, which place he had left eighteen days before.

I made one of a party in an afternoon's ride to two Arab villages, the houses of which were built with mud, stones, and chopped straw. The women were covered by a thin loose dress of blue cotton, and wore over the face a black veil, which, on the whole, rendered their appearance, to us at least, very disgusting. They are employed in

the most common drudgeries; and carry on their heads, in white earthen vessels, honey, milk, and fresh water. They are the only women who are allowed to come into the Turkish camp.

On our return towards the camp we saw several gazelles, or antelopes, which we pursued, without being, however, able to overtake them. To effect this would have required the aid of dogs. We were, notwithstanding, told, that instances had occurred, in which the Arabs, mounted on their fleet horses, had kept pace with these animals, and had succeeded in catching them, by darting a stick between their legs, and thus impeding their flight.

About fifteen hundred cavalry arrived on the 26th from Konieh. Their complexion was very dark, and their dress singular. They were well mounted; and in general tall and personable men.

On the 27th, Mr. Vinchenzo, our dragoman, or interpreter, was taken suddenly ill with symptoms of fever. As he had had occasional intercourse with the Mamelukes, among whom a great mortality still prevailed; and as his complaint bore a very unfavourable aspect, the general, with great prudence, ordered him to be sent to the town on the following day.

On the morning of the 28th, the officers of the mission accompanied the general on a visit to the new Reis Effendi. I have already given a sketch of his character, in speaking of the principal officers in the Turkish camp. He is certainly far superior to the Turks in general, both in manners and intelligence; and this may be ascribed to his having seen and mixed with society in various parts of Europe. His appearance indicated a lively and cheerful disposition. In speaking

of the plague, which was entirely confined to the Mamelukes, he observed, that the season for it was just passed, since on the 16th of August, old style (the preceding day), it was generally considered that, in the districts where it had made its appearance, its ravages would cease.—He seemed to entertain a great partiality for the English nation; and shewed us an English sabre and a pair of pistols which he had purchased in London. The latter were made by Bennett near the Royal Exchange.

On the 30th, his Highness the Grand Vizier went in state to lay the first stone of the intended new bastion. He was met on the ground by the mission; and in the vicinity of the work, tents were pitched for the reception of his Highness and the officers. After having taken coffee and other refreshments, he proceeded with great pomp to the foundations, which had been dug out. A prayer having been repeated with much solemnity by one of the Turkish priests, accompanied by the Vizier himself, as well as by all the officers of state and other Mussulmen present, the stone was laid, and a small mallet, covered with velvet, handed to his Highness. With this mallet he struck the stone three times, repeating solemnly a short prayer. In this ceremony he was followed by each of the officers of state and attendants, at the same time that several sheep were sacrificed. The stone having been sprinkled with the blood of these animals, was covered over with a plate of copper on which an inscription had been engraven. This ceremony being concluded, the whole of the company returned to the tents, where the general, and Lieutenant-colonel Holloway, commanding the royal engineers, were invested

by the Grand Vizier with pelices; and Major Fletcher with a beniche, or robe of honour. On this occasion a vast concourse of people were assembled.

On the morning of this day the transport arrived from Larnica, whither she had been dispatched on service. Several of the women on board laboured under an erysipelatous inflammation of the eyes, which had attacked them suddenly, while at Larnica, without any previous indisposition. The children also had a similar affection of the eyes; but it had not manifested itself on any of the seamen.

A corps of Albanians, consisting of about one thousand, left the camp on the evening of the 31st for El-Arish. The departure of troops from the Turkish encampment was, as well as their arrival, customarily announced by the discharge of muskets loaded with balls, which, flying at random in every direction, endangered the lives of all those who were within their reach. This practice of firing with bullets, which is followed in every Turkish camp, was indeed become so frequent, that we were under constant apprehensions of being shot. Our tents were repeatedly pierced by the balls; and one of our men, an armourer, was, while at work in our camp, wounded in the shoulder by a musket ball. The Turkish soldiers, who furnish their own ammunition at all times, except on the day of battle, when it is provided for them, conceive they have a right to amuse themselves in this manner, at their private expense.

On the 1st of September I received a letter from Captain Lacy, of the royal engineers, dated at the camp of El-Arish, the 29th of August, in which he informed me, that during the preceding ten days he had, as well as his servant, suffered severely from a dysenteric com-

plaint. I stated to the general, by letter, my opinion of the necessity of having him removed to Jaffa; and in consequence of this representation, Major Fletcher embarked on board the transport on the 3d, to proceed to El-Arish, and relieve the above officer in his duty.

I had caught several camelions, one of which was found dead in its cage. Being desirous to know the cause of its death, I dissected it, and, on opening the intestine, found within a portion of a small twig, about an inch in length; and, a little farther downwards, a delicate white round worm, nearly four inches in length, which was alive. I was much pleased with the singular conformation of this little animal, from the mouth of which I drew a white tender substance, between five and six inches in length, and of the thickness of a goose quill. Having an increased width at its extremity, it had somewhat the appearance of an inverted cone, and was filled with an extremely viscid and tenacious whitish fluid. This description of tongue, or weapon, as it may be more properly termed, nature has supplied to the animal to enable it to seize on its prey. I had repeatedly observed my camelions dart it forth suddenly, to the distance of five or six inches, and in this manner catch flies with an equal promptitude and certainty. The viscid and tenacious quality of the fluid sufficiently explains its use. By applying the point of a probe dipped in it to the bodies of flies, I detained them for some time. The pulpy substance of which the dart, or tongue, is composed, is projected forwards by a triangular cartilaginous ring, to which it is attached, and which is seated at the posterior part of the mouth. This cartilage is composed of rings, like the trachea in animals.

The capacious lungs are composed of a number of small and delicate

cells, tinged of a fine crimson colour. On cutting into the heart, the blood issued, but of a darker colour than that contained in the delicate pulmonary cells. The liver, which was of a darkish hue, was somewhat large in proportion to the size of the animal; and the gall bladder was filled with bile of a dark green colour. Only one common straight gut was perceptible. Several small round substances, nearly of the size of a vetch, and of a deep yellow colour, lay connected together in the lower part of the abdomen; as did also two lobes, similar to the lungs of an animal. These were likewise of a deep yellow, or orange-colour, and were nearly of the size of a small Windsor bean. It is evident, from this account of the conformation of the animal, that those who cherished the old error of its existing upon air, must have been very inaccurate observers.

The camelions were very numerous in the camp, and frequently entered the tents in search of their prey.

We were informed on the 5th, by our dragoman, that the Mamelukes encamped at Jaffa had lost about eight hundred men, either by the plague or by desertion; and that the greater part of those commanded by Ibrahim Bey had fallen victims to disease. On the following day we were thrown into a considerable degree of alarm by a report made by another of the dragomen, or interpreters, who told us, that he had discovered the *seis* (groom) leading a pestiferous subject into our camp. This information proved to be well founded; and the subject in question was instantly removed.

A detachment of Arnauts, about a thousand in number, joined the camp on the 7th, having been conveyed to Jaffa by sea. Reports

were in circulation that the French had landed new reinforcements of troops in Egypt.

The transport, having on board Captain Lacy, who was somewhat recovered from his indisposition, returned to Jaffa on the 8th. She brought intelligence that it was the determination of the Capitan Pacha, and of Sir Sydney Smith, to renew the blockade of Alexandria.

On the 10th, a letter, dated at El-Arish, was received from Major Fletcher, who had had an attack of fever, and was dangerously ill. The transport was in consequence ordered to proceed to El-Arish, to bring him back. About this time Osman Bey, a Mameluke chief, died of the plague at Jaffa; as did also Yuzef Pacha, one of the cachefs.

Dispatches from Lord Elgin were received by the general on the 13th; and on the following morning the English frigate the Mercury anchored off Jaffa. She had left England about four months, had touched at Tripoli, and several other ports of the Mediterranean, and was last from Acre, which place she had quitted the evening before. Advices were brought to camp that Djezar Pacha was employed in fortifying the works of Acre.

On the evening of the 18th the Mercury frigate sailed from Jaffa, having on board dispatches of great importance. The news of the surrender of the island of Malta to the British troops, transmitted by the Capitan Pacha, were communicated to the general by the Grand Vizier and Reis Effendi.

On the 20th in the morning, a detachment of troops, consisting

of about a thousand horsemen, arrived in the camp from Aleppo, chaunting hymns on their route. They were better mounted and equipped than any of those who had recently joined the Vizier's army.

A heavy firing was heard in the camp on the morning of the 25th. We found, on enquiry, that it was occasioned by the displeasure of the Arnauts, who had become greatly exasperated at an attempt which was made to muster them. The Grand Vizier entertained a suspicion that their chiefs drew a greater number of rations for their troops than those to which they were entitled. It indeed appeared that this practice was become so frequent among them as to require an absolute check; but such was the menacing aspect which the Arnauts had assumed, that his Highness deemed it prudent to relinquish this measure on the present occasion. I shall take an opportunity hereafter to give a particular account of these people, who were able to render themselves thus formidable, notwithstanding they constituted but an inconsiderable part of the Turkish army.

About this time we were highly amused by several Egyptian jugglers, who came into camp, and who, to our no small surprise, performed a variety of tricks with great neatness and dexterity. These people travel through every part of the country, and contribute essentially to the entertainment of the inhabitants.

A great number of jackals came almost every evening into the camp, in search of their prey, and kept up a continued yell, equal to that of a large pack of hounds in full cry, though much less musical. What with the yelping of these animals, the howling of the dogs, and the braying of the asses and mules, a hideous noise was produced,

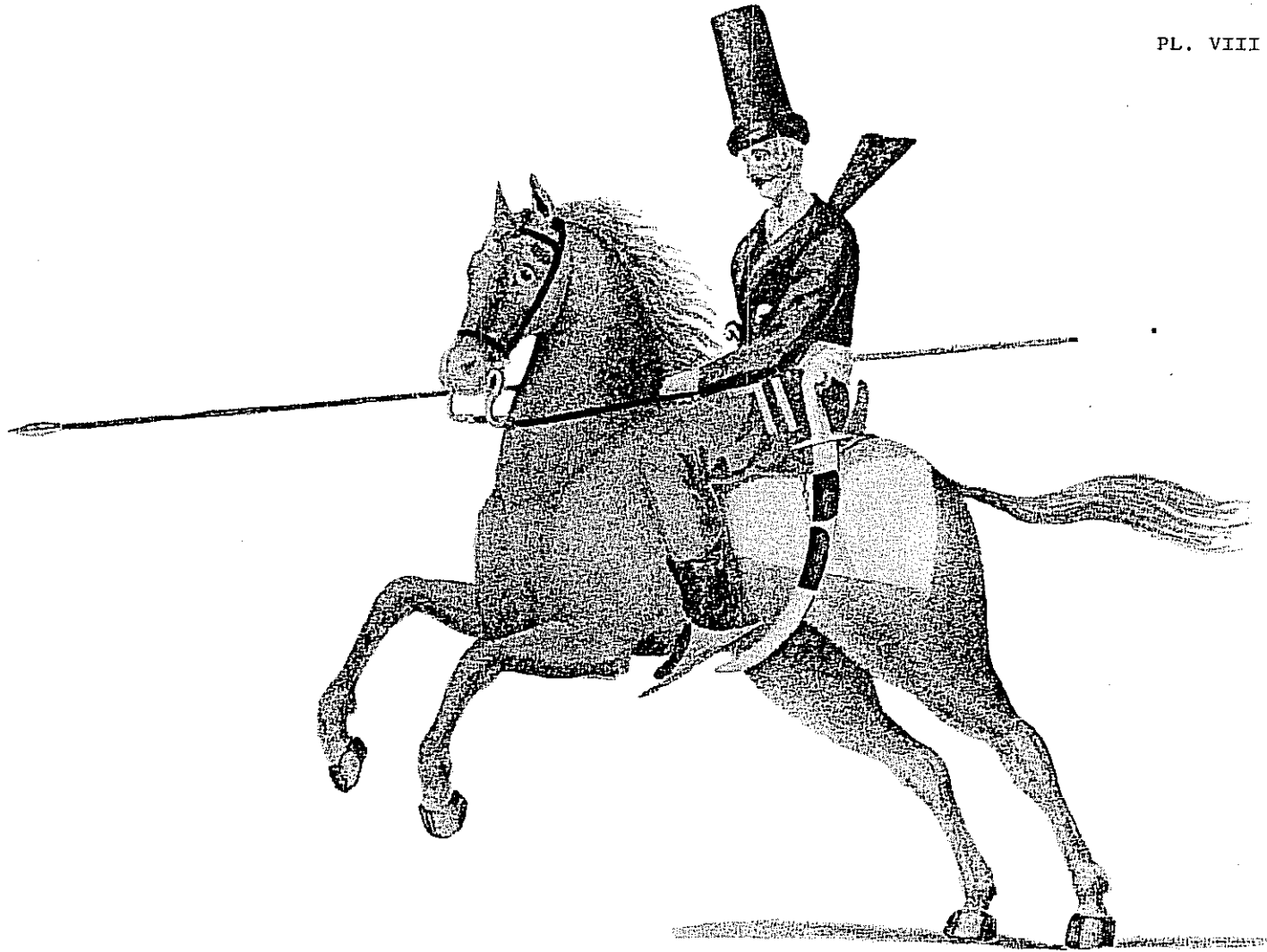
which we should have deemed incredible, if it had not constantly assailed our astonished ears.

A Turkish camp, in which the carcases of horses, camels, asses, and mules, lay scattered in great abundance, must have furnished a high treat to the voracious jackals, who could not fail to find there whatever was requisite to appease their hunger. They infest every part of Syria, where they are very numerous. During the day they confine themselves to their holes and lurking places; but fall out at night, in large bodies, in search of their food. They then rendezvous in the neighbourhood of the towns and villages, molesting the inhabitants by the most disagreeable of all howlings. They feed with complacency on the most filthy and odious substances; and their cruelty, in the warfare they carry on against other animals, is equal to their rapacity.

On the 1st of October several discharges of musketry were heard close to our camp, and furnished a new evidence of the undisciplined state of the Turkish troops, who had been disputing among themselves, and had proceeded to extremities. This event, which happened so near to us, excited in us a considerable degree of apprehension, as well as of surprize.

Nearly five hundred Arnauts having deserted from the camp on the 4th, the Vizier dispatched in their pursuit two thousand Dehlis, who returned, however, without having accomplished their object.

In a Turkish army, the Dehlis, whose name implies desperadoes, or madmen, form a part of the light cavalry. They boast, not without reason, of their courage and temerity; and are said to feel no hesitation in undertaking the most daring enterprises. They are



(A Pehlivan Turkish Light Cavalry.)

armed and equipped nearly in the same manner as the other Turkish military, with the exception, that they wear a very high cap of a cylindrical form, made of pasteboard, and covered either with sheep-skin died of a black colour, or with black cloth. This cap is secured to the head by a coloured muslin or cotton handkerchief. One of these horsemen, accoutered and equipped for service, is represented in Plate VIII.

About this time Lieutenant-colonel Holloway and Major Hope were respectively requested by the mikmendar attached to the mission, to give orders to their men not to smoke in passing the tent of the Grand Vizier, lest they should be insulted by the Turkish military, contrary to whose custom this practice was. A caution, founded on so prudential a motive, was, it may naturally be supposed, not neglected.

On the 7th Mahomed Pacha reached the camp from Ramla, with troops, by whom the usual discharges of musketry were made on entering the ground; and on the 14th Haffan Bey Djadavi quitted the camp for El-Arish, with a corps of five hundred Mamelukes.

Here my narrative is about to take a new turn. A visit to Jerusalem, and other parts of the Holy Land, had been for some time projected; and the state of inaction in which we found ourselves at this juncture prompted us to gratify our ardent curiosity, by the accomplishment of such a journey, the particulars of which I shall now proceed to detail.

CHAPTER IX.

PROGRESS THROUGH THE HOLY LAND—RUINS OF A TOWER ERECTED IN HONOUR OF FORTY MARTYRS—ARABIAN DWELLINGS—RAMLA—DATE-TREES—OPHTHALMIA—RESIDENCE OF THE JEWISH MONARCHS—ST. JEROM—ARRIVAL AT JERUSALEM—SITUATION OF THAT CITY—SOLOMON'S TEMPLE—RESIDENCE OF PONTIUS PILATE—EXTRAORDINARY THREAT OF BONAPARTE—MOUNT OF OLIVES—DAVID'S TOWER—HOLY SEPULCHRE—SCENE OF OUR SAVIOUR'S SUFFERINGS—TOMB OF BALDWIN—HUMANITY AND GOOD SENSE OF A TURKISH SANTON—VISIT FROM THE MUFTI—ARMENIAN CONVENT—HEAD OF ST. JAMES—MOUNT SION—BETHLEM—TEMPLE OF ST. CATHARINE—POOLS OF SOLOMON—GARDENS OF SOLOMON—BIRTH-PLACE OF OUR SAVIOUR—RECEPTACLE OF THE MURDERED INNOCENTS—TOMB OF ST. JEROM—CONVENT OF ST. CATHARINE—INHABITANTS OF BETHLEM—SEPULCHRES OF THE KINGS—SEPULCHRE OF THE VIRGIN MARY—VALLEY OF JEHOSEPHAT—IMPRESSION OF OUR SAVIOUR'S FOOT ON THE MOUNT OF OLIVES—TOMBS OF ABSALOM AND ZECHARIAH—WELLS OF NEHEMIAH—BURIAL-PLACE OF KING DAVID—CONVENT OF ST. HELENA—BIRTH-PLACE OF JOHN THE BAPTIST—JOSEPH OF ARIMATHEA—TOPOGRAPHICAL ACCOUNT OF THE MOST INTERESTING OBJECTS IN THE HOLY LAND.

ON the morning of the 15th of October, before break of day, we left the camp on our way to Jerufalem. Our party consisted of the general and Mrs. Koehler, Major Hope, Captain Leake, Mess. Chandler, Whiteman, Pink, and myself. We were accompanied by the choarbagi, a party of Janiffaries, a small detachment of Turkish horsemen, and other guards and attendants. After a very

agreeable ride of three hours, we arrived at Ramla, within a quarter of a mile of which we met with a large ruin, having a square steeple, and a gallery above, in ascending to which we counted an hundred and twelve steps. It is said that it was formerly much loftier than it is at present, and was erected in honour of the forty martyrs who suffered death in Armenia. In our route from this place, we passed through several Arab villages, while others were scattered to the right and left. In these villages the caves or dwellings were constructed of stones and mud, ill compacted together, and of a round form, resembling that of a bee-hive, with a small hole for the entrance, which served at the same time to admit the air, and to afford a passage to the smoke. The roofs of these dwellings, in which, wretched as they were, the Arab cultivators were condemned to pass their lives, were formed of bushes, straw, and other similar materials, covered with mud.

We took up our abode for the remainder of the day, and for the night, in the Latin convent at Ramla. The country in the vicinity of this convent, a plain of several miles in extent, is extremely fertile, and, if it was well cultivated, would afford, independently of a rich pasturage for cattle, an abundance of grain;—I might indeed say of all that is necessary for the support of man. Within the town, the houses are built of stone, and are provided with domes and terraces. Notwithstanding, at the time of our visit, many of them were, from the state of the country, unoccupied, they exhibited in general a much more respectable appearance than those of Jaffa. Prior to the war, there was in this place an extensive soap manufactory; but the building in which it had been carried on, having been since de-

ferred, had fallen in ruins. We were informed on our arrival that Mahomed Pacha had reached Ramla the preceding evening.

The choice of the Arabs, in erecting their buildings, and in forming themselves into a congregated society, appears to have been constantly directed to an elevated situation, in contradistinction to the ancient practice in Europe, where it has been remarked, that the vallies and low grounds have been generally selected for the site of the towns and villages. This remark particularly applies to the more northern parts of Europe, where, in addition to the convenience of procuring a better supply of water, a shelter from the inclement winds was to be desired. In the burning clime of Asia, on the other hand, every breeze was to be courted; and this may perhaps explain the motive by which the Arabs were originally influenced in the position of their towns. That of Ramla is situated on a rising ground, commanding a very extensive view of the level, open country, by which it is surrounded on all sides.

As we had brought with us our own bedding, and other conveniences, we were soon settled in the convent, which afforded us nothing but the bare walls; and having procured provisions, the cook whom we had taken the precaution to bring with us, began his operations, and soon supplied us with a good dinner. After having taken this refreshment, we went into the town, and saw the female inhabitants busied in making a kind of cotton cloth for their garments. We next proceeded to the bazar, or market, which was but indifferently supplied with a few fruits and vegetables, such as dates, figs, lemons, cucumbers, &c. We observed several date-trees, with fruit on them, distributed among the buildings; and their

appearance, thus blended as they were with the houses, was extremely picturesque. Without the town we noticed a small pottery for the fabrication of vases to hold water. Ramla was anciently a city, but is now an open town only, under the government of the Pacha of Jerufalem and Gaza, Mahomed Pacha.

In this place the minarets of the mosques differ very essentially from all those we had before noticed. It contains three convents for the reception of the pilgrims on their way to the holy city.

It was painful to me to observe that the disease of the eyes, so common in these countries, prevailed very generally, and that with great violence, among the poorer classes at Ramla. Both young and old were alike afflicted by blindness. This was not surprising, since it was easy to trace in their squalid and meagre countenances the manifest causes of disease, namely, the want of a good, nourishing diet, and the necessary clothing to encourage and keep up the excretions of the skin. The dress of the females consisted of a blue cotton chemise only, resembling the frock of an English peasant, and reaching nearly to the ankles, with a broad belt, or girdle, fastened about the waist. The men were dressed in a similar manner, but with a white instead of a blue chemise, and were for the greater part without shoes.

In the evening we paid a visit to Mahomed Pacha, a great favourite of the Vizier, and very useful to him in the country, as a collector of the tributes. His reception was of the most friendly kind; and he offered us every assistance on our route, promising to send forward a messenger, to give notice, at the places through which we were to pass, of our approach, together with such orders as might facilitate our views. After having taken the refreshments which

were presented to us, we returned to the convent, where the general gave us notice to be in readiness to set forward on the following morning at day-break.

We accordingly left Ramla at five in the morning of the 16th, and, after a ride of three hours over the plain, came to an Arab village, named Caïssa, where St. James was decapitated. In this village we saw the method employed by the Arabs to preserve their corn from pillage and fire. It consists in digging deep pits, similar to wells, in which the corn is stored up, as in a granary. Having breakfasted, we again set forward on our journey about nine o'clock, passing through a plain, near to which was a village, called Latrun, said to have been once the residence of the kings of the Jews. To the left of the village the ruins of a building were pointed out to us, which we were told was anciently a palace. We shortly after entered on a rocky and almost impenetrable road, over a mountainous territory, which continued, with little variation, until our arrival at Jerusalem, a distance of twenty-five miles. The safety and comparative facility with which the horses made good their way through this difficult road, filled with rocks and precipices, were truly surprising: not the smallest accident occurred. At one o'clock we came to an Arab village, named St. Jerom, distant from Jerusalem three hours journey. We there made a halt of an hour and a half, and saw a lofty building, supported by beautiful pillars, formerly a Christian church, said to have been built by the Empress Helena, but now converted into a receptacle for cattle. We traced on the walls the vestiges of several fine paintings of scriptural subjects; and afterwards entered an arched cavity underneath, in which,

according to every probability, the dead had been deposited. We left the village at half past two, and were met soon after by a party of priests belonging to the Greek convent at Jerusalem, who were on their way to Ramla, in obedience to a mandate of Mahomed Pacha, but on what occasion we were not informed.

On our approaching Jerusalem, we were met by the Mufelem, or Turkish governor, and by the superior of the Latin convent, in which we were to take up our abode. They had come out with their attendants, to compliment us on our arrival, and conduct us to the city, which we reached at about half past five o'clock. For a considerable distance the road was occupied by great numbers of the inhabitants, who had come out to meet us; and the streets were thronged in our passage through. So great was the curiosity which the arrival of Christian visitors had excited!

To the very gates of Jerusalem the land exhibited the same rocky and barren appearance it had assumed on our entering the mountainous territory. The city itself stands on an elevated rocky ground capable of yielding but little produce: in the vicinity, however, we saw several spots, which the inhabitants had with great industry fertilized, by clearing away the stones, with which they had banked up the soil to prevent it from being washed away, and by resorting to every other expedient which could suggest itself.

This soil, which is a reddish clay, wherever it is of any depth, is essentially of a good quality; consequently their laborious efforts had been rewarded, in these partial and chosen spots, by an abundant produce of fruits, corn, and vegetables. The grapes which were presented to us at our repasts, were uncommonly fine and large: at

the season of the vintage the vineyards must have had a pleasing aspect in this land of rocks and mountains.

Shortly after our arrival, the governor paid a formal visit to the general and officers, in the course of which he tendered to us every possible assistance during our stay at Jerusalem. In company with three of my fellow travellers, I took up my abode in the Latin convent; while the general, Mrs. Kochler, and the two other gentlemen, established their residence at a house in the vicinity.

On the following morning, after breakfast, we returned the governor's visit, and were entertained with coffee, sweetmeats, and other refreshments. From one of the windows of his house we had a very pleasing view of a Turkish mosque, built on the foundations of Solomon's temple. Christians are prohibited from entering this mosque, in consequence of a superstitious opinion entertained by the Turks, that if any one of them should set his foot on the consecrated ground on which it stands, the Turkish empire would instantly be at an end.

On the spot where the governor resided, it is reported that Pontius Pilate dwelt; and it was there, according to traditional accounts, that Peter denied Christ.*

Soon after our return to the general's apartment, the patriarch of the Greek church, and two Armenian bishops, attended by several

* To prevent a repetition of the words, "it is said;" "according to traditional accounts," &c. I shall in future give the reports relative to the passages of scripture to which such and such spots in the Holy Land refer, as they were made to us, leaving to my readers the conclusions as to the greater or less probability of the accordance of the traditions said to have been handed down, with the events they are intended to illustrate.

priests, paid us a visit, and promised us every attention and kindness during our stay in Jerusalem. The patriarch informed us, that the six priests we had met on our route, and who were on their way to Ramla, had been constrained to undertake that journey by Mahomed Pacha. As he could not explain to himself why they had been thus forced away, he appeared extremely anxious about them, and begged the general to interest himself in their behalf. In the inquiries he addressed to us, he was desirous to know which of the three cities, Jerusalem, Babylon, or Rome, was the most ancient.

We were told by the priests of an extraordinary threat made by Bonaparte, namely, that should he ever obtain possession of Jerusalem, he would plant the tree of liberty on the spot on which the cross of Jesus stood; and would bury the first French grenadier who should fall in the attack, in the tomb of our Saviour.

From the terrace of the convent in which we were lodged we had a fine view of the Mount of Olives, of Mount Sion, and indeed of every part of the city, the extent of which has been so much diminished in modern times, that the circumference is reckoned not to exceed four English miles. The walls and habitations are in excellent repair; and the former are provided with several small square towers. Near the entrance gate is a castle denominated David's tower, the stones in the inferior part of which are very massive, and apparently of great antiquity.

About two o'clock we went to the church called the church of the sepulchre, as being built over the holy sepulchre, in company with the superior of our convent, with whom, I should observe, we had made an arrangement to visit Bethlem on the following morning. Escorted

by several of the reverend fathers, we passed through a solemn and grand entrance, into a lofty and capacious building (somewhat less than an hundred paces long, and not more than sixty wide), supported by several very large marble pillars of the Corinthian order, and the dome of which was built of the cedar of Lebanon. Preparations having been made for our visit to this sanctuary, it was lighted up with more than usual splendour, and had a very striking and awful effect. In the centre of the building is the holy sepulchre, which is now cased over with marble for its better preservation. But for this precaution, indeed, it would ere this have been broken into fragments, which the pilgrims would have carried off as so many precious relics. The sepulchre, we are told, was at first a cave hewn in the rock underground; but the rock having been since cut away in every direction, it appears now in the form of a grotto above ground. In bestowing on it a close inspection, we met with the stone on which they told us the angel was seated when Mary sought the body of Jesus. This stone had been removed from the entrance. The small building, or chapel, in which the sepulchre is enclosed, was lighted by several large and handsome lamps, a certain number of which are always kept burning. We were next conducted to all the interesting places which respected our Saviour previously to his death: such as the spot where he was confined before his trial and condemnation; that where he was scourged, and the crown of thorns placed on his head; that where he was nailed to the cross, &c. We saw the fissure in the rock which was rent by the earthquake at the time he gave up the ghost, together with the place where the soldiers cast lots for his garments, and the spot where his body was embalmed.

The whole of this very extensive building, in which the Greeks, Latins, Armenians, and Copts, have each respectively a chapel, stands on Mount Calvary. We visited each of these chapels. Near to that which was built by St. Helena, the mother of Constantine the Great, in commemoration of the finding of the cross on which our Saviour was crucified, we saw the cavern which was formerly the grand reservoir of water that contained the cross. In the middle of the Greek chapel stands a marble basin fixed on the ground, which the Greek priests told us was not only placed in the centre of the pile of buildings, but in the centre of the universe. This beautiful chapel is built of yellow and white marble; and several of the columns are of verd antique. We next proceeded to the chapel where Mary visited Jesus, the pavement of which is of beautiful marble, inlaid and ornamented with much taste. In the course of our enquiries, we saw the tomb of Baldwin, governor of Jerusalem, who was killed during the crusades.

The beauty and grandeur of these buildings do great credit to the age in which they were executed. Over the gate which led us to the elegant structure, erected by the order of St. Helena, in which the holy sepulchre, and the memorable spots I have noticed above, are enclosed, we saw the vestiges of several pieces of fine sculpture, together with a considerable number of marble and granite columns, of the Corinthian order, and other architectural decorations.

The Greek and Armenian priests entertained us with coffee and sherbet in their respective chapels. They told us that after the French had landed in Egypt, the Turks had, on a plea of suspicion that the monks in general were not entire strangers to the plans and intentions of the enemy, searched their monasteries for arms, papers, and other

concealed effects, and had obliged them to seek refuge in the building over the holy sepulchre. They had there threatened to bring cannon against them, and put them to death, in case they should refuse to open the door of the building, and surrender themselves. In this alarming crisis they were providentially saved by a Turkish fanatic, who took his station on an elevated part of the city, and there harangued the Mussulmen in behalf of the ministers of the Christian gospel, reminding them that, having searched their monasteries, they had neither found arms nor any other object which could lead to suspicion, and recommending to them to desist, and permit the unfortunate priests to return to their convents. The effect of this exhortation was, that the multitude laid aside their sanguinary pursuit, and the monks were permitted to return quietly to their homes. They were not ungrateful for their deliverance, but collected a considerable sum of money for the fanatic, which he with great delicacy refused.

On our return we dined at the convent with the holy fathers, and proceeded afterwards to the general's lodging, where the visit of the Musti, who came thither to pay his respects, was shortly after announced. This personage, who seemed to carry terror and dismay in his countenance, told us, that it was impossible Jerusalem should ever be taken, as there were seventy thousand prophets, on the other side of the Dead Sea, ready to come forward for its protection and defence. He also declared to us, that it was recorded in the sacred writings, that the English and Turks had been friends for more than a thousand years. He was not only supreme of the church, but held the office of *cadi*, or judge.

On his departure we returned the visits of the Greek and Armenian

clergy. The Armenian church, a fine and elegant structure, was ornamented by several good scriptural paintings. The fathers pointed out to us the spot where the head of St. James was deposited, after he had been decapitated at Caiffa.

We rose at five in the morning of the 18th, and went to the chapel, where mass was performing. We breakfasted shortly after, and at seven o'clock left Jerufalem on our way to Bethlem, accompanied by the superior and several of the monks belonging to the Latin convent, in which we had taken up our residence. On our quitting the city, we passed Mount Sion, on which the walls of the city are partly built, and which is separated by a valley from the hill where Judas Iscariot sold Jesus for thirty pieces of money. The road winds over a part of this hill. After an hour's journey, we reached a convent built by St. Helena, from whence we had a view of Bethlem, the road leading to which is extremely rocky, and of a very dreary appearance. On approaching, the Dead Sea was in our view. Bethlem stands on a lofty mountain, the soil of which abounds in chalk and marl. The inhabitants came out to welcome us on the road; and this was done by the women, by a most hideous shrieking noise, accompanied by gestures and distortions, which it would be difficult to describe. On our passage through the streets, the houses were thronged with people.

As we approached the convent, in which we were received with great hospitality, we passed beneath the ruins of an ancient gate-way, and afterwards entered a lofty building, erected by St. Helena, anciently styled the temple, but now the convent, of St. Catharine. It is ornamented with at least fifty lofty and beautiful columns of marble,

of the Corinthian order; and has on its walls the remains of several fine paintings in *fresco* of scriptural subjects, representing the apostles, patriarchs, &c. The beauty and symmetry of the temple have been in some measure destroyed by a portion of it, which they have converted into a chapel, having been divided off by the Greeks, who received permission from the Turks to do so, on their consenting to pay an annual contribution.

After having partaken of an excellent breakfast, provided by the superior of the convent, we went to see the three surprising basins built by Solomon, near to which he is said to have spent much of his time.

The pools, or basins of Solomon, are three in number, and situated in a sloping hollow of the mountain, one above another; so that the waters of the uppermost descend into the second, and those of the second to the third. Their figure is quadrangular. The breadth is nearly the same in all, amounting to between eighty and ninety paces. In their length they differ; the first being about one hundred and sixty paces long, the second two hundred, and the third two hundred and twenty. The depth of each is considerable. They are lined with stone, plaistered, and in a tolerable state of repair. They contained, however, but little water when I visited them.

The monks, by whom we were accompanied, considered these pools, or basins, as one of the greatest antiquities in the country.

They are distant two hours journey from Bethlem; and the road which leads to them, consisting entirely of rocks, is almost impracticable. These basins supplied the inhabitants of Bethlem and Jerusalem with water, by means of aqueducts, which appeared, however,

at the time of our visit, to be somewhat out of repair. In the vicinity of the pools we noticed a Turkish fort; and, not far from it, the source or spring, by which the basins are supplied with water, as well as by the rains which occasionally fall upon the neighbouring mountains, during the winter season.

In returning, we passed through a valley, in which was a garden, entitled the garden of Solomon. Its irrigation having been favoured by the water which at times issues from the rocks above into the valley, the vegetables it contained had a very promising appearance. We saw in the valley the ruin also of a building, which, we were told, had been inhabited by Solomon's concubines.

On approaching Bethlem, the general made a sketch of the town; and we found, on our arrival, a sumptuous dinner prepared for us at the convent. After this repast, we visited the birth-place of our Saviour, a deep cavern hewn out of the solid rock, and lighted up by a considerable number of lamps, in which the manger was, as well as every other interesting particular, pointed out to us. The manger was, for the same reason as the sepulchre, cased over with marble, to prevent the pilgrims from mutilating it, and carrying off with them fragments of such precious relics. We were afterwards conducted to a variety of memorable spots, and, among them, to the deep and immensely large cistern into which the bodies of the infants, murdered by the command of Herod, were thrown. Near to this cistern the tomb of St. Jerome was situated.

The convent of St. Catharine, in which at one time twenty monks resided, but the number of whom was now reduced to eight, and the

Greek and Armenian convents, being all of them within the same walls and enclosure, so as to constitute one large and entire building only, all the ever memorable places within Bethlem which the sacred writings have recorded, are in this way built over and preserved.

The inhabitants of Bethlem consist, for the greater part, of Greeks, Armenians, and Arabs converted to christianity. Among its population but few Turks are to be found. The dress of the men, like that of the neighbouring peasants, is extremely simple, and consists of a long white chemise, or frock, with a girdle fastened round the waist. Very few of the poorer sort, whether males or females, wear shoes. The women are dressed in a blue chemise, with a cotton belt, or girdle, and cover the head with a long white veil, which flows loosely down the back. Their complexion is very dark, approaching almost to black. They are very laborious, and submit to every description of drudgery. They are betrothed as soon as they come into the world; and marry at the early age of twelve years.

Bethlem standing on an eminence, and on a chalky soil, is justly considered by the inhabitants as possessing a very salubrious air; in proof of which I observed but few among them who had a sickly appearance. There were indeed some cases of ophthalmia, but very rare. The sides of the mountain on which this town is situated were, as well as the summit, interspersed with fine vineyards, banked in with stones, which must have cost a prodigious labour to the cultivators. The grapes they yielded were remarkably large, and finely flavoured. In addition to these we saw figs, pomegranates, and an abundance of olives, on which fruits the inhabitants, in a great measure, subsist. In

the vallies some corn is produced ; and the bread made from it is of an excellent quality. The dews, which fall in great abundance, are highly favourable to the vegetation in general.

As we had to return, in the afternoon, the visits of the Greek and Armenian patriarchs, it was somewhat late before we quitted Bethlem, infomuch that we did not reach our convent at Jerusaleme until seven in the evening. I brought away with me from the former of these places, several chaplets, or strings of beads, made from a fruit brought from Mecca, dyed of a red colour, and crosses, and other trinkets made from a pearl oyster, which the inhabitants procure from the Red Sea, and which they manufacture into these curious articles with great address.

On the 19th, at eleven in the morning, we left the convent at Jerusaleme, on our way to the Mount of Olives, situated at about a mile's distance from the walls of the city. Our attention was then directed to the sepulchres of the kings, which the monks consider as the third wonder in that part of the world. To inspect them, we entered at the east side, through an opening cut out of the solid rock, which brought us into a spacious court of about forty paces square, cut down into the rock, with which it is encompassed instead of walls. On the south side of this court there is a portico, nine paces long, and about four broad, in like manner hewn out of the natural rock. It has a kind of architrave running along its front, and although time has certainly deprived it of some of its beauties, yet it still exhibits the remains of excellent sculpture of flowers, fruits, &c. On the left hand, within this portico, we entered a small aperture upon our

knees and hands; the passage was become difficult on account of the accumulation of rubbish collected at its mouth.

We reached at the commencement a large square chamber, cut with great neatness and exactness out of the solid rock. From this chamber we entered a second, which led to several more, five or six in all, one within the other, nearly of the same description as the first, except that in the interior chambers there were niches, or sepulchres, for the reception of the dead. Each of these caverns, or chambers, had niches for four, six, or eight bodies. The mutilated portions of the sarcophagi, ornamented with fine sculpture, lay scattered upon the ground, as well as the fragments of the stone doors by which these chambers had been anciently closed.

The lid of one of the sarcophagi, seven feet in length, having on it grapes, leaves, acorns, and various other devices, very beautifully sculptured, was in an entire state.

A door of one of the chambers was still hanging. It consisted of a mass of solid stone, resembling the rock itself, of about six inches in thickness, but in size less than an ordinary door. It turned upon two hinges, contrived in the manner of axles. These hinges were of the same entire piece of stone with the door, and were received into two holes of the immoveable rock, one at the top, the other at the bottom.

In some of these chambers the dead bodies were laid upon benches of stone; others had sepulchres cut in the form of ovens. In the different chambers which I entered, I imagine from forty to fifty bodies might have been deposited. Whether the kings of Israel or of Judah, or any other kings were the constructors of them, they have certainly

been contrived with infinite ingenuity, and completed with immense labour.

Having withdrawn from these interesting mausolei, or caverns, we proceeded to the sepulchres of the Virgin Mary, of her mother, and of Joseph, all of them situated in the valley of Jehoshaphat, and over which was erected a large stone building, re-constructed by the Armenians, about forty years before. It was in the vicinity of this spot that St. Stephen was stoned. To reach the sepulchres, which were in the inferior part of a cavern, dug from the solid rock, we had to descend a flight of forty-eight steps. The Virgin's sepulchre was lighted by lamps, which were constantly kept burning at the joint expence of the Greeks, Armenians, and Copts. I brought away with me several small pieces of the rock, cut in squares, which the inhabitants take care to provide for the gratification of the curious traveller. Contiguous to the building erected over the sepulchres, we entered a cave, in which our Saviour is said to have sweated blood. The monks by whom we were accompanied, pointed out to us several large, and apparently ancient olive-trees, which, they assured us, were in existence in the time of our Saviour, and which stood in the front of the building. We did not presume to question their erudition on this point of natural history; but could not help admiring the attention they bestowed on them, in encompassing their roots by stones, and filling up the cavities of their decayed trunks with the same materials, for their better preservation.

On our quitting this spot, we went to the Mount of Olives, a very steep hill, on the east side of Jerufalem, the valley of Jehoshaphat lying between the mount and city. On our reaching its summit, we were

conducted to a small circular building, in which the reverend fathers pointed out to us the impression of our Saviour's foot in a stone, when he ascended into heaven. The Christian inhabitants, when they visit the Mount of Olives, do not content themselves with saluting this cavity in the stone, but also rub on it the fragments of marble taken from the rock beneath, at the sepulchre of the blessed Virgin. The small building erected over the place of ascension is contiguous to a Turkish mosque, and is in the possession of the Turks, who derive a profit from showing its contents; and who also subject the Christians to an annual contribution for a permission to officiate within it, according to their ritual, on Ascension-day. At the distance of about an hundred yards from the mosque is the spot where the angel appeared to Jesus, warning him to ascend, as his place was not on earth, but above; and where the apostles were assembled at the moment of his ascension. From the mosque itself we had a fine and commanding view of Jerusalem, Mount Sion, and the Dead Sea.

In descending the mountain, and in passing afterwards through the valley of Jehoshaphat, we were gratified by the view of several memorable spots. We saw, among others, the tombs of Absalom and Zechariah; and visited the place where the apostles concealed themselves when Jesus was led by. We were next conducted to the well of St. Barb, at the foot of Mount Sion, where the vestments of Jesus were washed; and, at an inconsiderable distance from it, inspected the wells of Nehemiah.

On leaving the valley of Jehoshaphat, we passed to the right of the place where the body of the prophet Isaiah was severed into two parts. In ascending Mount Sion, we saw, on the acclivity of an opposite

mountain, a building erected on the spot where Judas Iscariot betrayed Jesus for thirty pieces of silver. On reaching the summit of the mount, a church and convent, belonging to the Armenians, were pointed out to us, situated at a small distance from the entrance gate leading to the back part of the city. It was there, the monks informed us, that the cock crew when Peter denied Christ. Without the city walls, and on Mount Sion, there is a Turkish mosque standing on the ground where King David was buried, and where our Saviour instituted the Lord's supper.

We returned to Jerusalem, and having partaken of a good dinner at the convent, paid an evening's visit to the Mufti, who received us with much hospitality and politeness, and who expressed his wish that we would spend another day in the holy city, in order that he might entertain us in a suitable manner. We had, however, made our arrangements to set out on the following morning, on our return to Jaffa.

Having accordingly made an early breakfast at the convent, we left Jerusalem at eight in the morning of the 20th. Our plan was, to halt at St. Jerome in the evening; to proceed to Ramla on the following day; and to reach Jaffa on the third. On our way to the village of St. John, distant three hours journey from Jerusalem, a fine building, styled the convent of St. Helena, was pointed out to us, as having been built by that empress on the spot whence the timber was taken for our Saviour's cross. In the village itself, the birth-place of St. John the Baptist, there is also a convent. We arrived there at eleven o'clock, and having entered the church, were directed to the spot where St. John was born, and which is constantly lighted up by lamps.

The church is very neatly decorated, and is ornamented by several good pictures.

The inhabitants of St. John are a mixture of Turks and Arabs, the former of whom are by far the most numerous. They were, at the time of our visit, as well as two other neighbouring villages, in a hostile state to Mahomed Pacha, who, not content with having levied the customary annual *avanas*, or tributes, had endeavoured to exact heavy contributions, which they had neither the will nor the capacity to pay. They had accordingly assembled, and had sworn, laying their swords across, which with them adds great solemnity to the protestation, that they would prefer death to a submission to any demand which should exceed the customary amount of their contributions. In the vicinity of this village there are several fine vineyards, and other spots in excellent cultivation.

After having taken the necessary refreshments, we quitted St. John at two in the afternoon, on our way to St. Jerome; on our approaching which place we were met by the Arab sheick, and a considerable number of his people, who had come out to welcome us, and pay their respects. On our arrival, at half past four o'clock, we were conducted to a house which had been prepared for our reception; and, having brought with us cold provisions, we soon found ourselves at our ease.

Shortly after we had reached the village, the inhabitants, who were equally refractory with those of St. John, were thrown into great confusion and alarm by the rumour that the troops of Mahomed Pacha were approaching. Instantly both men and women fled to an adjoining post, situated on a lofty mountain, very difficult of access,

and equally hazardous to an enemy who should meditate an attack. They there waited further intelligence respecting the advances of the redoubted Pacha.

On our rising at four in the morning of the 21st, there was a very considerable fall of dew, which, in this country, where the rains occur so seldom, is in a manner indispensable to the vegetation. We were told at Jerusalem that rain had not fallen there during nine months.

The vineyards about St. Jerome, cultivated in terraces, or, in other words, banked in with stones to prevent the escape of the soil and moisture, had a very promising appearance. We left that place about seven o'clock, to proceed to Ramla, and took a route over the mountains, infinitely more agreeable and commodious to the traveller than that by which we had passed on our way to Jerusalem. We arrived about eleven o'clock at the village of Caiffa, where we had breakfasted when we first proceeded on our journey, the day after our departure from Jaffa; and, having halted to take refreshments, pursued our way to Ramla, which we reached at two in the afternoon, fixing our residence, as before, at the Latin convent.

Ramla, the ancient Arimathea of the sacred writings, is well known as the residence of Joseph, the rich man and disciple, who went to Pontius Pilate to beg the body of Jesus, which having obtained, he, in concert with Nicodemus, took it down, and wrapped it in linen clothes, with spices, after the manner of the Jews, depositing it in a sepulchre, hewn out of the rock, which had been prepared for himself. The view of the town, from the side at which we entered on this latter occasion, was extremely picturesque and beautiful. It is situated on the confine of a rich and extensive plain,

the luxuriant soil of which is capable of producing whatever is essential to the subsistence of man. We saw several plantations of the *dourra*, or Indian corn, together with vineyards, gardens containing fruits and vegetables, and fields of cotton. The numerous olive-trees without the town, and the date-trees interspersed between the buildings, furnished a most agreeable picture.

The pavement of the streets of Ramla is intermixed with portions of marble; and the houses being partly built of that material, which is here of a yellowish cast, and partly of stone, with the addition of domes and terraces, have a very neat and agreeable appearance when viewed from an elevated situation.

We were told by the reverend fathers belonging to our convent, that the mountain which is contiguous to the Dead Sea, exudes a bituminous matter, with which the sea itself is occasionally overspread. They produced a specimen of this substance, which had the appearance of common pitch. I do not wish to accuse them of dealing in the marvellous, but they surprised us not a little when, in speaking of the noxious quality of the air in the vicinity of the Dead Sea, they asserted, that notwithstanding the fruits and vegetables which grew there were very fine in appearance, they were destitute of all flavour; and that the oranges in particular, instead of containing a pleasant and refreshing juice, were filled with a cineritious matter. The superior assured us, that he had sent several of these oranges to Europe as a curiosity.

Several fine refreshing showers having fallen during the night, we had a very cool and agreeable ride from Ramla, which we left at eight in the morning of the 22d, and reached the camp at Jaffa about eleven o'clock.

On our return from Jerufalem, we fell in with the Greek priests, whom I have already mentioned as having been on their way to Ramla, to obey a requisition of Mahomet Pacha, with whom, we were now told, they had purchased their peace, by consenting to pay a fine of five hundred purses, each containing the same number of piaftres. This reconciliation having been effected, they were joyfully returning to the holy city.

Our excursion thither was attended by a singular circumstance, namely, that our party, comprehending the escort and attendants, was made up of eight different nations, English, Spaniards, Italians, Greeks, Armenians, Turks, Copts, and Arabs.

I cannot conclude this chapter better than by giving the following translation of a written account of Jerufalem, Bethlehem, and the other interesting places in the Holy Land, presented to us by the reverend fathers of the Latin convent at Jerufalem. It may be considered, not merely as a guide to the devout pilgrim, for whose information, and for that of the curious traveller, it appears to have been drawn up; but as an interesting topographical sketch of the countries which embrace the most remarkable objects recorded in the sacred writings.

A TRUE DESCRIPTION OF
 THE HOLY PLACES IN JERUSALEM,
 AND OF THOSE WHICH ARE LIKEWISE USUALLY VISITED BY
 THE DEVOUT PILGRIMS IN JUDEA, GALILEE, &c.

IN JERUSALEM.

ON entering the church of the holy sepulchre, likewise called St. Helen's church, from having been built by the Empress Helen, the stone of unction presents itself, where our Saviour was embalmed and anointed by Joseph and Nicodemus; to the right of which is the ascent to Mount Calvary, by twelve steps, where is seen the hole in which the cross was placed, and near it a cleft in the mountain, occasioned by the earthquake after our Saviour's death; likewise the place of crucifixion. This last belongs to the Catholics. The *schismatic Greeks* robbed us of the hole of the cross by means of money.

From Mount Calvary you descend to the holy sepulchre of our Lord, where forty-four lamps are burning, fourteen of which are ours, the rest belong to the Greeks, Armenians, and Copts, but these have no dominion whatever over the sepulchre itself. Its length is nine spans, its breadth four, and its height about three and a half. Before the entrance to it is the *Angel's Chapel*, a little larger than the

sepulchre. In the middle of it is a stone, little more than a span high, and about nine spans in circumference. On this stone sat the angel who, after the resurrection of our Lord, appeared to the holy women, saying to them—"Do you seek Jesus who has been crucified? He is not here, but is risen." On leaving this chapel, at the distance of a few paces, is seen the place where the Lord, after being risen, was seen by Mary Magdalen, in the dress of a gardener; and, a few paces further, the spot where that penitent stood. You then enter our church, where our Saviour made his first appearance to his holy mother, after the resurrection. On the right of the great altar (*in which our Lord is preserved under the sacramental form*) is a hollow place, fastened up with an iron grating, within which is part of the column to which he was bound and scourged. On the left is part of the holy cross, shut up in the same manner. At the foot of the altar is seen the place where one of the three crosses was miraculously discovered by St. Helen, perhaps the cross of the Saviour. Leaving our church, you visit the prison where our Saviour was bound before he suffered the death of the cross: this place belongs to the Greeks. A few steps from it is the chapel of St. Longinus, the soldier who, after having pierced the sacred side of our Saviour, wept on account of his sins in this place, which likewise belongs to the Greeks. A few steps further is the place where the soldiers went to divide the garments of the Redeemer, and which belongs to the Armenians. A few steps from this is the pillar of reproaches, belonging to the Greeks. From thence you descend twenty-nine steps, and you see the chapel of St. Helen, and the place where she stood when they dug for the holy cross. Then descending thirteen

other steps, you see the place where the cross was found. This place belongs to us, but the chapel of St. Helen was, as well as the other places, stolen from us by the Armenians. St. Helen lived eighty years: she was buried in one of the churches of Rome.

Under the holy Mount Calvary is the *Chapel of Adam*, where, as authors say, the head of Adam was buried by Shem, the son of Noah, after the deluge. This belongs to the Greeks. At a little distance from it, is the place where the holy women stood whilst our Saviour was crucified, and likewise the place where they sat down. Behind the holy sepulchre is the monument of Joseph of Arimathea, who earnestly requested of Pilate the holy body of Jesus: this belongs to the Armenians.

Near the door of the church you ascend eleven steps, and come to the chapel of St. Mary of Calvary, where the blessed Virgin stood with St. John the Evangelist, when the Jews crucified our Saviour, and where we perform mass every day. In the road leading to the garden of Gethsemane, called the *Mournful Way*, are seen the place where the Lord fell under the weight of the cross, which he carried on his shoulders; the palace of Pilate, within which is the tribunal, where the Saviour was scourged, and given into the hands of the Jews to be crucified; and also the place where they bound him to the column, and crowned him with a crown of thorns, saying to him, "Hail! King of the Jews." Without is likewise the place where he was scourged; together with the arch where Pilate shewed him to the people, saying, "Behold the man." In the court-yard of the palace is the place where the soldiers spoiled him of the purple, and dressed him again in his own garments, giving him the cross to carry.

At a short distance from the arch before-mentioned, is the place where the Virgin Mary met her son. Pursuing the road to Gethsemane, you meet with a mosque near the gate of St. Stephen, where the Virgin Mary was born. Without the gate is the place where St. Stephen was stoned by the Jews, and, near to it, the cistern, into which they say his body was thrown. The church of the Virgin Mary is next seen. Having descended forty-eight steps, you view the altar, or sepulchre, whence she was taken up into heaven by the angels. About ninety years ago this was taken away from us by the Greeks. Within the church are the tombs of St. Ann, St. Joseph, and St. James. At a short distance from the church is the grotto, in which our Saviour sweated blood. Near the grotto is the garden in which he was taken. In this garden are eight olive-trees, which, according to tradition, were there in the time of our Saviour: they bear fruit, and are wonderfully preserved. At the bottom of a small mount is the place where our Saviour parted from the eight apostles to pray, and near it the place where he left the other three, viz. Peter, James, and John his brother. A few steps farther is the place where the Virgin Mary prayed for St. Stephen, whilst the Jews stoned him.

Leaving the garden, you go to the torrent of Cedron, near which our Saviour fell when he was bound by the Jews. Moving onward, you see the tomb of Jehosaphat, king of Judah, curiously excavated in a rock, and also the tomb of Abfalom, son of David, which he himself caused to be excavated, in order that he might be buried there, and which is made in the form of a tower. Ascending a little, you see the place where St. James the Less hid himself after

our Saviour was: taken likewise the tomb of Zachariah the prophet and martyr, slain by the Jews. All these places are on the left of the torrent of Cedron. Not far off is the town, or village, commonly called Silöe; and, about a mile from it, a fountain, called Mary's fountain, because it is known from tradition, that the holy Virgin washed in it the clothes of her child. Near this is a wall of the ancient church of the pool of Silöe, in which our Saviour put the blind man, in order that he might wash himself, and recover his sight. Not far from this is a tree where the prophet Isaiah was severed in two parts: likewise the well of Nehemiah, in which, by God's permission, the holy fire remained hidden for seventy years, that is, during the time when the Israelites were carried into Persia, in the reign of Nebuchadnezzar king of the Persians. At the expiration of the seventy years, the priest Nehemiah caused a search to be made for the holy fire, and found in place of it water, which, however, by divine power, was reconverted into fire.

On the holy Mount of Olives, where our Saviour ascended into heaven, are seen the impressions of his feet. The church built there by St. Helen is now a mosque. A mile from this is the place called *Men of Galilee*, because, after the ascension, the angels appeared here to the disciples, oppressed with grief, saying unto them, "Men of Gallilee, why stand ye looking up to heaven?" The following places are likewise seen on the Mount of Olives, viz. the place where the Saviour, casting his eyes towards Jerusalem, wept for it; where the apostles composed the creed; where the Saviour prayed, and taught the disciples the *pater noster*; the tombs of the prophets; the place where Christ foretold the destruction of Jerusalem, which is

marked by a broken column, and an olive-tree; the cottage of St. Pelasgia, the penitent, who came to Antioch in the dress of a man, and, taking the name of Pelasgius, led there a monastic life.

About half a mile from Jerusalem, near the tombs of the kings of the Jews, towards Silöe, is seen the execrable place where the sacrilegious Judas, after having sold Jesus, hanged himself. Two miles from the Mount of Olives, stands Bethana, where are the vestiges of the house of Mary Magdalene and Martha, and the tomb where Lazarus their brother was buried and raised to life again. Not far from this place is Bethfage, upon a hill, where, by the desire of our Saviour, the apostles brought him an ass, upon which he gloriously entered Jerusalem on *palm day*, by the *golden gate*, where there is now a wall.

On Mount Sion is seen the cenaculum, or supper-room, where the Holy Ghost descended upon the apostles; where the Saviour appeared to them after the resurrection, and washed their feet; and where he also appeared to St. Thomas. The place where St. Matthias was elected an apostle, in the room of Judas, and the tomb of David, who lived seventy years and six months, are also to be seen there. At a short distance from Mount Sion is the house where the Virgin Mary lived nearly twenty-four years after her son's ascension, and where, according to tradition, she died. Near this is the chapel of St. John the Evangelist. Entering at the gate called *Sterguillina*, you come to a little grotto, where Peter wept, after having denied Christ. Farther on is the house of Anna, the high-priest, where Jesus was led bound, and where the ungrateful Malco, servant of the high-priest, who had been healed but a little before, gave the

Saviour a blow : this place belongs to the Armenians. Near it is seen an olive-tree, to which Christ was bound, and the palace of Caiphas, the high-priest. There St. Helen built a church, and the Armenians the convent, which they now occupy. In a corner of the church, on the right of the great altar, is the prison where Christ remained a whole night. Near the door of the church, on the right, under a portico, is the place where the maid said to Peter, "and " this man was likewise with him," and the place where Peter thrice denied Christ, on which there is a tree, as a mark of it. There is likewise a place called the *cock crow*, because the cock crowed on that spot, and reminded Peter of the denial.

Not far from Jerusalem is a place called the grotto of Jeremiah, where that prophet wrote the lamentations of the holy week ; and, a little farther, the tombs of the kings, twenty-two in number.

BETHLEHEM.

Here are seen the following places, viz. where Christ was born, the manger in which he was laid, and the place where he was adored by the magi. The grotto of St. Joseph, where he remained when the Virgin was delivered ; the place where the Innocents were slain by order of Herod ; the sepulchre of St. Gerolamo, St. Paula, and St. Eustochia her daughter ; the birth-place of our Saviour, which has been forty or fifty years in the power of the Greeks, who took it away from us by means of a firman of the Grand Seignor, procured by money ; and the church of St. Catharine, built by St. Helen. Without Bethlehem, at a little distance, is the grotto of the *milk of the Virgin Mary*, and a few steps farther, the house of St. Joseph.

About two miles farther is the church of the angels; in which place the birth of our Saviour was announced to the shepherds by the angels, singing "Glory to God in the highest." About six miles from Bethlehem, is the place where was situated the city of Tecua, built by Rehoboam, son of Solomon; in this city lived the holy prophet Amos. Towards the Dead Sea, six miles from Bethlehem, is the place where were the vines of Engaddi, so much praised in the psalms; and a few steps from thence, is the place where David hid himself from the persecution of Saul. Four miles distant is the monastery of St. Sabba, in possession of the Greeks. This was built by the Emperor Justinian, and in it died St. Sabba, whose body was conveyed to Venice. In this convent are the several rooms of St. John of Damascus, of St. Eutimius, and St. Civillus. Returning from the convent of St. Sabba, you go to the hortus conclusus, to the three pools of Solomon, &c.

ST. JOHN IN THE MOUNTAIN.

The place where John the Baptist was born, and the house of St. Elizabeth, where the Virgin Mary went to visit her, and composed the psalm "*magnificat*," (my soul doth magnify the Lord, &c.) are here to be seen. In the way you meet with a convent belonging to the Greeks, called the Holy Cross, built by St. Helen, in the place where the wood was cut to make the cross of our Saviour.

About four miles from St. John, is the desert of John the Baptist—here is a cave where he and his mother, St. Elizabeth, hid themselves by order of God, to avoid the cruelty of Herod, who

fought to kill him, eight months after his birth. In the same place is seen the stone upon which St. John slept a little at night; and at a little distance is the sepulchre of St. Elizabeth, his mother, who died there four years after his birth, and was buried by the hands of angels.

NAZARETH.

Here is to be seen the place where St. Gabriel appeared to the holy Virgin, saluting her, saying *Ave Maria*, and announcing the Incarnation.

To go into the holy grotto fifteen steps are to be descended. In this grotto are seen two pillars, scarcely two steps from each other, one called Mary's pillar, the other the Angel's, made by St. Helen, according to tradition. That which is called the pillar of the Virgin Mary, stands without support, being raised from the ground about five spans. It is piously believed that there the Virgin Mary stood when she was saluted by the angel Gabriel. The other, which stands firmly supported, is in the place where the angel stood when he said to the Virgin, *Ave Maria*. In this grotto there are two altars, one called the altar of the incarnation: the other, which is contiguous to it, and the five altars in the great church, were built by St. Helen. In the town, at a little distance from the convent, is seen the house of St. Joseph, almost destroyed, in which he, with his reputed son, carried on the trade of carpenter. This house is now occupied by the Turks. A few steps farther is seen the Jew's synagogue, in which the Saviour preached to the Pharisees, saying, "Verily I say unto you, no prophet is received in his own country,"

&c. At a short distance is the fountain of the Virgin Mary and her son, so called, because they both went to that fountain to get water. In its vicinity is a church of the Greeks; and about a mile farther is seen, on an eminence, the table of Christ, that is, a stone, upon which he and his disciples ate. Towards the south is a mount, called the Mount of the Virgin's Fear, because the Virgin Mary here understood, that the men of Nazareth having driven her son from the synagogue in which he had preached, intended to conduct him to another mountain, to precipitate him from it: here was formerly a monastery of monks. About an hour's distance from Nazareth is the mountain alluded to, from which they intended to throw Christ, and which is on that account called the *precipice of Christ*. From thence, by a very bad road, over hills, as you go to Jaffa, lies the country of Zebedee, and his sons, James the Great, and John the Evangelist. The church is destroyed; it is about three miles from Nazareth. Nazareth is about ninety miles from Jerusalem by land, and about twenty-four from Acre.

From Nazareth you go to the sea of Tiberias; and first presents itself the city of Cana in Galilee, about four miles from Nazareth. In this place it was that Jesus converted the water into wine; and it is said to have been the country of the apostles Bartholomew, Simon the Canaanite, and St. Matthew. From this place you go to the sepulchre of the prophet Jonas, on a mountain two or three miles from the road, and about six miles from Nazareth. About twelve miles further, passing through a large plain, you go to the place called the Table of Christ, where, with seven loaves and two fishes, he satisfied 4000 persons. At a little distance is the Mount

of Blessings, where the Saviour declared the eight blessings—*“Blessed are the poor in spirit,”* &c. On the top of the mount ruins are yet to be seen. About six miles farther is another mount, from which is seen the city of Tiberias, surrounded by a wall. In this place, Jesus Christ, after being risen from the dead, constituted Peter chief of the apostles, head and master of the world. The Turks have destroyed this place. Tiberias is distant from Nazareth about twenty-four miles. A little way farther, near the Sea of Galilee, is the famous city of Capernaum, where our Saviour preached for the first time the doctrine of the most august eucharist; where he cured the paralytic; where St. Matthew, standing at the “receipt of custom,” was called by him, and followed him; and where he cured the Centurion.

All the places here described are true and genuine, and the devout pilgrim will be able by this description to form an idea of them. So as not to forget them—Praise to God.

JERUSALEM,
22d October, 1800.

CHAPTER X.

IRREGULARITIES IN THE TURKISH CAMP—GOVERNOR OF DAMASCUS BE-
 HEADED—MEMORIAL DELIVERED TO THE GRAND VIZIER ON THE
 STATE OF THE CAMP—DESERTION OF TURKISH CHIEFS AND SOLDIERS
 —TENTS PLUNDERED BY ARABS—PLAGUE AMONG THE MAMELUKES
 AND ALBANIANS—MUTINY OF THE JANISSARIES—CEREMONIES ON PAY-
 ING THEM THEIR ARREARS—ALARMS EXCITED BY REPORTS FROM EL-
 ARISH—DECAPITATION OF TURKISH SOLDIERS FOR GAMING—RAVAGES
 BY THE PLAGUE—INSURRECTION IN PALESTINE ON ACCOUNT OF THE
 HEAVY IMPOSITIONS OF THE GOVERNMENT—DISASTROUS STATE OF
 THE BRITISH MISSION—DEATH OF A MILITARY ARTIFICER—A BRITISH
 GUNNER DIES OF THE PLAGUE—DEATH OF MRS. KOEHLER, AND OF THE
 GENERAL—PRECAUTIONS EMPLOYED TO STOP THE PROGRESS OF THE
 PLAGUE—TURKISH ENTERTAINMENTS IN CAMP—REMOVAL OF THE
 CAMP—INSTANCES OF INSUBORDINATION IN THE CAMP—EFFECTIVE
 FORCE OF THE TURKISH ARMY—OBSERVATIONS ON THE PLAGUE—VI-
 ZIER'S PHYSICIAN DIES OF THE PLAGUE—RAMAZAN—LYDDA—THE
 GRAND VIZIER INDISPOSED, AND ATTENDED BY THE AUTHOR—CELE-
 BRATION OF THE BIRAM IN CAMP—REMARKS ON THE COUNTRY ABOUT
 JAFFA—CLIMATE OF SYRIA—FACE OF THE COUNTRY, AND SOIL—
 PRODUCTIONS OF SYRIA—SHEEP AND GOATS—OTHER CATTLE—HABI-
 TATIONS OF THE SYRIANS—CAMELS, AND OTHER BEASTS OF BURTHEN
 —CHARACTER AND MANNERS OF THE SYRIANS—ABJECT STATE OF THE
 FARMERS, OR HUSBANDMEN—BEDOUINS, OR WANDERING ARABS—AGRI-
 CULTURE OF SYRIA—DISEASES OF SYRIA.

ON our return to camp we found that the transport had arrived
 on the morning of the preceding day, the 21st, from El-Arish.

The transport failed on the 26th to Caiffa, the port of Acre, to
 seek shelter from the inclement weather and high winds, which ren-

dered the road of Jaffa a place of little security for anchorage. The women belonging to the mission had been previously debarked from her, and were sent to inhabit a house in the town.

On the morning of the 27th, a smart and brisk fire of musketry, with ball cartridges, was kept up for a considerable time by the Turkish soldiery, who, as we afterwards found, had been amusing themselves in this way on their return from a field-day.

We learned on the 28th, that the Waiwode, or Governor of Damascus, had been beheaded, and a Turk of distinction sent to collect his riches. The deceased had been Kia to Mahomed Pacha, by whom he had been appointed to the above situation.

During the night an affray happened among the Arnauts, who proceeded to such extremities, that five of them were killed, and three wounded.

I delivered in, on the 30th, a written representation to the Vizier and Reis Effendi, on the subject of the filthy and noxious state of the camp, arising from the abundance of the putrid carcases of horses, mules, &c. which were every where dispersed. In my letter, I recapitulated, in the most forcible and energetic terms I was capable of using, all the dangers which might result from these nuisances, unless the means which I pointed out should be adopted without delay, or, provided they could not be readily effected, the ground of the encampment shifted previously to the expected falls of rain. The Vizier, in expressing his thanks for this communication, promised that an immediate and proper attention should be paid to the remedying of the evil of which I complained.

Towards the close of the month two of the Turkish chiefs, toge-

ther with several hundreds of the privates, surreptitiously left the camp, to proceed to Acre, and join the forces of Djezzar Pacha, who, according to reports which were abroad, gave better pay to his troops than the Vizier.

About this time several of our tents were plundered by the Arabs, whose activity and address eluded all our pursuits. These depredations having been committed for several nights successively, our suspicions at length fell on an Arab cook, whom we had taken into our service, and who proved to be one of the parties concerned.

On the 3d of November, at six in the morning, the detachments which composed the British military mission, were marched out to be reviewed by his Highness the Vizier, for whom a superb tent had been pitched, together with several others for the company and attendants. Our detachments having gone through a variety of evolutions, and fired several discharges, the Vizier was pleased to compliment them, and to express his fullest approbation of their excellent order and discipline. Previously to their being marched to camp, a present was made by his Highness to the non-commissioned officers and privates. He had been careful to draw up on this occasion a large proportion of his troops to witness the review; and made it a particular request that our officers should join the Turkish cavalcade in procession, on the return to the camp, in the course of which his attendants amused us by forming several djerid parties, the music playing, and the Mameluke cavalry going through a charge.

At this time the plague again made its appearance among the Mamelukes and Albanians, several of whom, we were informed, daily fell victims to this disease.

Haffan Djadarvi, one of the Mameluke Beys, left El-Arith on the 6th, with a considerable body of troops, for the purpose of reconnoitring the detached parties of the enemy, and endeavouring to cut off them or their convoys. He returned a few days after, without having accomplished the object on which he had been sent.

On the 10th I received from the reverend fathers belonging to the Latin convent at Jerufalem, a present of fruits and of curious plants collected near the Dead Sea, accompanied by two bottles of the water taken from that sea, the taste of which was peculiarly saline and pungent. Upon their arrival in England, I shall endeavour to give an analysis of the water.

The Janissaries assembled on the 13th, in a tumultuous manner, and proceeded to their Aga, or commander, who, on being apprized of their intentions and menaces, had secreted himself. Being thus disappointed in meeting with the object of their resentment, they repaired to the Vizier, to state their grievance, which consisted in a considerable arrear of their pay remaining unpaid. A Tartar having arrived, however, the preceding day in a vessel from Constantinople, with a supply of treasure for the Vizier, he was enabled to make them a promise of payment, with which they were so well satisfied, that they returned quietly to their tents.

In consequence of an invitation from the Grand Vizier, the mission proceeded on the morning of the 18th, at nine o'clock, to witness the ceremony of the payment which was to be made to the Janissaries. To the right of the tent of the Grand Vizier a tent was pitched for our officers; and to the left a new and superb tent, provided with a handsome sofa for his Highness, and a stool for the Tefterdar,

or high treasurer, was pitched for the ceremony. The money, which lay in bags in the front of the tent, was divided into nine lots. The guards and attendants, together with the Tartars and Janissaries, formed three sides of a square, the fourth side of which was formed by the tents. The Janissaries who were to be paid were without arms; and the Tefterdar read aloud the order of payment.

Of the nine lots, eight were for as many companies of Janissaries, and the ninth for the Choarbagis, or commanders. The bags contained in one of these lots having been laid promiscuously within the square, a signal was made for the company which was to be paid. This was no sooner done, than all the individuals belonging to it rushed forward, and scrambled for the bags, contending with each other who should carry them off, to which circumstance they attach no small share of honour, at the same time that it is not accompanied by any pecuniary advantage, the bags being instantly taken to the tent of the Choarbagis commanding the company, and a proper distribution of the money there made. Each of the companies having received its lot or portion of the bags, the Choarbagis, who were permitted to wear their arms, had theirs delivered to them. The number distributed was an hundred and eighty-six, each of the purses or bags containing five hundred piastres.

The state officers who attended on this occasion were dressed in scarlet benices, or robes of honour; and the Tefterdar was, on the conclusion of the ceremony, invested with a castan, as were likewise all those who were immediately concerned under him in making the payments. Except the contests which ensued, in this very extraordinary mode of paying the troops, to obtain the possession of

the bags, not a tumultuous voice was heard; but the whole was conducted with great gravity and tranquillity.

In consequence of advices received from El-Arish on the 17th, purporting that the French had, on hearing of the movement made by the Bey, Haffan Djadarvi, sent a body of fifteen hundred men to oppose him, and had also thrown a fresh body of troops into Salahieh, there was a considerable degree of agitation in the Turkish camp. It was reported also that a brig, supposed to be French, had been hovering for some days off El-Arish. It was obvious that, the Turks having received no direct intelligence of these events from those who were in their confidence, an entire belief ought not to have been attached to the rumours thus circulated, yet the alarm they excited had the good effect of keeping our allies more on the alert than usual, and of inducing them to send out advanced parties. Accordingly, on the 20th, new reports having reached the Vizier from El-Arish, that the enemy's forces were in motion, and that a part of them had already reached Catieh, Captain Leake of the royal artillery was detached, with a party mounted on hedgins, or dromedaries, to reconnoitre the enemy.

We learned at this time that Mahomed Pacha was busily engaged in levying heavy contributions on the villages, and in the vicinity of Jerufalem. From the state of several of these villages, however, when we passed through them on our late excursion to Jerufalem, this appeared to be a task not very easy in its accomplishment.

The doubts which had been expressed by the Pacha some days before, respecting the advance of the enemy, in great force, on El-Arish, were confirmed on the 24th, when it was ascertained, that

the small body of French which had advanced to Catieh, consisted merely of a reconnoitring party, which had retired, after having plundered the Arab inhabitants of that place of a few of their camels.

The difficulty of obtaining a precise knowledge of facts and occurrences at the station we occupied, arose from the interposition of a desert between the enemy and the Ottoman army, which obliged the Turkish commanders to listen to the reports made by the Arabs, until they could obtain intelligence on which a more full reliance could be placed.

There had been latterly frequent desertions, both from the great encampment at Jaffa, and from that of El-Arish. It ought, notwithstanding, to be observed, that these desertions were not to the common enemy, but into the interior of the country. It frequently happened that the troops went off in large bodies.

Among other causes of insubordination, gaming had found its way into the Turkish camp, and was more particularly prevalent among the Arnauts, who would not desist from this vicious practice, notwithstanding it was in direct violation of public orders. We saw the bodies of several of these people, who had, as we understood, been decapitated for the above offence, lying in the streets of the encampment, with the head placed under the arm, the mode customarily practised after the decapitation of Mussulmen. When a Frank is beheaded, he is denied the privilege of having the head placed under the arm; instead of which it is placed between the legs, with the face towards the body.

On the 25th, in taking a solitary ride, at a little distance from

the camp two shots were fired, which came in my direction, but which fortunately missed me. The general and myself rode out in the evening to the spot whence they were directed, and made the necessary enquiries, which, however, proved ineffectual.

The Pacha of Aleppo, whose dignity was announced by his being decorated with three tails, arrived at the encampment on the 26th, with a body of cavalry and infantry, amounting, it was supposed, to about a thousand men.

The advices which had been received from El-Arish, respecting the formidable movements of the French forces, were conjectured to have been merely a stratagem of the troops encamped at that place, to obtain from the Vizier the liquidation of the arrears of their pay, which had long been due. Supposing this conjecture to have been well founded, the stratagem had its full effect, as the Vizier shortly after forwarded thither two hundred purses.

Several vessels, which, in consequence of the late violent gales, had been obliged to slip their cables in the roadstead of Jaffa, and had sought refuge at Caiffa, the port next to Acre, returned on the 27th, laden with barley, the daily consumption of which, at the Turkish camp, was said to amount to six hundred kiloes, each containing twenty-two okes; or, to speak with more precision to the English reader, fifteen tons of that object of prime necessity were, according to this computation, consumed daily by the cattle.

The gales still continued with unabated severity, and on the 28th the wind blew with unusual violence from the north and north-east. It might have been expected that the Turkish camp, however replete with the germs of pestilence, would have been in some degree

ventilated by these searching winds; it is, however, but too true, that the mortality occasioned by the plague, was at this time in an increasing ratio, and that many of the troops daily fell victims to its attacks.

The officers belonging to the mission, dined by invitation, in the Turkish style, on the 30th, with his Excellency the Reis Effendi. In the rear of the ground on which the mission was encamped, an affray took place in the evening among the Turkish soldiers, in which several of the combatants were wounded.

Advices were at this time brought to camp that Mahomed Pacha, who, as has been before noticed, had been employed in the interior in exacting heavy and arbitrary contributions, had met with a formidable resistance from the inhabitants of Nablous, and of the adjacent villages, by whom he had been defeated with considerable loss, after various skirmishes, which had continued for four days successively. Having also received a check from the inhabitants of the villages bordering on Jerufalem, he had at length been obliged to retreat towards Hebron.

The English sloop of war the *Camelion*, Captain Maitland, arrived at Jaffa in the night of the 2d of December; and, on the following morning, Colonel Murray, deputy quarter-master-general to the forces under the command of Sir Ralph Abercrombie, came to the camp, with the very satisfactory intelligence of the approach of a considerable British force. From this information we were encouraged to hope that the painful situation of the mission would be speedily alleviated by the adoption of more active measures, which would bring the affairs in this part of the world to a speedy conclusion.

Captain Maitland, of the *Camelion*, having been advised that a suspicious brig had been observed for several days past hovering off El-Arish, sailed on the evening of the 3d, in hopes of falling in with her.

The plague continued to make great ravages in the Turkish camp, and was not, as before, confined to the Mamelukes and Albanians, but had become general among every description of the troops. It was impossible to form a precise idea of the mortality it occasioned; but from what we witnessed, we had reason to conjecture that an hundred individuals perished daily from this complaint. The Turkish ranks were also greatly thinned by the desertions, which were effected in large bodies, to prevent the passage from being disputed by a small guard purposely stationed about three miles from the camp, on the road leading to Acre and Damascus.

General Koehler, Colonel Murray, and all the officers of the mission, were invited to be present at a Turkish field-day, on the 4th. The troops, consisting of about six thousand, went through nearly the same manœuvres with those which have been already described.

The *Camelion*, having on board Major Fletcher and Captain Leake, arrived on the afternoon of the 7th, from El-Arish, without having fallen in with the suspicious brig, in quest of which she had sailed from Jaffa.

I am compelled here to interrupt the order of my narrative of general occurrences, to speak particularly of the situation of the mission at the period on which I am entering. On the 5th of the present month, December, Geary, a military artificer, was attacked by symptoms of malignant fever, to which he fell a victim on the 10th in the afternoon. His death was soon followed by other similar disasters;

for, on the night following the day of his decease, Mace, a civil artificer, was seized with symptoms which very speedily announced the disease to be a true case of the plague. Under this attack he sunk at nine in the morning of the 12th, after an illness of little more than twenty-four hours. This fatal case was succeeded by that of gunner Cowden, one of the artillery-men, who was attacked on the evening of the 13th, with symptoms similar to the above, and languished until the afternoon of the 18th, the sixth day of the attack, when he expired. In both of these cases several pestilential tumours were manifest. It will be seen, in the Medical Appendix annexed to this work, that, under these alarming and calamitous circumstances, none of the precautions which prudence could suggest were neglected, to prevent the further spreading of the contagion.

The fatal illness of Mrs. Koehler, wife of the general, was of a more lingering kind than those related above. On the seventh day of the month she was attacked by symptoms of malignant fever, which did not yield to any of the curative means employed, but manifested in their progress an increased virulence. On the 13th she was conveyed from the encampment to the town of Jaffa, where a lodging had been provided for her; and died there on the 14th, in the afternoon. Her affectionate and inconsolable husband, the general, did not long survive her loss. He was seized nearly in the same manner on the morning of the 26th; and, having quitted the encampment, sent his secretary immediately after to Colonel Holloway, the next in command, to say that he was gone to Jaffa indisposed. The malignance of the fever by which he had been attacked, added to the melancholy into which he had been plunged by his recent loss, very speedily terminated

his earthly career. He died on the evening of the 29th, the fourth day of the attack ; and was buried on the following afternoon with military honours.

Here let me pause for a moment, to reflect on the sad position of those who were left to lament his loss, and to deplore the calamitous events of a similar kind which had followed each other in so quick a succession. The plague at this juncture raged with the utmost violence in the Turkish camp, and had, as has already been seen (as well as a fever which appeared scarcely less malignant) commenced its ravages in our small party, in which a general indisposition prevailed. We had lost our chief, who had fallen a victim to disease ; and each of us trembled for himself, and for the friends and associates by whom he was environed. It would be difficult to conceive a situation of more imminent peril* than that in which we were placed, and it is impossible to describe the painful sensations by which each individual was agitated. It was sufficient that a new case of illness, from whatever cause it might have arisen, was announced, to fill us with the most agonizing pangs, the most heart-rending apprehensions !—In the mean time, a vigilant and unremitting attention was paid to whatever could stay the progress of infection ; fumigations were, among a variety of means, employed in each of the tents, and the sick, as well as the attendants, separated from the rest of the people. In each of the cases which had terminated fatally, the clothes, bedding, and, in general, whatever had been employed for the service of the deceased, were immediately burned.

* This peril was augmented by the necessity of attending, at so awful a crisis, on the Vizier. Thirty-six of his family and retinue had already fallen victims to this fatal disease, which was fast gaining ground in his Highness's quarters.

My narrative recommences on the 8th of December, when the officers belonging to the mission, with Colonel Murray, the deputy quarter-master-general, whose arrival in the camp I have already announced, had the singular honour of dining with the Grand Vizier. His Highness was in uncommonly good spirits, in consequence of his having that morning received a firman from the Sultan, accompanied, among other presents, by that of a beautiful handjar, or dagger, the hilt of which was set with diamonds of great brilliancy. On this particular occasion a royal salute was fired; and his Highness's magnificent tent spread, to receive the firman, or letter, and to display the presents.

Our dinner was entirely in the Turkish style, and of course consisted of the best dishes the country could supply, prepared with the most consummate address. The polite and friendly attentions of the Vizier, who paid many compliments to his English guests, gave them a still higher relish; and we departed with the most satisfactory impressions of his kind and undisguised hospitality. On our return home, his Highness sent each of us a present of a shawl and a piece of silk. The general received also a gift of a snuff-box, ornamented with diamonds.

The same party, with the exception of the general, who absented himself on account of Mrs. Koehler's indisposition, dined on the 11th with the Kia Bey. On proceeding up the camp, to repair to his tent, we were invited by the Vizier to see the Turkish practice of cutting a large roll of felt, nearly ten inches in diameter, moistened, and suspended by a cord. On this roll of felt several good cuts were made, but one only by which it was completely severed into two parts. This extraordinary achievement, to effect which must have required great

address combined with a long practice, was rewarded by a fuitable present.

We found the Kia Bey to be a very agreeable and pleasant man, or about forty-five years of age. Before and after our dinner, which was served up with much taste and neatness, pipes, coffee, and other refreshments, were handed to us; and no attention spared to demonstrate the kind and friendly disposition of our host.

Colonel Murray embarked on the 13th on board the *Camelion* sloop of war for Macri. He was accompanied by Major Fletcher, of the royal engineers, charged with dispatches to Sir Ralph Abercrombie.

On the 15th the Vizier shifted the site of his encampment to a spot on the other side of Jaffa, distant about an hour's journey, or three miles, from the ancient ground. His Highness, and principal officers, accompanied by the different corps of troops under their respective commanders, moved with great ceremony to occupy the new ground of encampment. We followed his example on the 16th, and pitched our tents on an eminence, covered with a white and clear sand, and commanding a fine view of the sea.

The Turkish sick, who were very numerous, and among whom so great a mortality prevailed, that, on the morning of the 15th, no less than fifty dead bodies passed in front of our encampment, were left behind. Many thousands of men, alas! had already perished, and many others were still doomed to destruction, through the superstitious prejudices and culpable neglect of their rulers, who had spurned at every admonition to take the necessary precautions for their safety. The ground which the Turkish soldiery had quitted, exhibited a melancholy scene, the horrors of which were heightened by the great

numbers of carcases of camels, horses, asses, and dogs (among whom also an epidemical disease had recently broken out), with which the earth was abundantly strewed. It was now left to vomit forth the abundance of putrid animal matter with which it had been so long furcharged.

On our fixing ourselves on the new ground of encampment, so much firing was kept up by the Turkish military, the balls from whose pieces frequently fell within the camp of the mission, that General Koehler found it necessary to make an official representation of this abuse to the Vizier and Rejs Effendi. The result of this measure was, that a guard of janissaries was placed on the left of the camp; but no sooner was the mission relieved from one inconvenience, than it was followed by another of a more alarming nature, the commander of the guard falling a victim to the plague a few days after.

On the 17th, three bodies were seen lying in the streets of the new camp, with the head placed under one of the arms. This Turkish custom, in the punishment of criminals, has been already explained.

The English hospital tent, which had been left on the old ground of encampment, with the plague patient, Cowden, on whose case I touched in a late digression, was attempted to be robbed by a party of Arabs. The guard in attendance fired on these miscreants, who could not be deterred from their predatory pursuits by the risk even of encountering so dreadful a disease.

At this time an incident occurred which displays the extreme heedlessness of the Turks. Major Hope, commanding the artillery, went

to the Topgis Bassi, or chief of artillery, to give him some instructions relative to the Turkish ordnance. One of the topgis, or artillerymen, brought a live shell into the tent in which this business was transacting, to show the priming and quick match, which he placed close to the pipes of those who were smoking, and, with a thorough insensibility of his own danger, and of the risk to which he exposed all the ammunition in the park of artillery, drew out his knife to open the match. So little attention do these people pay to consequences, that he would, in the same way, have brought in a cartridge of powder, if the major had not prevented him. Plate IX. contains an exact representation of the costume of a Topgis Bassi, or commandant of Turkish artillery.

On the evening of the 19th the sick were removed to the new encampment, where they were placed under the same strict and severe quarantine as before.

An English gun-boat arrived at Jaffa on the 27th from Gibraltar. She brought advices, that the fleet stationed off Malta had captured three vessels richly laden out of Alexandria, at which place nearly sixty sail, having on board property destined for France, were making preparations for their departure. The gun-boat sailed in the evening for the coast of Egypt.

The death of General Koehler, our highly lamented and equally respected chief, occurred, as I have already stated, on the 29th of the present month. On the 30th, after all the honours due to the rank and importance of the deceased had been paid to his revered obsequies, Lieutenant Colonel Holloway, on whom the command of the mission devolved, sent messages to the Grand Vizier, the Kia Bey, the Reis



The Topuzi Bashi, or Commandant of Artillery.

Effendi, and the Tefterdar Effendi, to announce to them, refpectively and individually, the melancholy event. He at the fame time requested an audience of the Grand Vizier, which took place on the following day, the 31ft, when he announced his fituation officially. He was accompanied, on this occafion, by Major Hope, who was acknowledged by the Vizier as fecond in command; and, after many compliments had been paid to each of thefe officers, the former was invefted with a fable pelice, and the latter with a pelice of ermine.

On the 1ft of January, 1801, I paid a vifit to the Reis Effendi, with whom I had a long converfation relative to the precautions to be taken to prevent the further progrefs of infection. He imparted to me the pleafing intelligence, that the camp was more healthy than it had been, the plague having in a great meafure ceafed.

Colonel Holloway urged the Vizier, on the 2d, to make fuch preparations as the expediency of the circumftances feemed to require, and, among others, to eftablifh magazines of provifions and ammunition at El-Arifh.

In the afternoon, while the fervants of Colonel Holloway and Major Hope were exercifing the horfes of their mafters, they were attacked by a party of plundering Arabs, by whofe fire the Colonel's horfe was killed, and his fervant wounded with balls and flugs in nine different places. By the exertions of his companion the wounded man was brought off; and the balls and flugs afterwards extracted by me. On this outrage being communicated to the Vizier, he gave orders that the moft ftrict inquiry fhould be made after the culprits.

On the 3d a difpute took place at Jaffa, between a Janiffary and a

Dehli, in which one of the parties was killed. On this event being made known, the two corps resorted to arms, and drew up in opposition to each other with so menacing an aspect, that it required the utmost exertion on the part of the Vizier to prevent the most serious consequences from ensuing.

The effective force of the Turkish army consisted at this time of about sixteen thousand men, who were distributed as follows: ten thousand in the Vizier's encampment; two thousand at Gaza; and four thousand at El-Arish.

In a conversation with the Reis Effendi on the 6th, he informed me that, notwithstanding cases of plague still occurred in the Ottoman camp, the disease was become much milder, and consequently less fatal in its effects, inasmuch that several of those who had been recently attacked, had recovered. The same circumstance has been known to occur at Constantinople when the disease was upon the decline.

The Camelion sloop of war arrived at Jaffa on the morning of the 9th, with General Moore, Captain Anderson, his aid-du-camp, and Mr. Morier, secretary to Lord Elgin, all of them from the British army. They had an immediate audience with the Grand Vizier and Reis Effendi, to whom they were the bearers of important dispatches. We learned from them, with much satisfaction, that the whole of the British forces had reached Marmarice Bay in good health and spirits.

The bodies of several persons who had died of the plague, eight of them from the Vizier's own particular camp, were on the 10th carried for interment in our view. To demonstrate, however, that the

disease was mitigated in its effects, the Reis Effendi stated, that of five of the slaves of the Grand Vizier who had been latterly attacked by this disease, three had recovered.

On the 12th I rode across the plains of Jaffa and Lydda, in company with Captain Maitland, of the *Camelion*, and several of his officers. We approached the town of Lydda, or Loudda, and saw the Arab inhabitants busily employed in sowing their barley. The soil of these fine and extensive plains is a rich black mould, which, with proper care and industry, might be rendered extremely fertile.

Dr. Bosari, physician to the Grand Vizier, died of the plague on the morning of the 13th, being the third day of the attack.

General Moore, his aid-du-camp, and Mr. Morier, left Jaffa on the 14th, to rejoin the British army. During his stay at the encampment, the General had, as well as Colonel Holloway, daily conferences with the Vizier and Ottoman ministers. Our expectations were, that we were to remain with the Turkish army, which it was thought would very soon break ground, either to co-operate with the British forces, or to attack the common enemy at such points as should be found advisable in the sequel.

The *Cynthia* sloop of war, Captain Dick, arrived at Jaffa on the morning of the 15th, with dispatches from Alexandria, which were immediately sent on shore. She sailed in the evening with dispatches, to join the fleet commanded by Admiral Lord Keith, lying in the bay of Marmarice, and was to touch at Cyprus on her way.

The Turkish Ramazan, a solemn fast already described, commenced on the evening of the 16th. No sooner was the new moon, by which

it was introduced, defcried, than a general difcharge of cannon, mufketry, and pistols, was heard in every part of the camp, to announce the event.

L'Entreprenant, an English cutter, arrived at Jaffa on the 21ft, with difpatches from Admiral Lord Keith. Among the papers containing intelligence which were received by this channel from Cairo, was a printed proclamation of General Menou.

Further intelligence from Cairo was received on the 23d, by a Greek merchant, who had left that place eighteen days before; and alfo by a confidential Arab, fent by Mahomed Elphi Bey. The latter had paffed through Cairo and Salahieh, both of which places the enemy were employed in fortifying, more efpecially the latter, for the defence of which they had recently fent feveral pieces of heavy ordnance. He eftimated their force at about twelve thousand French, and from two to three thousand native troops, diftributed in thefe places and their vicinity. This Arab was the bearer of a note from Mahomed Elphi Bey to the officer commanding the British miffion.

I rode out, in the morning of the fame day, towards Lydda, the ancient city of Loudda, where Peter, the difciple of our Lord, healed the aged Æneas, who laboured under a paralytic complaint; and whence he proceeded to Joppa, the Jaffa of modern times, to effect a miraculous cure by reftoring to life Tabitha, or, as fhe was otherwife called, Dorcas, a pious and good woman. Lydda is denominated by the Greeks Diospolis, or the city of Jupiter, probably becaufe a temple had been dedicated in its vicinity to that deity. Since the cruſades it has received from the Chriftians the name of St. George,

on account of its having been the scene of the martyrdom and burial of that saint. In this city tradition reports that the Emperor Justinian erected a church.

On the 25th the confidential Arab, to whom I referred above, left the camp with the reply of Colonel Holloway to the note of Mahomed Elphi Bey. Fresh disturbances broke out among the Janissaries on the following day.

The Vizier proceeded with great ceremony on the 27th, to visit the new bastion, which was now completed. To give a greater *éclat* to this event, he, with his own hands, laid hold of the ropes to get in the guns, and then seated himself on the rampart, to see them placed in the embrasures. As soon as the first gun had been laid on its platform, a solemn prayer was repeated by the Turkish priests. Pelices were afterwards presented to Colonel Holloway and Major Hope, together with several castans to the Turkish officers who were in attendance.

There was so violent a storm on the 29th, that several of our tents were blown down. It blew most tremendously during the night, and was accompanied by thunder, lightning, and hail.

The three sick who were lodged in the lazaretto-tent being perfectly recovered, were released from their confinement on the 31st. Previously to their joining the camp, their clothes and bedding were, together with the tent, committed to the flames; in addition to which precaution, they were made to wash themselves in the sea.

On the 1st of February there was a riot among the Janissaries, for which several causes were assigned, and, among others, the want of forage for their horses. In the midst of their discontent, they were,

they said, willing to agree to two things, namely, that the English should have barley for their horses, because they were good friends; and that the horses which drew the guns should also be furnished with provender, as such a supply was necessary to the public service: but they could not consent that any part of what was in store should be issued for the use of the great officers of state, as they could afford to make the requisite purchases.

The Vizier being indisposed, I was desired to visit him, and found him laid up with symptoms of a severe cold. He requested of me to see him from time to time; and, on my repeating my visit on the following day, I observed that he laboured under a great depression of spirits, which he acknowledged to have arisen from the operation on his mind of the frequent difficulties he had had to encounter. Among these, the gales of wind which had recently prevailed had forced the vessels laden with barley, and other supplies of stores and provisions for the Turkish army, to quit their anchorage; and had also prevented the arrival of other vessels, as had been expected. In this way a scarcity had been occasioned, by which the Vizier had been frustrated in his intention of making a movement, however strongly he was urged to do so by the existing circumstances.

Captain Lacy was dispatched to El-Arish on the 2d, to collect military information.

The weather was at this time become settled and pleasant, attended by the land breeze, which, setting in towards evening, furnished an indubitable token of its continuance. The country in the vicinity of the encampment began to wear a smiling appearance, and, in consequence of the late heavy rains, was covered with a fine verdure,

which overspread even what had been hitherto merely arid and sandy hills..

Intelligence was received from Cairo, on the 5th, which stated, among other particulars, that the plague had broken out among the French troops, sixty of whom perished daily from its attacks. It gave me great satisfaction, at the same time, to learn from the Reis Effendi, that this formidable adversary had nearly disappeared among the Turkish soldiery.

The New Adventure transport had arrived from Caiffa, and, together with a considerable number of vessels laden with barley, and other stores for the army, lay at anchor off Jaffa. A reinforcement of troops had also reached that place by sea; and a corps of about a hundred and fifty Arnauts arrived in the camp, after an overland march, on the 6th. These arrivals induced the Vizier to make some preparations for marching. The Kai Bey having been ordered to Constantinople, the Tefterdar was, on the same day, appointed Kai Bey in his stead.

The Vizier transmitted information to Colonel Holloway on the 7th, that in the space of ten days he should march forward with his army.

On the 8th a body of Arnauts, in marching into the camp, made the usual discharges of musketry, the consequence of which was, that, to our great annoyance and manifest peril, several of their shots passed close over the encampment of the mission. This irregularity, accompanied by much shouting and tumult, was continued throughout the whole of the evening.

Letters were received on the 11th and 13th from Captain Lacy,

at El-Arish. They stated, that the enemy were busied at Cairo in constructing towers, or detached redoubts, provided with heavy artillery; and were also erecting other works, on which a great number of persons were employed. At the date of his letters the plague still prevailed with great violence in the camp at El-Arish.

The festival of the Biram, which commenced on the 13th, on the completion of the Turkish Ramazan, or lent, and the celebration of which was to last during three days, was announced by the Vizier by the discharge of several rounds of artillery, accompanied by frequent discharges of musketry throughout the whole extent of the camp. In the evening brilliant illuminations were displayed.

On the above festive occasion, the whole of the following day, the 14th, was spent by the great officers of state, and other Turks, in making visits of ceremony, and in demonstrating, in every possible way, the joy they felt at being no longer subjected to the penalties of the Ramazan, or fast.

In a *benice*, or entertainment, which the Vizier commanded for the 15th, he was accompanied by all his principal officers of state, and by at least one thousand persons, who joined in the cavalcade. The troops, whose numbers appeared to have been latterly much augmented, were drawn up in a line; and a tent pitched, in which the Vizier, the principal Turkish officers, Colonel Holloway, and Major Hope, were seated. A djerid party having been assembled, upwards of fifty combatants on each side supported the different attacks with great spirit, agility, and address. Unfortunately, one of them received so serious a hurt, that he was obliged to be carried off the field. In this military exercise, into a concise explanation of

which I have already entered, it sometimes happens that one of the opponents, in riding full speed after the other, lances his stick, or wand, with such force and adroitness, that the latter, however dexterous he may be, is unable either to lay hold of it, or to parry off the blow. In such a case he is inevitably struck with so much violence, as to be obliged to have recourse to cupping, to relieve himself from the effects of the severe bruises he has received. In this way it was that the Vizier some years before unfortunately lost an eye, which was beaten out by one of his own attendants. To this unlucky circumstance I adverted, when I gave, in the preceding pages, a description of this distinguished personage; but I did not relate an anecdote which resulted from the accident, and which, as it clearly indicates a humane and feeling disposition, such as, it is to be regretted, few Turks possess, is a trait in the Vizier's character which ought to be recorded. He sent, on the following day, for the individual by whom he had been wounded, and, on his being brought before him, made him a valuable present, requesting, at the same time, that he would never again appear in his presence, lest it should remind him of his misfortune.

In returning to the ground of the encampment, the procession moving in the same order as in setting out, a corps of Turkish cavalry, Dehliis, galloped forward, and took possession of a height. A sham attack being made on them, a heavy firing of musketry and pistols, discharged in the air, was kept up, the balls with which they were charged flying, as usual, in every direction.

Among the new levies which were daily pouring in to the Turkish camp, were several individuals who had suffered an amputation of

the nose. This being the punishment inflicted by Djezzar Pacha at Acre, plainly indicated whence they came.

A Pacha, with a corps of about four hundred men, arrived in the camp on the 15th. The mission about this time suffered great inconvenience from the difficulty of procuring a necessary supply of provisions.

On the 20th, Captain Leake was ordered to hold himself in readiness to proceed with dispatches to the commander in chief; and on the following day the Janissaries, with another party of troops, marched from the camp, on their way to Yebna—a sufficient indication that the active military operations were on the eve of commencing.

Several other detachments quitted the encampment on the 23d; and we were ordered to hold ourselves in readiness for the 25th in the morning, beyond which time the march of the Vizier, with the remainder of his army, was not to be delayed.

In quitting Jaffa, some description of the country in which we had resided for such a length of time may reasonably be expected from me, in addition to the information I have already been enabled to give, in detailing the particulars of my occasional excursions from the camp. I shall therefore close the present chapter with a brief sketch of the most interesting particulars I was able to collect, during my stay in this part of Syria; and shall afterwards resume my narrative of general occurrences, which will thus have suffered only a momentary interruption.

A general idea of the climate of Syria may be formed from the following particulars:—During our stay there, the thermometer, in

the months of July, August, and September, marked the highest, in the afternoons, from ninety-three to ninety-five degrees of Fahrenheit. It is unnecessary to remark, that during this interval the heat was extremely oppressive to such of our party as had not been inured to the more sultry climes. The sky was, at the above season, beautifully clear, without a cloud to obscure the wide expanse; and the atmosphere pure and benign. The greatest variation of temperature occurred in the months of October and November, when the rains came on suddenly with some degree of violence. This may properly be considered as the rainy season, since, generally speaking, during the other parts of the year a drought prevails. The very copious dews which fall in the dry months, when there is a total absence of rain, promote and forward the vegetation.

During the summer months the prevailing winds are from the north and north-west. In entering on October, they are more variable, blowing strongly from the south, south-east, and east. It is at this time that the sudden and heavy showers commence, and that the sky, which was before so uniformly clear, is overspread with dark and heavy clouds. At length, the month of November drawing towards its close, the rains cease to fall, and the weather becomes pleasant and salubrious. The result of my observations at this season was, that before sun-rise the thermometer ranged from 42 to 52 and 53, and that, consequently, the mornings were refreshing and cool. At noon the variations of the thermometer were from 66 to 76, with a degree of heat which was by no means oppressive.

On the coast of Syria the sea breeze prevails during the day time,

and, falling in the evening, gives place to the gentle land breeze, which continues to blow until about nine the next morning.

In the month of December, 1800, the January following, and a part of February, the weather was very tempestuous, with heavy rains, vivid lightnings, and thunders, the explosion of which was awful and tremendous. During this period the thermometer was low; and, on one occasion, the storm was accompanied by hail. The winds were usually from the south or south-west. A haziness from the southward was the sure precursor of each of the gales; and to this indication of foul weather was superadded a remarkably large circle, or disk, round the moon. This boisterous and comparatively cold weather was highly favourable to the health of the individuals belonging to the mission. It yielded, about the 10th of February, to a more warm and settled temperature of the air, which, bestowing on the arid hills some slight degree of verdure, rendered the aspect of the country more cheerful.

Syria may in general be considered as a mountainous country; but the part bordering on Jaffa has several very extensive plains, which are intersected, at certain distances, with moderate heights. In approaching Jerufalem, after having proceeded to the other side of Ramla, the mountains are very lofty, and, having but a slender superficies of earth to cover their rocky prominences, are exclusively adapted to the cultivation of olive-trees, which take root in their very clefts, and hide the naked appearance they would otherwise exhibit.

In general the country is but thinly covered with trees, and has few woods, or thickets. In the parts where there is no texture of soil, but merely a white loose sand, not a tree nor shrub is to be seen.

To the north side of Jaffa, a small river, which empties itself into the sea, presents itself at the distance of two or three miles. It is the only one which I met with in Syria: it is probable, however, that others may have been formed, subsequently to the excursions I made into the interior, by the abundant falls of rain I have had occasion to notice.

From the information I was able to collect, as well as from my own personal observation, I could not learn that either mines or eruptions of volcanic matter are to be met with in Syria.

The soil in many parts, in those more especially bordering on the deserts, consists almost exclusively of a fine white sand, the reflection from which is extremely painful to the sight. This barren territory extends, to the northward, beyond Jaffa. It contains, however, in common with the other parts of Syria, several fertile spots, covered with a rich black mould, which very copiously repay the labour bestowed on them. On the rocky grounds an inconsiderable portion of calcareous earth is found blended with marl.

Wherever the land is susceptible of cultivation, and has not been neglected, it affords abundant crops of wheat, barley, Indian corn (dourra), tobacco, cotton, and other productions. Fruits and vegetables are in equal abundance. Among the former are pomegranates, figs, oranges, lemons, citrons of an uncommonly large size, melons, grapes, and olives. The melons are large, and have a delicious flavour; as have also the grapes, of which we partook so late as the month of December, when we found they still retained their exquisite flavour. I have already adverted to the uncommon size of the water-melons, many of which weigh from twenty to thirty pounds.

They are a great and valuable resource to the inhabitants, who are so passionately fond of them, that, during the summer months, they form a great part of their subsistence. Notwithstanding they are as cooling and refreshing, as grateful to the taste, I was surprised to see the natives eat them in such immoderate quantities, without experiencing any unpleasant consequences.

Among the vegetable productions for the table may be ranged the coulcas, the okre, or bannier, the couffa, a species of gourd, the to-mata, and a kind of bean which has some resemblance to our French bean. The coulcas is a root brought from Bairout, Acre, Sidon, and Damietta, which, when cooked, is in taste not unlike the potatoe, from which it differs in appearance by its darker hue and less regular shape. In its raw state it is extremely acrid, and produces on the mouth and fauces, when tasted, a sensation of pricking and smarting, such as is caused, under the same circumstances, by the Arum root. It is considered by the inhabitants as a wholesome and agreeable vegetable, and, being scraped and boiled, enters into the composition of many of their dishes. The okre is a fine mucilaginous vegetable, which gives an excellent flavour to the soups.

To the above list may be added other vegetables, the quality of which is excellent, such as cabbages, cauliflowers, spinage, lettuce, endive, turnips, cucumbers, radishes, and onions; the latter extremely mild. Both fruits and vegetables, as well as all other marketable commodities, are sold by weight.

The grounds in Syria are in general open. Where enclosures have been attempted, they are fenced in with the prickly pear tree.

Numerous flocks of goats and sheep are distributed over the plains,

as well as in the mountainous territory. The tails of the latter are uncommonly large, resembling those of the sheep of the Cape of Good Hope. Many of them have an extraordinary length of ear; but this observation applies still more particularly to the goats, an ear of one of which I had the curiosity to measure, and found it to be nine inches in length. The cows and oxen are small, and of a reddish hue: large herds of them are driven out in the mornings, to browse in the plains, and in those parts of the mountainous territory, where a scanty superficies of soil, spread over the rocks, affords a feeble hope of pasturage.

The animal food of the Syrians consists principally of mutton and goat's flesh, and they consume but a very small proportion of beef, and no veal. They are, indeed, very sparing in their use of flesh, chiefly confining themselves in their diet to the vegetable productions they have in such great abundance, and of such excellent qualities.

The horses are small, but fleet, and very sure footed. In their choice of them, the Turkish inhabitants attach themselves rather to the figure and showy appearance of the beast, than to his fleetness and other useful qualities. During our stay in the country, a good horse brought from four to five hundred piastres, that is, from thirty to nearly forty English pounds.

The mules are very numerous, and of a large breed. This remark also applies to the asses; and the latter are much more swift of pace than those of England.

As a beast of burden, the camel has a remarkable pre-eminence in point of utility. The inhabitants being destitute of carriages for

the conveyance of their merchandise from place to place, such vehicles being incompatible with the state of the roads and country, have necessarily recourse to this animal, to perform the labours to which the mule, from his comparatively diminutive stature, cannot be subjected. This is not the only advantage which has resulted to the Syrians, from the pains they have bestowed in the propagation of their race of camels, whose patient endurance of fatigues is only to be equalled by the parsimonious support which their nature requires. In crossing the deserts, or in performing other tedious and laborious journies where water cannot be procured, they pass several days in succession without allaying their thirst; and make a hard and scanty meal on the shrubs and bushes they may chance to encounter on their way, without subjecting their masters to the necessity of loading them, in addition to their other burdens, with provender for their support. A smaller and more slender species of the camel, called *hedgin*, is mounted by the natives and others, and is capable of making a greater progress, on a long journey, than a horse. It requires some habit to be reconciled to its motion, which is, however, not so fatiguing as might be supposed from the appearance of the animal, for its pace being by long and regular steps, the rider feels a sensation similar to that of being rocked in a cradle.*

The Syrians are in general of an ordinary stature, and of a spare thin make, but very active and alert. Their speed, both in running and walking, is very great; and being inured as well to privations

* I do not recollect to have seen, either in Syria or in Egypt, more than one protuberance on the back of the camels, whether *hedgins* or dromedaries, which appear to be only a more slender and smaller species of the camel.

as to fatigues, they are capable of enduring an extreme toil, with a very scanty support, for a considerable length of time. In this particular they have a great resemblance to the Indians of America. Their countenances are meagre and wan; and their complexion so dark as, in a variety of instances, to approach nearly to black. Their hair is of a shining black, and it is worn by the women very long, extending even to the waist. They dress and decorate it in a very fanciful manner, suspending from it, and round the head, different coins, such as paras, sequins, and piastres, large bunches of which are also suspended from the ears. On the wrists they wear bracelets of coloured glass. They stain their nails of an orange colour with the henna, and blacken their eyelids with a powder, of which I have already spoken in the details I have given relative to Turkey.

The inhabitants of Syria are very abstemious in their diet, which is simple in the extreme. It consists chiefly of salted olives, cheese of a poor and indigestible quality, a coarse bread badly baked, and formed into flat cakes, and rancid butter, or perhaps oil. They rarely indulge themselves in the use of animal food; but on these occasions prepare a wholesome, and to many a palatable dish called *pilaw*, by stewing the flesh with rice. Notwithstanding their common beverage is water, a spirituous compound, called *rackey*, made from the fermented husks and stalks of grapes, distilled with aniseeds, is imported into Syria from Turkey and Asia.

During our stay at Jaffa we were well supplied with fish, such as mullets, breams, &c. Our butter we were obliged to procure from Jerusalem: it was made without salt, and cost nearly eighteen pence English per pound. In every part of the country there is an abun-

dance of fowls ; but we did not meet with either tame ducks, geese, or turkies, with the exception of those brought from Cyprus, where they are bred in great numbers.

There are two classes of Arabs very different from each other in their habits, morals, and style of living. The Fellah, that is the farmer, or husbandman, inhabits the villages, or the detached and isolated dwellings in the plains, under the subjection of a Bey, or, perhaps, of a Mameluke, or cachef, who, having been originally a slave to one of the Beys, has gained the confidence of his master, and received not only his freedom, but the government of a certain number of villages, on the revenues of which he preys without controul. In the exercise of his oppressive acts he is aided by a subordinate officer, denominated a gindee.

Each of the newly appointed cachefs has no sooner enriched himself by the contributions levied on the produce of the wretched Fellahs subjected to his domination, than he purchases such of the estates as devolve to the Bey from the original proprietors, either by death or forfeiture. Cases of the latter description frequently occur from the cupidity of the Bey, who, being aware of the very precarious tenure by which he holds his government, seizes, on the slightest pretext, upon all the property within his reach, and has been frequently known, in the course of a short and despotic administration, to bring the same estate repeatedly to sale. Thus are the Fellahs, while they plant and sow, in an uncertain state whether the whole of the expected produce of their industry is to be snatched from them by their oppressor, on the ground of confiscation, or whether they are still to be allowed the small portion of it which the Ava-

nias spare, and to be maintained in the quiet possession of the territorial property transmitted to them by their ancestors.

To this class of Arabs the artizans, domestics, and in general all those who constitute the lower ranks of society, in the towns and villages, belong.

With relation both to morals and industry, the Fellahs have unquestionably an advantage over the Bedouins, or wandering tribes of Arabs. Being stationary, and acquiring by their labour and industry the little which is requisite to satisfy their wants, they have not been stimulated to the predatory pursuits by which the latter have rendered themselves formidable and obnoxious to society. In the midst of the abject state in which they live, they have on some occasions evinced that they are not destitute of courage and energy. In several of the districts, more especially in those of Foua and Demenhour, when the French troops, commanded by Generals Defaix and Beliard, penetrated into Upper Egypt and some parts of Syria, the Fellahs manifested a spirit of resistance which the invaders had little reason to expect. In the relation which the French artist, Denon, who accompanied the above detachments, has published, the vigorous resistance made by these people is recorded, but not with all the circumstances by which the transactions were accompanied. It is certain, that a detachment of eighty French was put to death in the night-time by the inhabitants of Foua, led by a fanatic sheick; and that, on several other occasions, they harassed and annoyed the republican troops, by whom they were at length, with great difficulty, brought under subjection.

The wandering Arabs, or Bedouins, who form the other class, are

divided into tribes, more or less numerous, to each of which distinct limits are assigned. These tribes do not always live in amity together; and whenever, in consequence of an invasion of limits, or some other cause of dispute among themselves, war is declared, alliances are formed, in which the policy of the numbers to be ranged on each side is consulted. The weaker tribes, in these cases, do not of course neglect to associate themselves with the more powerful. The worst part of their warfare consists, however, in the attacks they make on travellers, whether in small and isolated parties, or in the large bodies formed for protection and defence into caravans. The Bedouins then betray all the ferocious cruelty of their character, which they also manifest when they make incursions into the villages of the Arab cultivators. In executing their predatory projects, they have even dared to penetrate to the walls of Cairo. The property with which they travel consists of horses, camels, and sheep; and to seek pasturage for these animals, they are constantly shifting their ground, in the deserts where they have taken up their residence. A class of them, however, more settled than the others, but still Bedouins, inhabit tents on the borders of the deserts, and there cultivate such spots as are favourable to vegetation.

The swiftness of the mares on which they are mounted was a great obstacle to the progress of the French, on their penetrating into Upper Egypt. Whenever they felt themselves in sufficient force to encounter their enemy, the Bedouins attacked with an entire confidence that, in case of a defeat, they should be able to effect their escape. It was on this account that the French had recourse to the formation of a corps mounted on dromedaries, which I have already

had occasion to notice. By the aid of these animals, they surpris'd several of the Bedouin tribes in their retreat; but not without incurring great risks in penetrating into the deserts, where they were repeatedly expos'd to perish from thirst, the fugitive Arabs leading them in a direction contrary to that of the watering places, with the position of which they alone were acquainted.

The arms of the Bedouins consist of a musket, provided with a match-lock, slung round the arm, a sabre, and a long spear, which they carry in the hand. The latter of these weapons they employ with great effect, when in pursuit of an enemy. Notwithstanding they are themselves armed with muskets, they have a great dread of fire-arms, and abandon the field to their adversary, as soon as a few of their party are brought down by the balls. They cannot, therefore, be deemed formidable, when oppos'd to troops subject'd to any degree of discipline; and are only so when they encounter an unprepared enemy, or one greatly inferior in force.

The Arabs in general, whether Bedouins or husbandmen, are expert thieves, and are distinguished also by their consummate hypocrisy and treachery. Many of the Fellahs have been converted to Christianity, and have engag'd themselves as domestics, in which capacity they require a very strict government to ensure any thing like obedience. They are, however, excellent grooms, bestowing a particular attention on the horses committed to their charge. They allow them, in the course of the day, two feeds only of barley and chopped straw; and in supplying them with these meals in the morning and evening, give them a very scanty allowance of water. They

have certainly good reasons in favour of this sparing regimen, as is attested by the healthiness and good condition of the Arab horses.

The villages in Syria appear to be well peopled; but it is impossible to form any correct idea of the general population of the country, in consequence of the migrations of its inhabitants from place to place, and of the great proportion of them who reside in tents.

Such of the Fellahs as have cultivated their lands with any success, are as careful to conceal their little store of riches, as they were industrious in its acquisition. The plea of poverty to which they resort, is not, however, in every case, equally successful. The avaricious Pacha, either personally, or by the means of his instruments, keeps a watchful eye on each of the cultivators, and endeavours to estimate his means. If there is no plausible colour or pretext for the entire confiscation of the property of an individual on whom the suspicion of riches has fallen, he is called on to contribute a sum perhaps very disproportionate to his means, on the default of producing which not only his property, but his own life, and those of his relatives, are brought into danger. Industry is thus discouraged; and to the tyranny exercised over the wretched cultivators may be attributed the neglected state of many large tracts of land, which, under a better form of government, would be abundantly productive.

The wooden plough employed here for agricultural purposes, is drawn by a pair of small oxen. The barley and wheat are sown in January, and reaped in May. In different parts of Syria the inhabitants pursue different modes in the treatment of their vines, which in some places they prune nearly to the surface of the earth, depend-

ing on the spring shoots for the autumnal produce; while in others they allow them to attain their full growth, supporting their branches with props. The grapes, when ripe, are in general held in too great an esteem, as a part of the nourishment of the inhabitants, to be converted into wine; but this is not invariably the case. At Jerusalem and Bethlehem we drank some excellent wine, the produce of the neighbouring vineyards, which were cultivated with much labour and industry.

I shall add a few words of general observation on the diseases of Syria, with which I shall close the present digression, and then proceed to the more immediate objects of this narrative.

The Syrians are subject to few endemic diseases, of which the pforophtholmy, an inveterate complaint of the eyes, is the principal and most common. It prevails so generally, that in the town of Jaffa nearly two thirds of the inhabitants had, from its effects, lost the sight either of one, or of both the eyes; insomuch that the numbers of blind people led about were truly astonishing. It appears to me that the remote causes of this obstinate disease, the effects of which are so calamitous, may be traced to a bad diet; an exposure to a hot air from the white and burning sands, the fine particles of which float almost perpetually in the atmosphere; and, lastly, the confined huts or dwellings in which the inhabitants reside. In support of the probability of the second of these causes, it has been remarked, that during the season when the figs and grapes ripen, that is, in the months of May, June, and July, when the most intense heat prevails, this disease is most common, and is accompanied by an unusual malignance. With respect to the latter cause which has

been assumed, it should be remarked, that the habitations of the poorer classes of Syrians, to whom the pforophthalmy more particularly attaches itself, are formed of a few stones badly cemented together by the means of mud or dung, and which, having but a small elevation from the soil, rather resemble cells, or caverns, for the abode of anchorites, than dwellings in which the conveniences of social life are consulted. Being utterly destitute of chimnies, or other openings to carry off the smoke, the vapours of the dried camel's dung, which is burned for fuel, disperse themselves in the foul atmosphere by which the wretched inmates are enveloped, and, among other baneful effects, cannot fail to irritate the organ of vision. It is most probably owing to the same cause of the impure air which they inspire in these miserable hovels, that the countenances of the Syrian peasants are haggard, squalid, and without that animated glow which denotes an equable circulation of the blood, and a free passage through the excretory channels of the skin.

The other diseases most prevalent in Syria are dysentery, cutaneous eruptions, small-pox, putrid, intermittent, and remittent fevers, and, lastly, the plague, which it would appear, however, is generally brought from other countries. The small-pox is frequently very fatal among the inhabitants, who, to guard against its ravages, have sometimes recourse to inoculation. In these cases it is their practice to puncture the arm with a sharp instrument, similar to a needle, and to rub on the punctured part the variolous matter taken from a chosen pustule. This mode of inoculation is confined to the Christian Arabs, who are pretty successful in the result, although they have no recourse to internal remedies. The malignant fevers gene-

rally prevail in the winter season, and during the months of November and December 1800, swept off a great part of the population of Acre.

The treatment of diseases employed by the Syrians is as capricious and immethodical as confined within narrow limits. They place a great confidence in the use of the lancet; but to this they have recourse in the spring season only of the year.

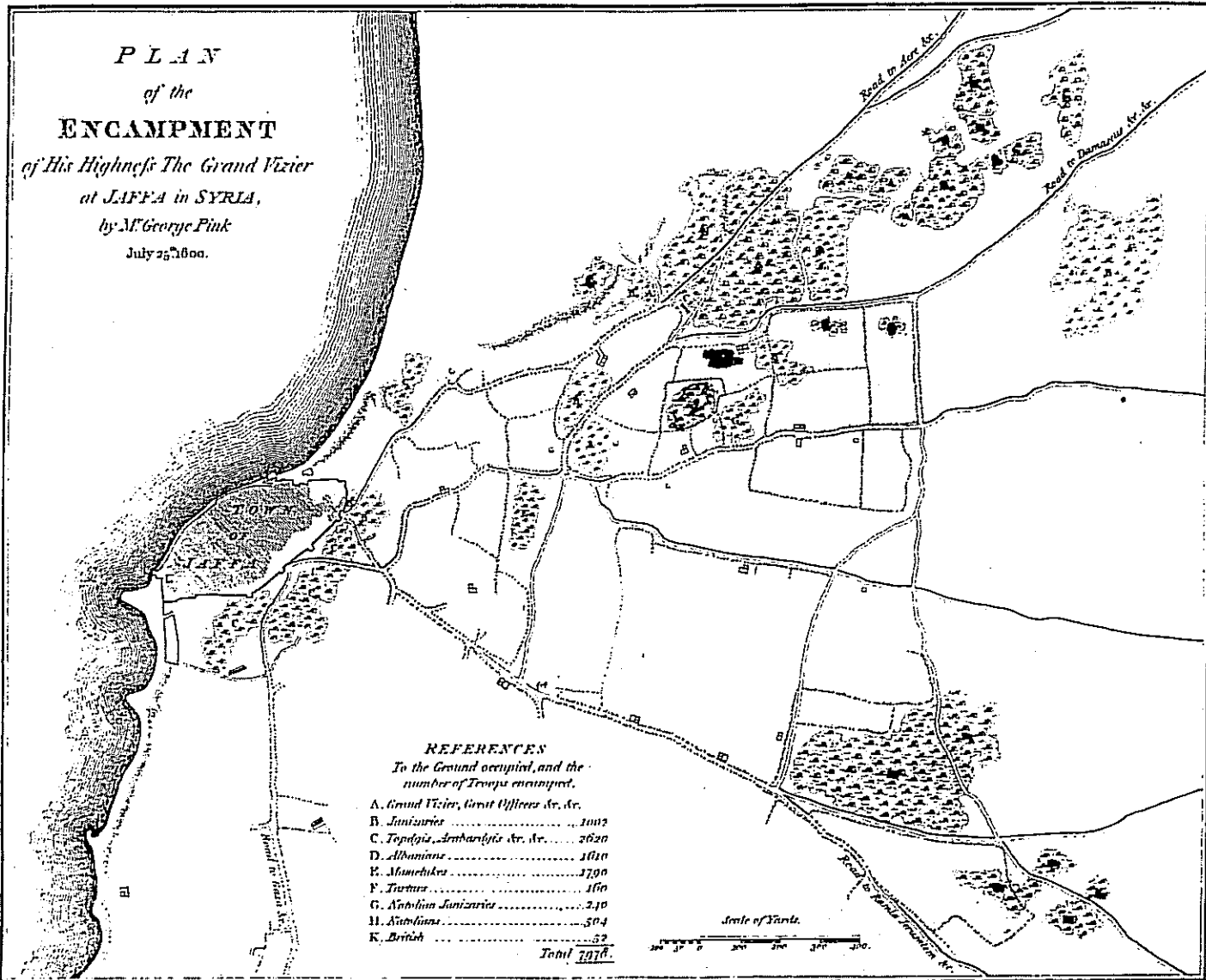
As an argument of the salutary temperature of the air of Syria, the very rare occurrence of pulmonary diseases should be adduced, as well as the numerous instances of longevity among the inhabitants, who frequently attain the age of an hundred, and, in some instances, of an hundred and ten years, and upwards. Were they in a more civilized state, and united in a social compact under a good government, they would become very numerous and powerful, the Syrian women, who marry very young, being remarkably prolific.

CHAPTER XI.

THE ARMY OF THE GRAND VIZIER—PRINCIPAL OFFICERS—DIFFERENT CASTS OF PEOPLE—ARTIFICERS AND ATTENDANTS—PRECARIOUS STATE OF GREATNESS IN THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT—STANDARDS—DERVISES—GROSS SUPERSTITION OF THE TURKS—TRADITION RELATIVE TO THE DOWNFALL OF THE TURKISH EMPIRE—ORIGIN AND PRESENT STATE OF THE JANISSARIES—THE ARNAUTS—LIGHT CAVALRY—VOLUNTEERS—RELIGIOUS SECTARIES WHO FOLLOW THE ARMY—PLUNDERERS—MAMELUKES—ARABIAN CAMEL-DRIVERS—THIEVISH DISPOSITION OF THE ARABS—TARTARS—GUARDS OF HONOUR—GENERAL CHARACTER OF THE TURKS—PERSONAL COURAGE—SUPERSTITION—TEMPERANCE—ADDICTION TO COFFEE AND TOBACCO—GAMES—PAY AND ALLOWANCE OF THE SOLDIERY—MISERABLE STATE OF THE MEDICAL ART AMONG THE TURKS—HORSEMANSHIP.

PREFIXED to the present chapter is a plan or survey of the Turkish encampment, as well as of the town and works of Jaffa, made by Mr. George Pink, one of the draughtsmen attached to the British mission. It is accompanied by a scale, and by the necessary explanations, among which will be found the distribution of the different classes of military, a heterogeneous and disorganized mass formed from a variety of nations, of which the army of the Grand Vizier was composed. Having been taken towards the close of July 1800, a few weeks after our arrival at Jaffa, the numbers of effective troops enumerated in the above plan are on a very low estimate, when compared with the subsequent state of the Turkish

PLAN
of the
ENCAMPMENT
of His Highness The Grand Vizier
at **JAFFA** in **SYRIA**,
by *M. George Pink*
July 25 1800.



REFERENCES

To the Ground occupied, and the number of Troops encamped.

| | |
|-----------------------------------------|-------------|
| A. Grand Vizier, Great Officers &c. &c. | 1000 |
| B. Janizaries | 2620 |
| C. Topogias, Armbardiers &c. &c. | 1610 |
| D. Albanians | 1790 |
| E. Tartars | 240 |
| F. Arabians Janizaries | 504 |
| G. Arabians | 52 |
| K. British | 52 |
| Total | 7976 |

Scale of Yards.



forces, augmented by the new levies which were constantly pouring in. In giving a summary sketch of whatever has fallen under my observation, relative to the army of the Vizier, and to the Turkish troops in general, I beg leave to direct the attention of my reader to the plan, which will enable him to follow my statements with greater precision.

The principal Turkish officers who served in the Ottoman camp, under the command of his Highness the Grand Vizier, were as follows:

The Seraskier, Mahomed Pacha, a Pacha of three tails.

The Charcagis, Taher Pacha, a Pacha of two tails.

The Yenccheri Agaffi, or Janissary Aga, having the rank of a Pacha of two tails, and the chief command of the Janissaries.

The Jebigis Bashhi, or commissary of stores, a Pacha of one tail.

The Topgis Bashhi, or commandant of artillery.

The Arabahgis Bashhi, or superintendent of gun-carriages.

The Coombarahgis Bashhi, or commandant of bombardiers.

The Lakemgis Bashhi, or commandant of miners.

The Seymen Bashhi, or second in command of Janissaries.

The Cul Caiyahfi, whose appointment is similar to that of our officers superintending press gangs.

The Cadi Asker, or military judge (occasionally attached to the Ottoman army).

The Etchi Bashhi, or Cook Bashhi.

The Samsoongis Bashhi, or principal dog-keeper.

The Zahergis Bashhi, or secondary dog-keeper.

Besides these there were many others whom it would be superfluous to mention, and among them several whose presence in the camp was not of the least utility. Of this description are the two personages who stand the last on the list, and whose titles would not have been enumerated, had it not been for the singularity of their appointments. Originally, a certain number of dogs were, in a Turkish army, attached to the troops; but this practice having been long discontinued, nothing now remains except the rank and emoluments of the office. That of the *Tournahgis Bashi*, or bird-keeper, who had the charge of the birds formerly carried with the army, is now become obsolete.

The appointments held by the generality of these officers sufficiently explain the relative importance of their stations. There are, however, one or two of them who are entitled to a particular notice.

The *Cadi Asker* is, in his judicial capacity, invested with an office of great dignity and responsibility in the Turkish army. He is the supreme judge and arbitrator in all disputes and legal questions which may arise, whether of a civil or military nature. It is, notwithstanding, to be presumed, that under so despotic an administration as that of the Turks, more especially where the military is concerned, his awards must be subject to a great degree of controul. A delineation of the costume of a *Cadi Asker*, or military judge, will be found in Plate X.

The *Etchi Bashi*, or cook of the corps of *Janissaries*, whatever his title may appear to import, has a distinguished consideration in the



A Catechiser or Judge :

Designed and Engraved by W. Hillier, at St. Pauls Church 1762

Turkish army; and, to heighten his importance, carries about him certain marks and characteristic distinctions, which render his appearance highly ludicrous. He is clothed in a large habit of dark coloured leather, covered over with devices of plated metal, which render it extremely weighty, insomuch that on days of ceremony, when he is decorated with all the insignia of his office, what with the pressure of this habit, or tunic, and that of the other parts of his dress, which, being also covered with plates of metal, are equally cumbrous and oppressive, he requires the aid of two persons to assist him in walking. It is from this officer, who is both feared and respected by his corps, that the Janissaries receive the punishment of the *coup de baton*. Plate XI. will convey a better idea of the dress of this grotesque personage than can be communicated by any written description.

In a Turkish army, complexions of every hue, black, copper-colour, olive, tawny, yellow, and white, are to be found, as well as the different casts of features, and varieties of shape and proportion, which result from so motley a compound of so many different nations indiscriminately brought together. The complexions depend of course on the varieties of the climates whence the different corps have been recruited. The Africans are black, with the exception of those who come from the more northern parts of Africa, and who, notwithstanding they have on the head the curled woolly hair of negroes, are of a tawny complexion. It has by some been asserted, that they are sprung from colonies imported into the countries they inhabit, from different parts of Europe and Asia. The Egyptians,

as well as the inhabitants of Asia, Syria, Diarbeker, &c. are also dark or tawny. Among the whites may be comprehended, not only the Europeans, but the inhabitants of Natolia, Armenia, Georgia, and Tartary. The Georgians are justly celebrated for the finest complexion and most regular features any where to be found. Many of the Bedouin Arabs differ so much from their countrymen in their complexion, as to be nearly black.

So considerable, in a Turkish army, are the numbers of tradespeople, attendants, domestics, and followers of every denomination, that when it is computed to amount to twenty thousand men, nearly the half of that number must be subtracted, to form an estimate of its real and efficient force, when brought into the field. Each of the chiefs and pachas is constantly surrounded by a very numerous suite of attendants; who keep their eyes steadily fixed on him to catch his nod, and hasten to the execution of his imperious mandates. By the numbers of his followers, who thus swarm about him, his dignity and respectability are estimated. Amidst all this grandeur, his situation, than which nothing can be more precarious, ought not to excite the envy or jealousy of those who act in the subordinate ranks. Should he have signalized himself on a great and trying occasion, it too frequently happens that his distinguished merit points him out to his superiors as the object of an odious persecution. His views and expectations are thus baffled, and the earliest occasion sought to accomplish his ruin, and to gratify a hateful spirit of revenge. To effect this, he is perhaps ordered to execute an insurmountable difficulty, in the accomplishment of which having necessarily failed, he



Etchi Bushi or Chief Cook of the Junipericas.

Published by the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.

is deprived of his employment, degraded from his rank, robbed of his wealth, and in the midst of his sufferings may esteem himself happy that his life has been spared by his savage persecutors. The maxim which the Turks have embraced, that success gives a divine sanction to all actions, supplies them with an excuse for the commission of the blackest crimes.

In an Ottoman army, the multitude of useless people to whom I have just alluded, cannot fail to be attended by great inconveniences, as well as by the occasional distresses resulting from an insufficiency of means. While so marked an attention is bestowed on an ostentatious parade, which might be permitted elsewhere to the luxurious inhabitant of the east, every essential arrangement in the establishment of depots, magazines, &c. is neglected, inasmuch, that the horrors of an approaching famine have frequently manifested themselves in the Turkish ranks, as we can testify from ocular observation.

Each of the Pachas or chiefs has his respective standard, which is very large; and the dervices, or religious professors, by whom the Turkish army is accompanied, have also their sacred banners, the colour of which is usually green. In addition to this, each of the small companies, consisting of from twenty-five to thirty privates, belonging to the corps of infantry, carries a small flag or banderole. Among the Arnauts these little flags are still more numerous. The necessary inference to be drawn from the employment of such a multiplicity of standards, banners, and flags, is, that those who have the charge of them must not only diminish in a considerable degree,

in the field of battle, the effective force which would otherwise have been brought into action, but must even shackle and impede the military operations. How mistaken therefore is the calculation that, independently of the ideas of grandeur and magnificence which the Turks attach to these trivial objects, they have the effect of inspiring the enemy with terror and dismay?

A Turkish camp is lighted up at night by a kind of large lanterns, formed of iron hoops, and fastened upon long poles. Several of these lights, in which rags impregnated with grease, oil, or a resinous substance, are burned, are placed in the front of the tent of each of the Pachas. In the disposition of the centinels, as well as in the distribution of the tents, and, in general, in every essential arrangement in which security ought to be studied, the Turks are so extremely negligent and inattentive, as to be constantly exposed to a surprise, more particularly in the night-time. In such a case the panic and alarm produced cannot fail to throw every part of the camp into the utmost confusion, since it is impossible to rally, unite, and form a whole, where neither order nor method has been studied in the distribution of the parts. There is nothing, indeed, to obstruct the progress of an enemy who should attempt to penetrate by night, with cautious and wary steps, into the camp, and who, by cutting the cords of the tents, would be certain to produce a fatal embarrassment among the troops within. Whether the slaughter which would ensue should be more or less terrible, the ultimate effect of the abandonment of the camp would be the same; and the equipage and artillery would become a sure prey to the assailants.

The dreadful massacre which occurred on the 17th of September, 1769, arose from the unprepared state of fourteen thousand Turks encamped, and the very feeble resistance they were in consequence enabled to make. Instead of defending themselves, the greater part of them crept under the tents, where they were put to death by the bayonet, without imploring the mercy of their vanquishers. During the late contest in Egypt an equally calamitous scene was witnessed at Aboukir, where many thousands of the Turks who had been routed in their encampment, in attempting a precipitate escape, drowned themselves in the sea.

The Turks, who are involved in superstition, carry about them, in the camp and in the field, as well as in every other situation, certain talismans, consisting chiefly of verses of the Koran, to which they attach very extraordinary virtues, regarding them as a safeguard and a protection against every danger by which they may be assailed.

They bestow an implicit faith on an ancient prophecy, a part of which, according to their traditions, was found engraven on the tomb of one of their sultans, and which is pretty nearly to this effect: "That the Turkish empire will be annihilated by the Russians; that the first battle which will be fought between the two contending powers will be lost by the Ottomans, on the banks of the Niefter; that another battle will afterwards be decided against them in the neighbourhood of Constantinople; and that their emperors will be compelled to reside at Damascus." Should they therefore be overcome, in a future contest with this power, it will not perhaps be owing so much to the imperfect state of their tactics, to their bad

conduct in the field, or to the valour of their enemy, as to the chimerical and superstitious ideas they are weak enough to entertain.

The origin of such an extraordinary military body as that of the Janissaries has justly excited curiosity, yet it will be found nearly similar to that of other establishments. Amurat I. for the better preservation of his empire, found it necessary to establish a formidable and well disciplined militia, a part of which was destined for the defence of his own person. He accordingly collected every fifth youth who had attained the age of fifteen years, belonging to the Christian inhabitants of Bulgaria, Macedonia, and the Greek provinces, which were thus rendered tributary in a considerable portion of their rising population. These children were carefully instructed in the Mahomedan religion, and inured for a certain number of years to laborious exercises, by the husbandmen to whose care they were entrusted. They were afterwards trained to the use of arms; and, to the end that they might be accustomed to the spilling of blood, and their character stamped with a savage ferocity, they were made to exercise their weapons on the bodies of prisoners taken in battle, or on those of condemned criminals. They were styled *hadjemoglar*, or the children of strangers. This personal tribute to which the Christians were subjected having been at length commuted into a fine, the Janissaries were recruited by volunteers, the greater part of whom have been latterly taken from the lowest classes of the people, inasmuch that they are now in a very degraded state, when compared with what they were at their original establishment. From the words *yeni-asker*, which, in the Turkish language, imply new levies, the word Janissary is derived.

However the Janissaries, in consequence of deviations from their original institution, may have relaxed from the discipline which in ancient times rendered them so formidable, they may still be considered as the most select and regular of the Turkish troops. They are at the same time better and more uniformly dressed and equipped. They carry a short rifle-barrel musket, slung across the shoulder, without a bayonet. The fire of these muskets, the greater part of which are manufactured at Damascus, cannot be very brisk, as they require a considerable time to load. The other arms of the Janissaries consist of a large knife, or dagger, and a pair of pistols fastened within the sash which surrounds the waist. In some instances they carry sabres. On particular occasions they wear a large and singular cap of white felt, with a long flap behind, hanging carelessly down the back, and in the front a brass tube, in which the spoon is intended to be carried for the pilaw, such as is worn by the Etchi Bashi, Plate XI. Their trowsers being much narrower than those worn by the Turks in general, are less embarrassing in walking. During the summer their legs are naked, as are also their arms as high as the shoulders. On the feet they wear red slippers, and are occasionally enveloped by a loose cloak. When in their tents they sit and lie on a small Turkey carpet, or, when this cannot be procured, on a sheep-skin. On a march they carry their water either in a tin canteen, or in a leathern bottle.

The total amount of these corps has been variously estimated. By some it has been carried to more than an hundred thousand effective men; while others have supposed it not to exceed forty thousand. Each oddah, or regiment, has a flag or symbol by which it is distin-

guished from the others. These symbols are in some instances characteristic, as in the case of the thirty-first oddah, or regiment, where the anchor on the flag denotes that this regiment is devoted to the service of the marine. In other cases the symbols are fanciful, representing birds, fishes, animals, fabres, &c. The arms also of the provinces from whence the regiments were originally recruited, and the names of which they bear, are represented occasionally on these colours. The strength of each oddah depends in a great measure on its celebrity.

The preservation of their colours in battle is not with the Janissaries so much an affair of momentary concern, as that of the large copper kettles, two in number, which are constantly placed in the front of the tents of each regiment, and which are accompanied by a skimmer, a ladle, and a kind of halbert. They have two sets of these cooking utensils, to guard against any accident which may occur; and they are held so sacred as to be a certain protection to those who seek refuge beneath them. When both sets are lost, the regiment is disbanded. On a march these kettles are carried in front of each respective regiment.

In Constantinople the Janissaries form the night guards, and in parading the streets are equipped with heavy sticks, or bludgeons. When, in time of war, they are stationed either in towns or in camps, many of them associate themselves with the tradespeople and sutlers, to whom, if Christians more especially, they are a protection, and whose custom they are certain to augment by their influence, while they share their profits.

In addition to the ration which is regularly allowed them, they

receive a moderate pay, which does not exceed a crown per month. The mode of the monthly distribution I have already described.

The Yenicheri-Agaffi, or generalissimo of these troops, is a person of high rank and consideration, invested with all the dignities of a Pacha of two or three tails, and having an occasional seat in the divan. Among the other officers are the Choarbagis, or colonel, and the Bayraktar, or standard-bearer. The title of Seraskier corresponds with that of our commander in chief of the army, and is bestowed on a Pacha commanding an army, with other Pachas who act under him. With the exception of the Aga and Colonel, the Turkish military officers in general are destitute of the respectability which is attached to European officers enjoying the same rank. Their promotion being obtained by purchase and favour, rather than by merit, the influence of an individual high in power is alone necessary to raise the most obscure individual in the service to the highest command.

I shall add a few observations on such of the Turkish military corps as deserve a particular notice, and then proceed to the narrative of the operations of the Vizier's army.

The troops which are raised in the Morea, in Macedonia, Bosnia, &c. are styled Arnauts, and have already been very frequently cited by me on account of their very turbulent and indocile qualities. The corps of infantry into which they are formed are commanded by officers from their respective provinces, which, whenever the Turks are engaged in a war, are drained of a great proportion of their male population, on account of the warlike disposition of the inhabitants, who are trained exclusively to the use of arms, to engage themselves

as mercenaries wherever their services may be demanded. Being inured from their infancy to laborious exercises, they are hardy and vigorous; and the pursuits in which they are engaged give them an air of savage fierceness well suited to their character. Among their other immoral qualities, they are expert thieves. When they are engaged, a sum of money is given to a Pacha, or some other chief, to entertain a certain number of them for a given time. He bestows on each of them a small monthly pay, in addition to which they are supplied, when in the field, by the Turkish government, with biscuit and rice. A Bin-bashi, having under him several officers of inferior ranks, commands a corps of these troops, a thousand strong. Notwithstanding they are in general formed into corps of infantry, several thousands of them were mounted during the last campaign in Egypt. Their dress has some resemblance to the tunic. That of the superior officers is of rich velvet, nicely embroidered with gold. They wear a breast-plate of silver, or white metal; and in some cases cover the legs with a kind of armour, putting on sandals, to imitate in their dress, as nearly as they can, the Spartans, from whom they suppose themselves descended, and whose fierce and martial air they appear to have retained. The head is shaved, except on the middle, or crown, whence a tuft of hair descends, and flows loosely down the back. Over the head is a red skull-cap, which descends low down on the forehead. In general their appearance indicates that they are very negligent and slovenly in their persons. On a long march, and after a considerable absence from their homes, they are often exposed to the greatest misery and distress, of which indeed we were ourselves, on several occasions, witnesses.



An. Arnaud Soldier.

Published March 1853 by R. Phillips 718. South Church Yard.



The Ancient Soldier.

See the Characters of the People of the Church of Christ.

Amidst the vices in which they indulge, that of gambling is carried to so great an excess, that when they have lost at cards the little money they have in their possession, they frequently stake their fire-arms, and every other description of property. They are great marauders, plundering whatever they can lay their hands on; and so unruly and intemperate in their passions, which they cannot govern, that they frequently commit assassinations among one another. They speak a language peculiar to themselves, said to have been handed down to them by the ancient Illyrians.

Their arms consist of a pair of pistols worn in a sash, with a long handjar knife, or dagger, and a musket with a long barrel. Their pistols and muskets are usually mounted in silver, and much ornamented. They are without knapsacks, for which, in truth, they have not the smallest occasion. The mode in which they are trained from their youth renders them excellent marksmen. Plates XII. and XIII. contain different views of the costume and military accoutrements of an Arnaut foldier.

In the Turkish cavalry, as well as in the service of the infantry, the foldier provides himself with the arms the most agreeable to his fancy. Frequently, however, the horsemen carry pikes and javelins of different lengths, of which the shorter ones are girted on and secured to the saddle. Some of these weapons are six feet or more in length, with an iron point, or ferrule, nearly a foot long, to the bottom of which is attached a tassel made of feathers, or hair. Having, in training up to discipline, made the djerid exercise a principal pursuit and chief amusement, they lance the javelin with great force and dexterity. They likewise carry battle-axes, and maces, or

clubs, with sabres, and, in some cases, carabines, or rifle-barrel muskets. It seldom happens that bayonets are employed by the Turkish soldiery; but among the cavalry, two, or even a greater number of pistols, ornamented with a silver mounting, are placed within the sash, or girdle.

There are two indispensable articles with which a Turkish horseman never fails to provide himself, namely, a leathern bottle, or perhaps several, filled with water, and reaching from the saddle to beneath the belly of the horse; and his pipe, which is fastened in front to the pommel of the saddle.

The number of the cavalry is much greater than that of the infantry. The horses on which they are mounted are of a greater or less value and estimation, according to the countries from whence they have been procured. In the management of them their riders are very adroit; and mount with much grace and agility. As is the case with all the Turkish and Arab horsemen, their stirrups are very short.

When on a march, the cavalry are not more regular and orderly than the other Turkish troops. It is said that in battle they do not engage *en masse* so much as the Janissaries, but are more dispersed. It is however certain, that on these occasions each troop or squadron, whatever may be its strength, keeps together without mixing with the other troops. In rushing forward, at a given signal, to encounter the enemy, each of the horsemen exclaims with vehemence, *allah! allah!* invoking the aid of the deity to the enterprise.

Among the troops of light cavalry the natives of Georgia and Circassia, known under the common appellation of Leghjs, are the

most conspicuous. They are well proportioned, of a robust make, and have the fine features and complexions for which the above provinces are distinguished. The state of warfare which is constantly kept up between them and the Russian troops stationed on their frontiers, together with the hostilities they carry on among themselves in a predatory way, and which are favoured by the mountainous territory they inhabit, have rendered them well calculated for a military life. Except that the head is not shaved, and that they wear a sheep-skin cap instead of a turban, their appearance is not unlike that of the Tartars.

Under the description of volunteers may be comprehended the religious sectaries whose excess of enthusiasm urges them to dispose of the little property they possess, and to repair, from every part of the Turkish empire, to the standard of their prophet Mahomed. But of all the sects the most numerous is the sect of plunderers, who also resort to his standard, in the hope of acquiring a greater booty than they could reasonably expect elsewhere.

By the word Mameluke is implied a native of a distant region. Accordingly the Mamelukes, who made so conspicuous a figure in history some centuries ago, who recently distinguished themselves in the French invasion of Egypt, and whom I have had repeated occasions to notice in speaking of the army of the Grand Vizier, are either Georgian or Circassian slaves brought into Egypt; with the exception, however, of a few among them, whose dark and swarthy countenance announces, as well as the cast of their features, that they are of Nubian origin. It is necessary that every individual Mameluke should have been a slave, to arrive at the highest dignities, such as Bey, &c.

The climate of Egypt, or some other cause, however, is extremely unfavourable to the descendants of the Mamelukes. They are generally short lived. It is said that these can never be permitted to enjoy the elevated situations among the Mamelukes. The children of Europeans, also, who are settled in the country, are unhealthy, and are reared with the greatest difficulty.

There was a time when the more successful and more enterprising of the Mamelukes rose to the highest dignities in Egypt, from the office of Bey to that of Sheick-el-belled, or supreme governor; but the ascendancy they had acquired in that country has been latterly much diminished. The numbers of those by whom the army of the Grand Vizier was augmented were comparatively few, but they were entitled to more confidence than the generality of the troops. A very accurate idea of their costume is conveyed by Plate XIV.

The Arabian camel-drivers, who are not furnished, like the Turkish soldiers, with tents for their lodging and accommodation, while on the march, are reduced to the necessity of forming, at the expiration of each day's march, a ring or circle, by the means of the saddles and other furniture of their camels, near to whom they are constantly stationed for their safety and protection. Within this circle they make a fire with the dung of the animals, dried roots, withered shrubs, &c. and with all possible hilarity hover over this fire in the evenings, to partake of such amusements as their leisure may suggest. On these occasions they sing, dance, and relate stories, some of which are of an hour's duration. While a part of them are engaged in dancing, the others beat time to them by clapping their hands.

When, on the marches we had occasion to make in Syria and



A. Mameluke's Soldier.

Published March 1. 1809. by H. Phillips & L. S. Pine & Church Yard.

Egypt, their camels were laden with our baggage, we never entertained the smallest apprehension respecting the probity of these Arabs. No sooner, however, were the animals cased of their burthens, than their drivers considered that they had executed their trust, and that whatever they could lay their hands on was fair game. This propensity to theft, which is common to the Arabs of every description, demanded on our side the utmost vigilance, as well during our marches as in the encampment, where the nocturnal robberies which so frequently occurred, were traced to the same source of Arabian rapacity.

In the course of my narrative repeated mention has been made of the Tartars, who are entrusted with public dispatches. A certain number of these Tartars, under a Khan, or chief of their own nation, were constantly stationed with the army of the Grand Vizier, to receive his Highness's commands, and to proceed on the different missions which the public business might require. They are dispatched in this way, not only from the armies, but from the capital, to every part of the Ottoman dominions, and are as quiet and well behaved, as they are remarkable for their fidelity. Instead of a turban, they wear a yellow calpack, round the inferior part of which is a broad band of black cloth. They are a strong and hardy race, capable of enduring the greatest fatigues, and perform their journies with remarkable celerity, seldom or never sleeping on the route. They are provided with a firman, or order, which enables them, in the towns through which they pass, to make requisitions for horses, and whatever besides may be necessary for their further progress;

and with these demands the governors, magistrates, and others, are bound strictly to comply.

The Vizier was, as well as several of his principal officers, attended by a description of guards of honour, styled *bostangis*, a word which in its literal sense, implies gardeners. At Constantinople they are very numerous, and form the body guard of the Sultan, whose barge is entrusted to their management whenever there is a public procession by water. Their chief, the *Bostangi Bashi*, holds an appointment of great trust, being invested not only with the civil jurisdiction of the *Seraglio*, but also with that of the villages on each side of the *Bosphorus*.

I shall close these details by a few general remarks on the Turks, more particularly as far as regards their military character.

That the Turks possess a considerable share of personal courage is beyond a doubt: it is therefore to be lamented, that this quality should be rendered useless, or even pernicious, by the superstition into which they are plunged, as well as by all the radical vices of their government. They are hardy, temperate, patient under afflictions, and upright in their dealings. Having been accustomed from an early age to an abstemious mode of living, and inured to hardships, those of the inferior classes are well calculated for a military life. Their customary diet consists of a small portion of bread or biscuit, with a scanty allowance of cheese, onions, olives, and oil, whenever either or any of these articles can be procured. It occurs but seldom that they can gratify themselves by an indulgence in animal food; and in such cases they are very fond of a pilaw, con-

sisting of a strong gravy made from mutton, fowls, &c. in which a proportion of boiled rice is stewed. This luxury, however, but seldom falls to the lot of the military by whom the Turkish ranks are filled, and who have recourse to other and less costly gratifications, the principal of which are coffee and tobacco. The former they drink in as strong an infusion as possible; and to the use of the latter they are so much addicted, that the pipe is the inseparable companion of many of the women even among the lower ranks of the Turks. Wine being prohibited by the Koran, the usual beverage of every class of Mussulmen is water; but whenever they can prevail on themselves to overcome their religious scruples so far as to indulge in the use of wine or spirits, they swallow them so copiously, and with such eagerness, that, in the intoxication which follows, they become noisy and riotous in the extreme.

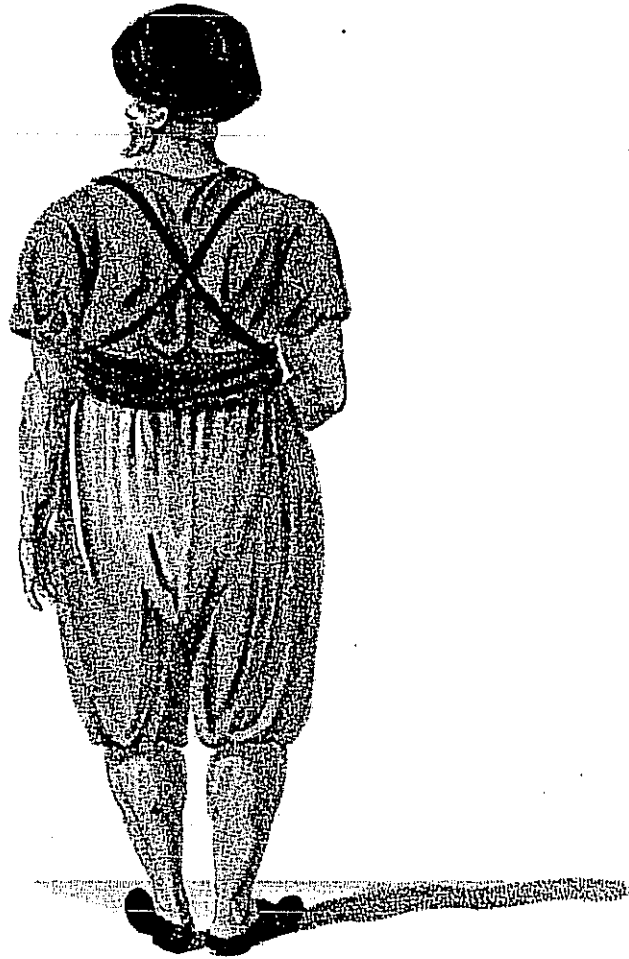
The game of chess, which is not prohibited like gambling with cards or dice, is one of their amusements in the camp, as well as in the towns. They are likewise very fond of singing, which is generally performed in a harsh and discordant tone, without any modulation of the voice.

In addition to his scanty allowance of bread, or biscuit and rice (and of barley for his horse, if belonging to the cavalry), the Turkish soldier is allowed from five to ten aspers, that is, from a penny to two-pence English, per day. With this wretched stipend he is obliged to supply himself with tobacco, coffee, onions, olives, &c. When sick, he has little to expect from medical skill or attendance, and can place as small a dependance on the administration of the necessary remedies, which are very rarely supplied to combat his

disease. I was acquainted with four surgeons belonging to the army of the Grand Vizier, three of whom were Italians, whose practice was chiefly confined to the pachas and commanders of the different corps. They fell victims to their professional duties. The fourth was a Turk, whose skill in medical science corresponded with that of the greater part of his countrymen who had embraced the same pursuit.

As well in camp as in every other situation, the Turks attend regularly to their prayers five times in the course of the day, at sunrise, at nine in the morning, at noon, at four in the afternoon, or two hours before sun-set, and at the setting of the sun. Before each prayer they invariably wash their feet, hands, and face, and having spread their little carpet in the tent, make their prostrations, and go through their devout exercises. After their second prayer, at nine in the morning, they breakfast; and delay their dinner until the last, or sun-set prayer has been repeated. These are the only meals of the lower classes of the Turks.

The Scis, or Arab groom, is generally preferred by the Turks, on account of his skill and address in the management of horses. A portrait of one of these grooms will be found in Plate XV. The Turks themselves are, however, little inferior to the Arabs in this qualification, and pay a particular attention to the animals entrusted to their care, the bodies of which are constantly covered either with a thick cloth to defend them from the weather and from the bites of insects, or with the saddle. Whether in the stable, or without door at picket, the horses of the Turkish cavalry are kept closely girthed, and fettered or tethered, and equipped at all points for service.



A Leis, or Arab Groom.

Published March 1803, by R. Phillips, St. Pauls Church Yard.

It is by no means uncustomary to see a Turk on horseback ride full speed up to another who is also mounted, and having discharged his pistol in the air, suddenly stop his horse. He does this as a very high compliment, and to evince not only his own skill in horsemanship, but the confidence he reposes in his horse, over whom he has a perfect command. This mode of paying a compliment is certainly calculated to excite a considerable degree of alarm and apprehension in a stranger who witnesses it for the first time, and it may be attended with some danger to one who is not very perfect in horsemanship.

Notwithstanding the precepts of their exclusive religion have rendered this nation haughty and imperious, many of the Turks of a distinguished rank display, in their social intercourse, great urbanity and courtesy of manners.

CHAPTER XII.

NARRATIVE RESUMED—BREAKING UP OF THE CAMP AT JAFFA—MARCH OF THE ARMY—NEW ENCAMPMENT—ACCOUNT OF GENERAL MUSTAPHA, ALIAS CAMPBELL—SINGULAR FACT RELATIVE TO THE PLAGUE COMMUNICATED BY GENERAL MUSTAPHA—SEVERAL DEATHS BY THE PLAGUE—ROCK WHERE SAMSON WAS SURPRISED BY THE PHILISTINES—EKRON—ASHDOD—ASKALON—RAMAH OF GILEAD—PREPARATIONS FOR MARCH—ORDER OF THE MARCH—NEW ENCAMPMENT NEAR ESDAL, OR ESHTAOL—ARAB VILLAGES—ASHDOD, OR AZOTUS—PROGRESS OF THE ARMY—COUNTRY ROUND ASCALON DESCRIBED—DEARTH OF CORN IN THE CAMP—MARCH TOWARDS GAZA—ENCAMPMENT NEAR GAZA—VISIT TO THAT PLACE—PORCH OF WHICH SAMSON CARRIED AWAY THE GATES—PLACE OF HIS DEATH—DESCRIPTION OF THE CITY AND SUBURBS OF GAZA—PORT OF GAZA—DELIGHTFUL GARDENS—ANTELOPES—QUAILS—JACKALLS—STRONG DETACHMENTS SENT FROM THE VIZIER'S ARMY FOR THE PURPOSE OF ACTIVE OPERATIONS—SUCCESSFUL PROGRESS OF THE BRITISH ARMY IN EGYPT—SCARCITY OF SPECIE IN THE OTTOMAN ARMY—MARCH OF THE ARMY—DIFFICULTIES OF THE MARCH—ENCAMPMENT AT KAHNYOUNES—FURTHER MARCH OF THE OTTOMAN ARMY—ENTRANCE INTO AFRICA—ENCAMPMENT IN THE DESERT—MARCH OVER THE DESERT—ARRIVAL AT EL-ARISH—REGULATIONS OF THE GRAND VIZIER—ARRIVAL OF FRESH TROOPS—DETACHMENT SENT OFF TOWARDS SALAHIEH—SERIOUS DISAGREEMENT IN THE TURKISH CAMP—STORM IN THE DESERT—DEFICIENCY OF PROVENDER—KAMPSIN WIND—CASUAL SUPPLY INTERCEPTED BY BEDOUIN ARABS—ARRIVAL IN CAMP OF A FRENCH DESERTER—LOSS OF CAMELS—EMBARCATION OF CIVIL ARTIFICERS FOR TINEH—MARCH FROM EL-ARISH—CROSSING THE DESERT—ENCAMPMENT AT BARRAHCAT—MARCH ACROSS THE DESERT TO THEAH—ENCAMPMENT THERE—MARCH TO BIR-DENE-DAR—OVERFLOWINGS OF THE NILE—ENCAMPMENT AT KANTARA—

MARCH INTO SALAHIEH—CURIOUS HUTS INHABITED BY ARABS—FLIGHT OF THE FRENCH FROM SALAHIEH—FORTRESS OF SALAHIEH—DEBILITY OCCASIONED BY THE KAMPSIN WIND—INHABITANTS OF EGYPT—MARCH TO KORIN—VILLAGE OF KORIN—PRECIOUS STONES—EGYPTIAN PARTRIDGES—FLOCKS OF DOVES—BELBEIS—MODE OF GETTING IN CORN IN EGYPT—OPPRESSIVE HEAT—APPEARANCE OF THE ENEMY—TAHER PACHA DETACHED IN PURSUIT—ACTION BETWEEN THE FRENCH AND TAHER PACHA, IN WHICH THE FORMER WERE DEFEATED—ILL STATE OF DISCIPLINE IN THE TURKISH ARMY—SACKARS—MARCH FROM BELBEIS TO MESHTOULE—ENCAMPMENT ON THE NILE—WATER OF THE NILE—THE DELTA—ARRIVAL OF GENERAL HUTCHINSON IN THE VIZIER'S CAMP—DISEASES IN THE TURKISH CAMP—MARCH TO DAGONA—GREAT PYRAMIDS OF GIZA—DISEASES IN THE BRITISH ARMY—MARCH TO SHELLACAN—NEW ENCAMPMENT ON THE BANKS OF THE NILE—ARMISTICE AGREED ON WITH THE FRENCH—FORT SHOULKOUSKI AND THE PYRAMIDS OF GIZA SURRENDERED—CONVENTION AGREED UPON—HELIOPOLIS—CLOUDS OF DUST—BRITISH TROOPS TAKE POSSESSION OF CAIRO—DESCRIPTION OF CAIRO—CITADEL—GRAND AQUEDUCT—BATHS—THE MEKIAS, OR NILOMETER.

WHEN I interrupted my narrative to enter on the preceding digressions, I stated, that the steps preparatory to the march of the Turkish army had been taken on the 24th of February. At eight in the morning of the 25th this event was announced by the sound of the trumpet, the signal to strike tents; and at half past eleven three guns having been fired in the front of the Vizier's tent as a signal of departure, the whole of the Ottoman troops who composed his Highness's army, with the exception of those who had been sent off on the preceding days, were put in motion. Their effective force might, on a near calculation, amount to about twelve

thousand men, consisting of Topgis, or cannoniers, Janissaries, Arnauts, Mamelukes, Dehlis, Asiatics, Tartars, Mograbians, Avarees, and Bedouin Arabs. His Britannic Majesty's military mission marched with the Grand Vizier, Reis Effendi, and other state officers. This movement, which was to be considered as the commencement of the active operations of our Ottoman friends and allies, presented a scene truly novel and interesting. Previously to the departure of the troops, the Grand Vizier sent forward a pacha with one of his tails, which was planted on the spot destined for his Highness's own particular encampment, and that of the state officers. Within the compass of this spot the ground of encampment for the British military mission was invariably to be included.

We reached the new ground of encampment at a little before three in the afternoon. It was situated near the village of Yebna, and about twelve miles distant from Jaffa, in a fine open plain surrounded by hills, and covered with herbage which was highly acceptable to the half famished cattle. A rivulet formed by the late rains supplied us with excellent water.

The Vizier's tent was known exteriorly by two gilt balls placed on the extremities of the tent poles; and near to it was displayed a large white flag, having on it an inscription in Arabic characters. The troops pitched their tents promiscuously, round those of their respective pachas or chiefs, whose posts in the encampment had been marked out by the pacha sent forward with the Vizier's tail. The duties of this officer are very similar to those of our quarter-master-general. On the march, the bands belonging to the Vizier, Kia Bey,

and several of the principal pachas, occasionally struck up a martial air of music. The Topgis, with their artillery, were distributed, and attached to the most distinguished of the pachas; and no circumstance was omitted which could give an air of grandeur to this military spectacle.

In the evening Captain Skipsey, of his Majesty's sloop of war the *Termagant*, which we had descried in the morning off Jaffa, prior to our leaving the old ground of encampment, reached our new station, with dispatches from Admiral Lord Keith, and Sir Ralph Abercrombie, to the Grand Vizier and Reis Effendi. He quitted us on the following day with a part of the dispatches with which he was charged in reply, to repair to Jaffa, and wait there till the ensuing morning for those which were not yet in readiness to be forwarded. Previously to his departure from the encampment, Captain Skipsey was, by order of his Highness the Vizier, invested with a pelice.

A detachment of Albanians, about six hundred strong, arrived in the camp on the 26th; and on the ensuing day General Mustapha, alias Campbell, reached us with dispatches from Sir Sydney Smith. The general, who is by birth a Scotchman, had resided upwards of fifty years in Turkey, where he had embraced the Mahomedan religion, and had, by gradual promotions, attained the rank of *Cumbarragi Bashî*, or general of bombardiers, in the Turkish army. An implicit confidence having been reposed in his talents and fidelity, he was, in his early career, entrusted with the superintendance and construction of the military works in the Turkish empire, several of which, executed under his direction, are still in existence. At the time of this visit to the Turkish camp he was between seventy and

eighty years of age, and appeared to be well informed, and to have received a polished education. He had been repeatedly attacked by the plague, relative to which disease he communicated to me a singular fact that had come within his knowledge. A female Circassian slave of great beauty was attacked by the plague, and sunk under the complaint; while her master, who had still continued an intercourse with her during her illness, escaped the infection. From this and other similar cases which have been recited to me, it would appear, that a certain susceptibility is necessary to the reception of the disease, or, in other words, that its contagious action is resisted by a certain state and condition of the body. Could this particular state of the temperament be so well ascertained as to be produced by the means of art, the contagion might be effectually resisted, and its deleterious effects completely prevented. I may perhaps be thought too sanguine when I indulge in a hope, that this discovery, so essential to the happiness of mankind, or some other of paramount efficacy, will one day be brought to light.

A letter, dated at El-Arish, was received on the 28th from Captain Lacey, by which it appeared that the plague still continued to rage in the encampment at that place. We still continued healthy in our camp. Captain Lacey's servant suffered under an attack of malignant fever.

On the same day the six hundred Albanians who had joined the Vizier's camp on the 26th, quitted it abruptly, and directed their route towards Acre. This defection was supposed to have been occasioned by the want of money and provisions at our encampment.

On the 1st of March an Arab was sent off to the Red Sea with

dispatches from Colonel Holloway. Intelligence was received of the death of Haffan Bey Djadavi, a Mameluke from whose zeal and enterprising spirit the Grand Vizier and Ottoman ministers had formed the highest expectations. He was destined to command the advanced body of the Turkish army, and was succeeded in this appointment by Taher Pacha, an Albanian. Haffan Bey sunk under an attack of plague.

During the night there was a violent gale, accompanied by thunder, lightning, and heavy showers, which obliged the New Adventure transport once more to quit the road of Jaffa, and seek refuge at Caiffa. This tempestuous weather continued for several succeeding days without interruption.

On the 3d one of the Vizier's favourite attendants was attacked by plague, and died before midnight. The cause of contagion was traced to a pelice which had belonged to an individual recently cut off by this disease, having been given him to wear.

On the morning of the 4th an account was brought to us of the death of artificer Conway, Captain Lacey's servant, at El-Arish. A letter was likewise received from Jaffa, with the particulars of the death of Mrs. Comfort, one of the women who accompanied the mission, and who expired on the preceding evening, after a short illness of thirty-six hours. As several of the symptoms of her attack gave rise to suspicions of plague, I instantly transmitted to Jaffa the necessary directions for the security of the party of women and children at that place, recommending the use of the oily frictions, and the other means I have already described.

Intelligence was brought to us on the 5th, that the plague had made such ravages at Cairo as to have obliged the enemy to abandon the town, and pitch their tents withoutside the walls. We learned also that this terrible scourge continued to rage with great violence at El-Arish, where a Pacha, together with several of the Mamelukes, and Ragio, dragoman to Captain Lacey, had been recently attacked. In consequence of the suppuration of the pestilential tumors, some hope of the latter was entertained.

I made a little excursion on the morning of the 7th to Yebna, situated on a hill, about two or three miles to the south-east of the encampment. It is conjectured that the rock Etam, where Samson was surpris'd by the Philistines, was at no remote distance from this town.

On the 8th I rode to the summit of a lofty hill, situated to the north-east of the camp, whence there was a very extensive and pleasing view of Ramla, distant in that direction about five miles; and to the south-east a fine view of the plains covered with rich pasturage. On sloping hills of an easy ascent, by which the plains were bordered, Yebna, Ekron, Ashdod, and Ascalon, all of them places of celebrity in the records of the sacred writings, were in sight. Having now reached the land of the Philistines, every surrounding spot was the scene of interesting recollections. Ramla, the ancient Ramah, was the abode of Samuel; and the giant Goliath, slain by David, was of Gath, situated to the east of Ashdod. In the valley of Ekron the children of Israel and the men of Judah took up arms, and pursued the Philistines to the gates of the city. When David was persecuted

by Saul, he fled to Gath, where, as well as with Samuel at Ramah, he found shelter and hospitality.

Intelligence was received at this time from El-Arish, that Ismael Pacha, the commander in chief of the encampment there, having been attacked by a sudden fit of vomiting, had been carried off either by plague or *poison*. He was at an advanced period of life, having attained his sixtieth year, was brave, and not destitute of information. He laboured under a suspicion of being disaffected to the Turkish government, on which account he had spent a considerable time under the most alarming terrors and apprehensions; inasmuch that he had been known to shift his position in his tent several times in the course of a single night, from a dread of assassination. In general the plague had considerably abated of its violence at El-Arish.

Colonel Holloway had recently had several conferences with the Grand Vizier, with a view to recommend to his Highness, and indeed to urge him with all due earnestness, to advance with his army towards Grand Cairo. The effect of these solicitations was, that on the 9th in the morning the Janissaries, together with several small detachments, marched forward. On the same day several Tartars arrived with treasure and other supplies from Constantinople, having passed through Acre on their route. From this circumstance it appeared that our further progress would not be long delayed.

A corps of Dehliis, amounting to about four hundred and fifty, arrived at the encampment on the 10th from Acre. They formed a part of the five thousand troops promised by Djezzar Pacha, who now manifested his intention to co-operate strenuously with the

combined British and Turkish forces against the common enemy. There being a scarcity of barley in the camp, the rations for our horses were diminished. The artillery was this day sent forward, and three days provisions issued to the army, with a notice to be in readiness to march on the following morning. To announce the march of the Vizier's army, several Chaoufcs rode through every part of the encampment, proclaiming at intervals that at such an hour the Sadre Azhim, or Grand Vizier, would move his camp to such a spot.

Owing to the unsettled state of the weather, and the bad roads, which prevented the guns from being carried forward, the artillery were, on the 11th, ordered to halt, and the march of the army postponed until the ensuing day. In the mean time the Vizier sent advanced detachments to repair the roads.

On the 12th, at sun-rise, the trumpet was sounded as a notice to march, and the camels, with the tents, baggage, and camp equipage, sent forward. The order of the march, on our quitting the ground of encampment at eleven o'clock, was as follows: The troops being stationed in front, were followed by his Highness's tartavan, or Turkish palankin, with nine led horses, the Vizier, being surrounded by his guards, music, and attendants. Next came the tartavan of the Kai Bey, and seven led horses, with his Excellency, guards, music, and attendants. The tartavan of the Reis Effendi followed, together with five led horses, his Excellency, guards, and attendants. The British military mission succeeded; and the rear was brought up by the tartavan of the Tefterdar, and five led horses, with his Excel-

lency, guards, and attendants. The military treasures are invariably carried with the *Tefterdar*.

The heavy rains which fell on our marching off the ground incommoded us not a little, and occasioned many disasters to the baggage and tents. After having proceeded about twelve miles, in the performance of which the rains continued with little interruption, we reached, at five in the afternoon, a fine level country, which had been rendered swampy by the long continuance of wet weather; and encamped near a river, having over it a remarkably wide bridge. To the south of us, on a hill distant about three miles, was situated a village which the Arabs call *Efdad*, probably what was called *Eshtaol* in the scriptural writings. During the whole of this day's march we skirted the sandy hillocks near the sea shore.

We were informed that the *Vizier* would halt at our new ground of encampment until the 14th, to give time to the camels and other animals, worn out with fatigue, to recover themselves. In the event this proved to be absolutely necessary, as a part of the tents and baggage had been either dropped or left on the road, and did not reach the ground until that day. In the mean time both officers and men suffered considerably from the want of their tents. The difficulties by which the march was attended will be conceived when I state that in the performance of it no less than two hundred and ten camels perished.

On the 13th we had sufficient leisure to look about us, and perceived that several small Arab villages were situated on the neighbouring eminences. They were inhabited by the class of *Fellahs*,

or Arab husbandmen, whom I have already described, and who were for the greater part Mahomedans. They brought to the camp fresh butter of an excellent quality, and a kind of cheese which resembled our cream cheese in England, together with eggs, milk, vegetables, and yourt, which they call Labban. The Bedouin Arabs tendered us also for sale kymack of a good quality.

An Arab sheick arrived on the above day from Salabieh, with a quantity of fine dates, and other presents for the Vizier.

The camels having been laden on the 14th at day-break, and every other preparation made for our departure, we quitted the ground at eight o'clock. The morning was uncommonly pleasant; and after an hour spent very agreeably on the march, we passed through Esdad, a wretched village, composed of a few mud huts. In pursuing our route through a delightful country, we came to Ashdod, called by the Greeks Azotus, and under that name mentioned in the Acts of the Apostles, a town of great antiquity, provided with two small entrance gates. In passing through this place we saw several fragments of columns, capitals, cornices, &c. of marble. Towards the centre is a handsome mosque, with a beautiful minaret. By the Arab inhabitants Ashdod is entitled Mezdel. Two miles to the south, on a hill, is a ruin, having in its centre a lofty column still standing entire. The delightful verdure of the surrounding plains, together with a great abundance of fine old olive-trees, rendered the scene charmingly picturesque. In the villages, tobacco, fruits, and vegetables, are cultivated abundantly by the inhabitants; and the fertile and extensive plains yield an ample produce of corn. At this time

the wheat was just coming into ear, the harvest taking place so early as towards the latter end of April, or beginning of May.

In prosecuting our march, it was the custom to halt twice in the course of each day, when a small but convenient tent was pitched for his Highness the Vizier. On the first of these halts he took his dinner, coffee, and other refreshments. I neglected to observe, that on the first day's march we partook of fruits and coffee with his Highness. He occasionally rode on horseback, and at other times in his tartavan; as was also the case with the principal officers of state, who, as well as their chief, avoided subjecting themselves to any considerable degree of toil. The customary rate of the march was about three miles an hour; and agreeably to this progress the distance of any place which lay before us was calculated by the Turks, who reckon not by leagues, but by hours. After a pleasant march of sixteen miles, we reached, at five o'clock, the ground destined for our evening's halt, and encamped near a river which supplied us with excellent water, and which was provided with a bridge of stone. In this river tradition reports that Dirce, the divinity worshipped at Ascalon, was, in bathing herself, metamorphosed into a fish. Ascalon was distant from us about three miles, in the direction of the sea-shore. The British military mission occupied an eminence; and in the valley beneath the Turks fixed their encampment. The river, after taking several windings, appeared to empty itself into a valley to the westward, towards Ascalon. From the position we had taken up we had a commanding view of the surrounding country, which was decorated with the finest scenery. As well as that through which we had recently passed, it appeared to us

like an earthly paradise, when contrasted with the barren and sandy hills in the vicinity of Jaffa, to the cheerless aspect of which we had been accustomed for nearly nine months. The camp surrounded the ruins of an old village, called Mouta-moud, near to which were several groups of fig-trees, whose appearance announced them to be nearly as old as the ruinous buildings with which they were connected. The fertile plains which extended themselves around us in every direction, afforded excellent pasture for cattle, and had received a new verdure from the late falls of rain, by which the growth of the corn had been also much forwarded. There was so great a scarcity of this essential object of consumption in the camp, that the Vizier was under the necessity of altering his plan, and of marching forward to Gaza the next morning. The unfortunate horses, who had suffered so much from the fatigues of the preceding marches, were left without barley, and were almost in as deplorable a condition as the camels, to whom the wet weather had been extremely unfavourable. The latter being accustomed to the parching heats of the deserts, in which there is an almost perpetual drought, subsist there under circumstances which would subject other animals to perish through hunger and thirst. The climate of the deserts, for which they appear to have been formed, may therefore be considered as natural to them; but they cannot endure moisture, however hardy in other respects, and powerful in supporting the burdens with which they are charged. That their free and docile nature is much abused, was manifested on the route to Esdad, the second day's march, when the roads were rendered almost impracticable by the torrents of rain which poured down, and when, as I have already stated,

a very considerable number of these laborious and useful animals perished.

During the greater part of the night the Turks were occupied in preparing for their departure; and on the 15th at day-break the camels were laden. Before we quitted the ground, I availed myself of the little leisure which was afforded me to make a short excursion into the adjacent country. I rode to the summit of a lofty hill, whence I saw to the north-east, at the distance of a mile and a half from the camp, a populous village, the mosque of which was provided with a minaret of considerable elevation. The buildings of Ascalon were not perceptible; but the olive-trees by which it was surrounded clearly announced its position near to the sea-side. We were told by several of the inhabitants who came to the camp, that this place contained a great variety of fragments of columns, cornices, and other architectural ornaments of beautiful marble, which Djeddar Pacha had attempted to remove some years before, but had been prevented by the inhabitants, who are exclusively of the race of Arabs, and who manifested, by their obstinacy on this occasion, the stubbornness of their nation, rather than the value they attached to these fine vestiges of antiquity.

The troops quitted the ground at half past eight o'clock, and after a short but agreeable march, halted within three miles of Gaza, the place where we were next to encamp, and which was nine miles distant from the ground we had abandoned. The Turks took their customary refreshment; and we were glad to follow their example during the short interval which the halt afforded. Our position was on the edge of a very fine and extensive plain, adjacent to which

were several groves of olive-trees. We were there met by Captain Lacey, who had quitted El-Arish on the preceding day, and was accompanied by his interpreter Ragio, now in a state of recovery from his attack of the plague at Gaza.

In pursuing our route towards Gaza, the view became still more interesting and agreeable, the groves of olive-trees extending from the place where we had halted to the town, in the front of which a fine avenue of these trees was planted. Gaza is situated on an eminence, and is rendered picturesque by the number of fine minarets which rise majestically above the buildings, and by the beautiful date-trees which are interspersed. At half past twelve o'clock we reached the ground destined for our encampment, the Turks pitching their tents in a plain to the eastward of the town, at the distance of about a mile from which we took our station on a commanding height. In approaching Gaza the road was crowded by male and female Arabs, the latter of whom welcomed his Highness the Vizier and the other Turkish chiefs, by a most unharmonious and screeching noise. The troops which had been sent forward some time before, were drawn up, and lined the road from the town to his Highness's tent.

It appeared to be the intention of the Vizier to make some stay on the present ground of encampment; and as there was no barley in store to issue to the camels, horses, mules, and asses, these animals, the number of whom was now estimated at no less than fifty thousand, were turned out to graze.

The hill on which the mission was encamped intersected several extensive plains, the soil of which, being of a superior quality, would

have richly repaid the inhabitants for the labour of cultivation, had they bestowed on it an appropriate attention. They appeared, however, to have been deterred from doing this by the recent visit paid them by the French troops, as well as by the expected arrival of the Turkish army, whose presence they had almost equal reason to dread. There was accordingly in these plains but little appearance of cultivation, at the same time that every advantage was taken of the pasturage they afforded. Over their surface numerous flocks of sheep and herds of oxen were scattered. The latter, like those we met with in every part of Syria, were small, their size not exceeding that of an Alderney cow.

So great was the scarcity of barley in the camp, that, being under the necessity of purchasing a supply for my horse, I paid, in the currency of the country, a sum nearly equal to seven shillings English for a measure containing about a gallon.

On the 16th I went to Gaza to see Ragio, Captain Lacey's interpreter, and visited the quarter inhabited by the Christians, who have, as well as every other religious sect, a particular district assigned to them in each of the places where they reside. On entering the town to the eastward, I passed through a small gateway, near to which it is recorded that Samson acquired so much celebrity by carrying off the gates of the city, and where, having afterwards fallen into the hands of his enemies the Philistines, he threw down a building, and buried beneath its ruins himself and three thousand of his adversaries.

The suburbs of Gaza are composed of wretched mud huts; but within the town the buildings make a much better appearance than those we had in general met with in Syria. The streets are of

a moderate breadth. I went to the bazar to purchase a few necessary articles, but found it very indifferently supplied. Many fragments of statues, columns, &c. of marble were seen in the walls and buildings in different parts of the town.

In a valley lying to the east of the hill on which Gaza is situated I afterwards visited the ruins of a large mosque, the walls of which were of a remarkable thickness. Over the entrance I observed several pieces of Turkish sculpture on free-stone, in a good state of preservation. Within the building several plain marble columns lay dispersed on the ground. According to a tradition maintained by the inhabitants of Gaza, they had been conveyed thither by a Sanguiac in the course of the last century. To the eastward of the town I perceived also the ruins of several works which had been blown up by the French at the time they took possession of Gaza. During their stay there I was informed that the plague swept off five hundred of their men. Their inroad into Syria was indeed marked by disasters of almost every description, not less than twelve thousand of their best troops having, according to authentic accounts, perished either by the sword, by disease, by hunger, or by fatigue.

When at Gaza I paid a visit to the governor, by whom I was very politely entertained. He was indisposed, as was likewise his son, who laboured under ophthalmia, a disease which I observed to be very prevalent among the inhabitants, many of whom were led through the streets totally blind.

The suburbs and environs of Gaza are rendered infinitely agreeable by a number of large gardens, cultivated with the nicest care, which lie in a direction north and south of the town; while others

of the same description run to a considerable distance westward. The numerous plantations of olive and date-trees which are interspersed, contribute greatly to the picturesque effect of the scene exhibited by the surrounding plains. These, on our arrival, were overspread with flowers, the variegated colours of which displayed every tint and every hue. Among these were the chrysanthemum, scarlet ranunculus, lupin, pheasant eye, tulip, china aster, dwarf iris, lentil, daisy, &c. all of them growing wild and abundantly, with the exception of the lupin, which was cultivated in patches regularly ploughed and sowed, with a view to collect the seeds, which the inhabitants employ at their meals, more especially to thicken their ragouts. The few corn fields which lay at a distance displayed the promise of a rich golden harvest; and the view of the sea, distant about a league, tended to diversify still more the animated features of this luxuriant scene.

If a deficiency could be urged, not of the bounties which nature had bestowed, but arising from the improvidence of the cultivators, it was that of the grasses, which ought to have been sown from time to time to render the pasturage good and nourishing for the cattle. In the state, however, in which we found the plots surrounding the encampment, our half famished beasts found some solace and refreshment.

From the eminence on which we had taken up our military station, we descried in the evening a sail standing off and on the coast. The wind being contrary, she was still in sight, in nearly the same situation, on the morning of the 17th. We entertained a hope that she was laden with barley, the want of which was much felt in the camp.

On the 18th several vessels hove in sight, steering from the northward; and a messenger, mounted on a hedgehog, arrived in the camp, with the pleasing intelligence that the French had retired from Belbeis, after having blown up and destroyed the works.

In consequence of a report circulated in the evening that an English frigate had been seen off El-Arish, it was resolved to dispatch an English officer to that place, to receive any information with which she might be charged for the Grand Vizier. There was now some prospect of a supply of corn, the vessels mentioned above having reached the port of Gaza from Jaffa, from which place an ample provision of bread had also reached the camp by land. It was expected that these supplies would enable the army to move forward without loss of time.

In making a morning's excursion to the sea-shore, being attracted thither by the number of vessels which had hoven in sight, and for the arrival of which we so anxiously panted, I visited the port or landing-place of Gaza, an open beach highly dangerous to boats attempting to land, more especially with cargoes, the great surf which constantly beats on the shore exposing them at every instant to the risk of swamping. Several small vessels, laden with corn and provisions for the Turkish army, were lying off at anchor, and sending on shore these supplies in their boats.

My excursion led me through the delightful gardens of Gaza, which are very extensive. They are filled with a great variety of choice fruit-trees, such as the fig, the mulberry, the pomegranate, the apricot, the peach, and the almond, together with a few lemon and orange-trees. There are also large spots set aside for the culti-

vation of tobacco; and it being the season for the removal of the plants, the inhabitants were busied in placing them in regular rows. The enclosures for the cultivation of this plant were fenced in with the prickly pear-tree. The Pharaoh fig-tree, a species of sycamore, the fruit of which the inhabitants eat when ripe, was also cultivated.

Within two miles of Gaza I passed through a village, in which the cottages were a superior kind of mud huts, constructed of mud bricks baked in the sun, with a roof composed of the trunks of large trees, covered with a thick layer of mud, which serves for a garden. The common mallow, a vegetable which the inhabitants eat when boiled, and of which they are very fond, grew abundantly on these earth-clad roofs, the verdant surface of which would have prevented me from recognizing the village until I came close to it, had it not been for the minaret of the mosque, a certain indication of the existence of buildings on the spot. On my return in the afternoon I was told that a herd of antelopes were grazing on a hill adjacent to the encampment. Having engaged a party, we rode out with our guns; but the extraordinary fleetness of these animals soon eluded our pursuit. We saw large flocks of quails, which are very abundant in this part of Syria, as are also the jackals, by whose lamentable howlings we were nightly infested in the camp. Probably these were the animals which Samson made use of to destroy the harvests of the Philistines.

The necessary arrangements were made on the 19th for the future progress and active operations of the Ottoman army, with a view to which Mahomed Pacha was appointed Seraskier, or commander of the troops under the Vizier; and Taher Pacha nominated

to the command of an advanced body of mounted Arnauts. Captain Lacey, with a small detachment of the royal artillery and royal military artificers, was ordered to accompany Mahomed Pacha; and Captain Leake, of the royal artillery, also at the head of a small detachment, was to accompany Taher Pacha. These officers, both British and Turkish, were furnished with instructions, copies of which were respectively exchanged between the Grand Vizier and Colonel Holloway. Previously to his departure with Taher Pacha, Captain Leake was invested with a pelice by order of the Vizier.

A corps of about four hundred and fifty cavalry, sent by Djezzar Pacha, arrived in the encampment at this time. The Grand Vizier detached two thousand of his troops towards El-Arish, for which destination Taher Pacha was to set out in the course of a day or two.

A discharge of cannon was made on the morning of the 20th, on the occasion of the appointment of Mahomed Pacha to the post and dignity of Seraskier. This event was also proclaimed to every part of the Turkish army. The Vizier shifted his tent to the centre of the encampments.

Further accounts were on the 21st brought to the camp, to corroborate the reports respecting the landing and successful progress of the British troops in Egypt. On the following day Taher Pacha, accompanied by Captain Leake, of the royal artillery, and his detachment, set off for El-Arish with the advanced cavalry.

In a visit which I paid on the 23d to the Reis Effendi, who laboured under an ophthalmic complaint, his Excellency imparted to me the pleasing intelligence that the Turkish troops were in general very healthy, and that the plague had entirely ceased its ravages.

On the 24th the weather was uncommonly stormy and tempestuous, inasmuch that the torrents of rain which fell washed away the soil from around the tent-pegs, leaving many of the tents themselves to fall to the ground.

An Arab, who had left Salahieh three days before, brought advice on the 25th, that there were four hundred French only at that place. When the account of the landing of the British was brought to General Regnier, he was at Belbeis, and instantly collected his troops, amounting to about four thousand, and proceeded to Cairo. From the statement of this individual it appeared that the General was attacked on his route by the Arabs.

Such were at this time the embarrassments of the Turkish army, from a scarcity of specie for the payment of the troops, that the principal Ottoman officers were driven to the necessity of subscribing from three to five thousand piastres each, to furnish a momentary relief.

A corps of cavalry, consisting of from five to six hundred, arrived in the camp on the above day. The New Adventure transport was ordered to Alexandria with dispatches. In the evening a heavy firing was heard from the westward.

Orders were issued on the 26th for the army to advance; but on the return of the persons who had been sent forward to inspect the state of the roads, it appeared, that the waters from the late falls of rain were so much out as to oblige the Vizier to counteract the orders he had given. The Janissaries, however, with the Topgis, and their trains of artillery, were sent forward, to proceed to Kahnyounes, distant from the encampment about twelve miles. We had,

on the preceding evening, been supplied with fresh camels, as a step preparatory to our march. They were of the Arabian breed, smaller, and more slender than those commonly employed in Syria, but hardier, and capable of enduring great fatigues. Sixty of these animals were attached to the British mission, and, in consequence of a dispute which had arisen between one of our people and an Albanian, it was settled that the Arab drivers should take charge of the baggage.

In the evening dispatches from Sir Ralph Abercrombie and Admiral Lord Keith were brought to the Vizier.

On the 28th, at ten in the morning, the army began its march, the baggage having been sent off at a very early hour. Previously to our quitting the ground, further dispatches were received from Sir Ralph Abercrombie and Admiral Lord Keith, the contents of which the Vizier read and communicated at our first halt. We were then six miles distant from Gaza, and had been obliged to cross a river, formed by the late very abundant falls of rain, the waters of which were so high, and the current so strong and impetuous, that the passage was effected by the army with great difficulty, several of the camels, with the baggage, tents, &c. having had a very narrow escape from destruction. The dispatches contained the glorious news of the success of the British troops in Egypt since their landing, detailing the capture of Aboukir, as well as of the three actions which had terminated so favourably to the British arms, and in which the French had lost four thousand men, comprehending that of three of their generals. On our reaching, at five in the afternoon, our new ground of encampment at Kahnyounes, the Vizier fired a

royal salute of twenty-one guns, to celebrate the above events; and in the evening, at sun-set, we heard distinctly a discharge of eleven guns, which appeared also to have been fired as a salute by the advanced troops.

Our day's march had been extremely pleasant; and we now occupied a dry and elevated ground, supplying us with excellent water. Kahnyounes is a small village, situated in a plain on the border of the desert. From the rising ground on which the mission was encamped to the eastward, it exhibited a very pleasing appearance, containing not only a handsome mosque, but a ruinous castle, which added greatly to the picturesque effect. The Turks had taken up their position close to the village, the inhabitants of which are exclusively Arabs. The fine plains through which we had passed this day, on our route thither, afforded excellent pasturage for cattle, and contained a greater proportion of grasses and clover than I had seen in any other part of the country.

At day-break of the 29th the signal was made to march; and by eight o'clock the whole of the army was in motion, with the most favourable weather for its progress, and a fine refreshing breeze from the westward, to add to the gaiety which the glad tidings we had received had diffused over every countenance. Immediately on our quitting the village we entered on the desert, in which I observed a shrub, resembling our furze bush, shooting up at intervals from beneath the sand. After a march of about two hours, we reached the boundary which separates Asia from Africa.

At this place, and in the vicinity of a well, which promised us a supply of good water, we made a halt, and afterwards rode between

two columns of Egyptian granite, erected there, we were told, to mark distinctly the limits which define each of these quarters of the globe. Several portions of the same material lay scattered on the ground, apparently connected in past ages with buildings erected on the spot.

Our late march was not so dreary and unpleasant as we had reason to apprehend; but we were told that the desert, in proportion as we should penetrate still further, would assume a more dismal and solitary aspect. At one o'clock we arrived at a place called by the Arabs Zaca, or Sheick Sahwych, distant about sixteen miles from Kahnyounes, where, for the first time, we pitched our tents in a desert. We could not complain of the quality of the water we met with, notwithstanding it was blended with a considerable portion of sand. We saw the holes, which were still open, said to be dug by the French for their corn magazines. The desert exhibited an appearance sufficiently barren; but we contrived to pick up a few shrubs for the purpose of cooking. Barley was still so scarce in the camp, that it sold at two piastras and a half, nearly four shillings English the seed.

We left Zaca at seven in the morning of the 30th, in the midst of a thick fog, which was extremely disagreeable, and the more so as our tents and baggage had been sent forward very early, insomuch that we could neither shift ourselves, nor procure any shelter on our halts. Our small party, hitherto unprovided with horses, suffered greatly from the intense heat, as well as from the fatigues necessarily attendant on a march over the heavy sands. The Vizier was not an unconcerned spectator of the sufferings to which the troops were

thus exposed, and promised to furnish them, on the subsequent marches, either with horses or camels. After a march of nearly sixteen miles, we arrived at El-Arish at one o'clock. In approaching the encampment before that place, the Grand Vizier was met by Taher Pacha, at the head of a large party of the troops, who had been marched out for that purpose. We pitched our tents on a barren sand, at the distance of about half a mile from the sea-shore, to the north of the fortress. Several vessels were lying at anchor, and their crews employed in landing the cargoes of provisions, barley, &c. At El-Arish the barley was sold at forty paras the measure. The Turkish ships of war, lately arrived from Aboukir, were also lying off the port.

The troops encamped at El-Arish were healthy, having had no appearance of plague among them for the last fortnight. Shortly after our arrival, I visited Taher Pacha, with whom I took coffee, and who sent to our camp ready dressed provisions, which were highly acceptable. We were supplied with excellent water, furnished by the late heavy rains which had fallen on the mountains. The prospect of the country around us, the surface of which was almost entirely sand, with here and there a few small shrubs growing in tufts, was wretched and dreary. The village of El-Arish, near to the ruins of which a fort was still standing, had been destroyed by the French, who had, when they captured the place, cut down nearly the whole of the date-trees by which it was ornamented. It was situated at the distance of two miles and a half from the sea. Our camp was supplied with oranges, lemons, raisins, dried figs, and other fruits, brought by the merchant-vessels from Cyprus, and the price

of which was extravagantly high. With the exception of onions, no vegetables were to be obtained.

The Vizier took measures, on the 31st, for the speedy departure of the army from the ground it then occupied. According to the arrangements which had been made at Gaza the troops were in future to march in three divisions.

In consequence of demands recently made by the Arnauts, who had had a meeting to debate on their grievances, respecting the future supply to be made to them of water, biscuit, and barley, the Grand Vizier adopted the following regulations for the troops: In the first place, that no other tents or baggage, except such as should be found indispensably necessary, should be carried on the march. Secondly, that all such tents and baggage as should be useless at the moment, should follow the army. And, lastly, that the camels should be employed for the express purpose of carrying the water, barley, and biscuit, together with such tents, and such a proportion of baggage as might be allowed to accompany the army.—I dreaded, I must confess, the consequences of these regulations to our people, who would thus be left without tents to shelter them from the effects of a hot and parching sun, and who were not, like the Turkish troops, inured to the climate, and accustomed to the privations to which the latter had been habituated from an early age. Under these circumstances, which gave rise to bitter and distressing reflections, I lamented the nature of the service in which they were engaged, and the melancholy situation in which I saw them plunged.

Two thousand five hundred troops arrived in camp on the evening of the above day. They consisted principally of the Arabs,

Avarees, who inhabit the eastern desert, the western parts of which are occupied by the Mogradians.

It was finally settled on the 1st of April, that a certain portion of the baggage and tents should be carried with the army; and that the remainder should be left in the charge of a trusty and responsible person, to follow its movements with all convenient dispatch.

Taher Pacha, accompanied by Captain Leake, marched on the 2d towards Salahieh, with three thousand men, and three pieces of artillery. Summons to the garrisons of Tineh and Salahieh were delivered to Captain Leake by Colonel Holloway, under the authority of the Grand Vizier. Mahomed Pacha arrived in the encampment from Gaza, with three thousand men, and four pieces of artillery.

Much firing among the Turkish troops was heard in the camp on the 3d. It was occasioned by a violent dispute between two companies of Janissaries, the 37th and 65th, who, in the division of a quantity of barley which they had found and appropriated to themselves, had come to hostilities. In this conflict several of them were killed, and many others wounded. It happened that an Arnaut, who was passing by during the affray, received a slight wound. This man made an immediate representation to his corps, that it was the intention of the Janissaries to fall on and butcher the Arnauts without distinction. The effect of this mis-statement was, that the latter had recourse to their arms, and were proceeding to the most alarming measures, which were, however, fortunately prevented by the strenuous interference of the principal Turkish officers in the camp.

During the whole of the morning it blew a violent gale, which

raised in the air tremendous clouds of sand, extremely harassing to the eyes. At one o'clock there was a hail storm, accompanied by thunder and lightning. In the afternoon the violence of the wind was not abated; but it was attended by heavy showers, which impeded the elevation of the sands: the impulsion they received was, however, so great, that large hillocks were suddenly formed in different parts. The vessels were driven by the gale from El-Arish, so as to subject us to much eventual distress.

In the evening I rode to the fort, a square building provided with four towers, one at each of the angles. The French had begun two bastions, which they had not time to finish; and to these Major Fletcher, of the royal engineers, made some additions. Originally, the fort stood in the centre of the village, which was now a heap of ruins.

The high winds, and the drifting of the sands, continued to annoy us greatly on the 4th. On the following day there was not merely a scarcity, but an absolute want, of barley in the camp, insomuch that the horses and other animals, deprived of pasturage since our arrival at El-Arish, were left without food. As the blowing weather rendered the return of the vessels driven out to sea impracticable, the Grand Vizier sent to Gaza, about fifty miles distant, for a small supply of barley.

Mahomed Pacha, with eight thousand men, and five pieces of artillery, marched on the same day. He was accompanied by Captain Lacey, of the royal engineers, who was invested, previously to his departure, with a pelice.

It was officially announced by the Reis Effendi, in the evening,

that the Vizier would march forward on the 9th. His Excellency sent twelve horses for the dismounted men belonging to the mission. I was sorry to learn from him that four cases of plague had occurred on the preceding day in the camp.

An individual died of plague on the 6th, within fifty yards of our tents. The indifference of the Turks to this disease was truly surprising. Ibrahim Bey was positively encamped on the burial ground of El-Arish, where the bodies of several thousands of persons, who had fallen victims to that disease during the course of the last six weeks, were interred. His own tent covered a part of the graves!

This being the fourth day our unfortunate horses had passed without food, we made a strong representation in their behalf, in consequence of which a small proportion of damaged biscuit-dust and decayed rice was issued to them. To such an extremity had these animals been reduced by hunger, that they had eaten their halters, together with the dung, and whatever lay within their reach. Several of them, as well as many of the camels, had perished. Our own situation, reduced as we were to bad biscuit and water, was almost as deplorable.

Riley, the person who had been sent with dispatches, returned on the morning of the 7th. He had exchanged his dispatches with an English officer commanding a schooner; but the vessel on board which he had embarked on his return, having been shipwrecked, those he was entrusted to bring back were unfortunately lost. He reported, that the Capitan Pacha had reached Aboukir with ten thousand men; but that Damietta was still in the possession of the French.

We were exposed on the 9th to a true kamptin. The heat and closeness of the air were so extremely oppressive, as to induce an extraordinary languor and faintness. The atmosphere was hazy throughout; and the wind blew on the body as if it had passed through the medium of a heated oven. During the continuance of this morbid state of the weather, it was from the south-east, south, and south-west.

In the evening several vessels appeared off the coast, but they could not come to anchor, on account of a smart and unfavourable breeze from the south-west. In the mean time the Vizier received a small supply of barley from Gaza. The party by which it was escorted, had, on its return, been attacked by a band of Bedouin Arabs, who had taken several of the mules, and killed one of the people.

Five of the above vessels anchored on the 10th, and landed eight hundred Arnauts from Constantinople, together with a supply of corn, which was highly acceptable.

Intelligence reached us on the 12th, that Salahieh had been taken possession of by Taher Pacha, and by the troops who had quitted the encampment a few days before. It appeared that on the approach of the Turkish forces, the French, about five hundred strong, had made a precipitate retreat towards Cairo. Previously to their departure, they had destroyed the works in the interior of the place, and set fire to the buildings.

A French deserter, who came into camp, and surrendered himself to the Vizier, reported, that he had left Damietta four days before, having travelled alone, and on foot, from Tinch, and remained during three days without water. He represented the French at Dami-

etta as being in such critical circumstances, that they would rejoice at the approach of the Turkish army, to furnish them with a pretext for relinquishing the place.

A salute was fired in the camp on the occasion of the capture of Salahieh, an account of which was transmitted over land to the commander in chief of the British forces.

During the night we lost the greater part of the camels, together with their drivers, who had fled to the mountains. This unfortunate event was likely to subject the army to great risks, and very serious difficulties, since our speedy departure from El-Arish was thus rendered impracticable. Detachments of cavalry were on the 13th, sent off in their pursuit. Thus, with the above loss, the occasional deprivation of provisions, the plague, and the frequent intestine quarrels among the Turkish soldiery, we were surrounded, in our forlorn situation in the desert, by a train of threatening evils, among which may be enumerated, pestilence, and famine, and battle, and murder, and sudden death.

Several vessels anchored in the road. It was reported that a part of those which had been driven off by the late gales, had been wrecked on the adjacent coast.

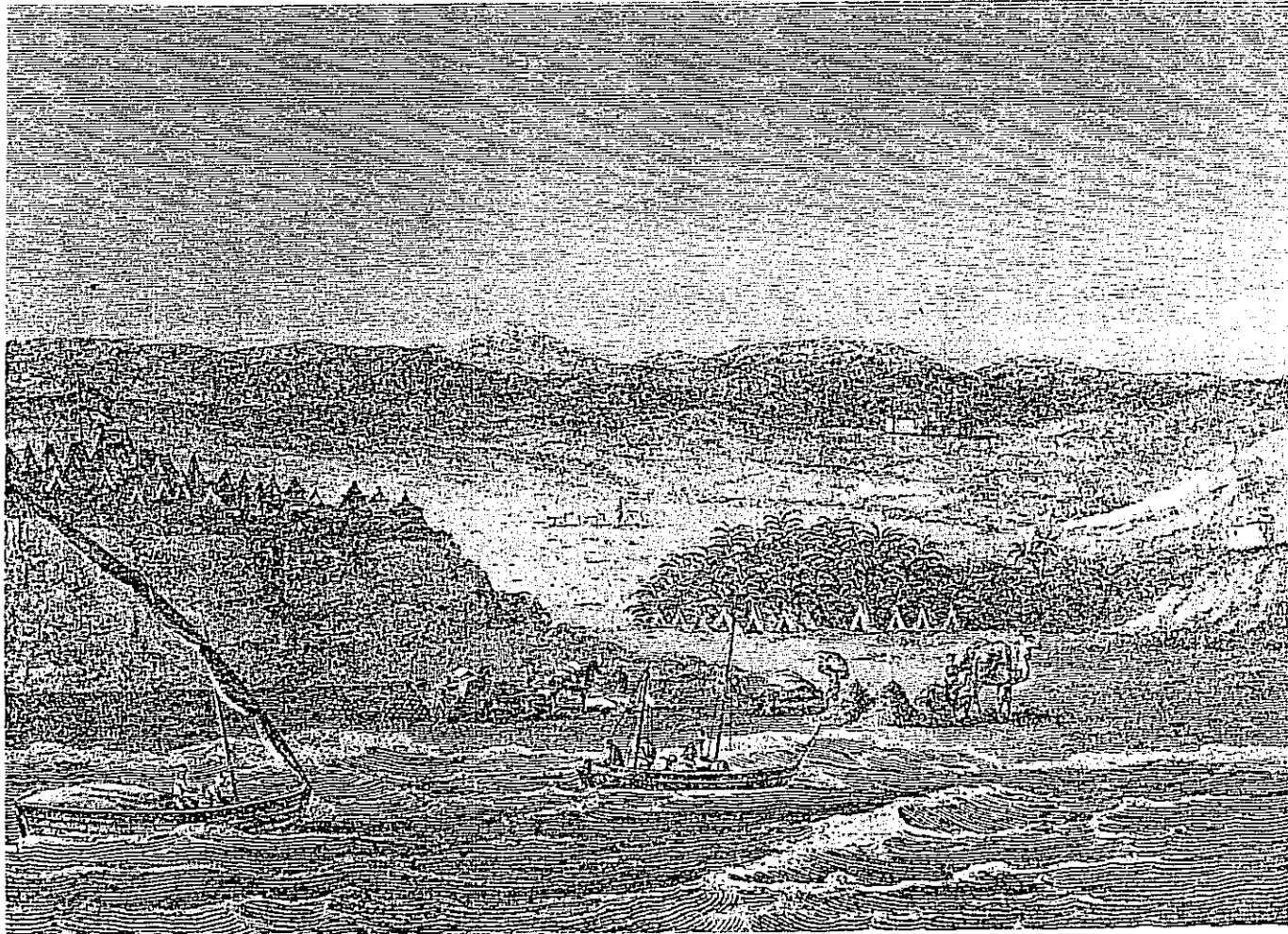
A considerable number of vessels laden with corn came to anchor on the 14th. To enable us to pass the desert with greater ease, it was determined to send the spare tents and heavy baggage by water to Tinch. For this purpose eleven tents, and such of the baggage as was not indispensably necessary to the mission, were embarked on board a Turkish vessel bound to that place, together with gunner Foster, and the whole of the civil artificers, whose services would

not be necessary in the interim. Five tents only were retained for the party. The Vizier and principal Turkish officers attended on the beach, to superintend the embarkation of the artillery and stores destined for Tinch, as well as to prevent any confusion which might result from the landing of the barley. After such an interval of distress as had been experienced in the camp, it was natural to presume that the troops would manifest great impatience on the landing of the supplies.

The camels which had been carried off by their drivers were still missing. Two hundred, however, of these animals were brought in on the 15th by a sheick, who, after having received a handsome present, set off with his camels and people in the night; at which time a hedgin, the property of one of the dragomen belonging to the mission, was stolen.

An English schooner, commanded by Lieutenant Milne, arrived on the 17th, having on board Major Missett, with dispatches. We learned through this channel that Major McKerras, of the engineers, had been killed, and Major Fletcher made prisoner, in a reconnoitring party on the water, previously to the landing of the British army. A French fleet with seven thousand troops was expected at Alexandria from Toulon. *L'Africaine*, one of the frigates belonging to this fleet, had been captured by the English frigate the *Phœbe*, Captain Barlow. The English, under the command of Colonel Spencer, and the Turks, with the Capitan Pacha, were before Rosetta, which was expected to fall very speedily.

An overland dispatch to the two British commanders in chief was sent off by an Arab; and an order transmitted by the Vizier to



View of El-Arish, with the Encampment of the Ottoman Army in 1801.

Mahomed Pacha, to send a body of Turkish cavalry to act with the British army.

At six in the morning of the 19th the trumpet was sounded to prepare for the march. In consequence of the scarcity of camels, the Vizier was to move forward with a part only of the Turkish army. For the same reason the party belonging to the mission to march with the Vizier's detachment, was confined to Colonel Holloway, Major Hope, Mr. Whiteman, secretary, Mr. Pink, draughtsman, myself, a serjeant, and five men. The others were to follow with the remainder of the Turkish army, as soon as beasts of burden could be procured. Strict orders were given to keep a watchful eye over the camel-drivers, in crossing the desert, as there was a possibility of their deserting with their camels—a disaster which would expose the whole of the army to the risk of perishing on its passage.

A view of El-Arish, the station we were about to quit, will be found in Plate XVI.

The Vizier quitted the ground of encampment at noon; and at three in the afternoon we followed. Prior to our departure, Major Miffett embarked for Aboukir, with answers from the Vizier and Colonel Holloway to the dispatches with which he was charged.

After a very agreeable march of two hours along the sea-shore, we arrived at the wells of Messoudieh, the place where the traveller takes his supply of water, before he proceeds to cross the remaining part of the desert. Neither habitation nor inhabitant was to be seen; nor was there so much as the appearance of brush-wood to diversify the surface of the arid sands. It was with difficulty that a few dried vegetables could be raked together to heat a little coffee. By dig-

ging wells in the sands to the depth of two or three feet, water was, however, readily procured: and notwithstanding we were so near to the sea-shore, it was good and sweet. As the route from this station to Catiéh occupies three days, in the course of which no drinkable water can be procured, it was necessary to make an appropriate provision of this necessary article; and for this purpose we were furnished with the skins of goats properly prepared. The camels and other animals were laden with biscuit, barley, and water, the three essentials for the crossing of the desert.

The Reis Effendi, who came up after us with the remainder of the Turkish army, informed us that when the troops commanded by Taher Pacha arrived at Salahieh, they pursued the enemy, several of whom they killed in their flight. Among the pursuers, there were several Moors, who were well mounted, and very expert in the use of their fire-arms, which they discharge with great effect when on full speed. Their chief was unfortunately killed in the attack.

At midnight our baggage was sent off under an escort; and at six in the morning of the 20th, we proceeded on our route. At the expiration of two hours and a half we halted for three quarters of an hour; and at half past one reached our new ground of encampment, Barrahat, where we immediately pitched our tents. This spot had been evidently the bed of a salt lake in past ages, large quantities of marine shells lying scattered on its surface, together with much saline matter. We took the precaution to dig wells; but the water was so salt and brackish as to be unfit for the cattle. On subjecting it to an analysis, I found it to contain a large proportion of common salt. The progress we had made on this day's march was about fif-

teen miles; and in pursuing our route we were gratified by the view of the surprising visual deception, which the French term *mirage*, and which has been described with great ingenuity by Monge, of the French National Institute. It is peculiar to the desert, and presents the distant appearance of water with such an air of truth and reality, that the shadows of the camels who were in advance, seemed to be reflected on the apparent watery surface. To give a more extraordinary effect to the illusion, the bodies of these animals appeared to be narrowed and elongated upwards, so as to give them the appearance of trunks of trees, the branches of which had been lopped off. The most elevated of the distant sand hills represented light clouds; while the smaller ones appeared like ships under a press of sail in the midst of beautiful lakes. This phenomenon was more particularly apparent on the levels, which were in some parts covered with a saline substance, finely crystallized, and very shining and brilliant. A portion of this saline matter I collected for future experiments.

We left our ground on the 21st, at between three and four in the morning; and, as it was not yet day-light, were preceded by guides carrying torches. We lost our way, notwithstanding, and were detained for nearly two hours. During this day's march we made two halts; and at length, at half past four in the afternoon, reached our ground of encampment at Bir-el-habt, after a very laborious and fatiguing march of thirty miles. Great numbers of skeletons of camels, horses, and other animals were scattered on the route. The earlier part of our march was tolerably agreeable, with the exception of our having lost our way; but during the last nine miles we had

to pass over very heavy sands, and an uneven ground. The heat of the weather was at the same time very oppressive. We were, however, enabled to procure a supply of brackish water for the cattle. In the evening the Topgis and Dehlis moved from the ground with their guns.

I could distinguish the notes of the nightingale on our march: they were very short, and much inferior to those of the same bird in England. Several plants and a few flowers were scattered at intervals.

At this time intelligence reached the encampment, that the advanced Ottoman army was at Korin and Belbeis.

We marched at six in the morning of the 22d, and at noon reached Theah, distant from Catieh about a mile and a half. The route thither was very heavy and irregular, insomuch that to perform a distance of fifteen miles we were under the necessity of making two halts. In the vicinity of our encampment there were several fine date-trees. The wells in general contained good water; but in one of them it was black and offensive, like that which is procured at Harrowgate. The Turks asserted that the French had thrown into it a quantity of gunpowder.

On our route great numbers of carcases were scattered. We were met by a messenger from Mahomed Pacha, who transmitted the information that Tineh had been taken possession of by a detachment of Turkish cavalry. In abandoning the above place, the French had left behind two guns, and a quantity of barley, and other stores. The two Pachas were still at Belbeis and Korin, at the latter of which places, according to the contents of a letter from Captain

Lacey, a great mortality, supposed to be occasioned by the plague, prevailed among the Turks. It was more probably, however, owing to constant fatigues, and the want of a good nourishing diet.

The early part of the morning had been clouded over; which rendered the heat less oppressive; but at ten o'clock, when we were within two hours march of our destination, the heat suddenly became so extremely intense, that, to use a vulgar, but expressive phrase, we were literally broiled by the sun as we trod the scorching sands. The appearance of the desert was here, however, much improved: we met with several plants and flowers on our way, together with a few date-trees; and in approaching Theah, found a greater proportion of green shrubs than we had encountered in any other part of the desert. In several of the hollows there was a sufficient degree of moisture to promote vegetation; and in these spots there is no doubt but that good water might be procured with little trouble. The numbers and varieties of the birds which were flying about them, were a strong evidence of the truth of this observation.

It appeared that a village had once stood on the site of our encampment, fragments of red bricks, &c. being scattered over the surface of the sands. In the Arabic language also, Theah implies a village; but we could not discover the vestiges of any buildings. The wells were situated beneath a groupe of fine date-trees. It was the intention of the Vizier to halt at this place for two days, to give time for the artillery and stragglers to come up, as well as to allow some repose to his army, which had had to perform a harassing march of nearly seventy miles, in the space of four days, over what was certainly to

be considered as the worst part of the desert, in consequence of the difficulty of procuring water after quitting the wells of Messoudieh.

A party of camels proceeded to Tineh in the evening, to bring back a further supply of barley and biscuit. They returned in the afternoon of the following day; and in the evening Colonel Holloway sent, with the authority of the Grand Vizier, a summons to the fort of Lesbie at Damietta. It was conveyed by Mr. Pink, accompanied by a Turkish secretary, provided by the Reis Effendi. The purport of the answer brought back was, that the French commandant would not accept the terms held out to him.

I employed myself on the 24th in examining the waters I had collected at the different places at which we had stopped in our passage through the desert, and collected the residuous matter for future experiments. That which I had obtained from Tineh was of an excellent quality, and having been found in the basin of the cistern evacuated by the French, I conjectured it to have been brought from the Nile.

In the evening two hundred and fifty camels laden with barley arrived from Mahomed Pacha. By this opportunity letters were received from Captains Lacey and Leake. Taher Pacha had advanced two miles beyond Belbeis.

On the 25th we rose at half past two in the morning, and at three o'clock the baggage moved off the ground. We were, however, detained until near eight o'clock by some arrangements it was necessary to make for sending off a party of camels to Tineh; and the interval which elapsed hung very heavily on our hands. At ten o'clock we halted for nearly an hour, and reached our ground of

encampment at Bir-denedar at two o'clock, after having performed a march of eighteen miles. There were several date-trees on the spot; and the red bricks which lay scattered on the grounds indicated that it had been formerly covered by dwellings. The water which we found at this place was salt, bitter, and of the worst quality. The weather was extremely hot during our march, which, being over a rough and uneven ground, covered with deep and heavy sands, was performed with infinite fatigue. There was, however, a greater abundance of shrubs than we had met with on our preceding marches. Half an hour after we had quitted our late encampment, we passed over a very rough piece of ground, which, being covered with large quantities of saline matter, appeared to have been a salt work. Several pits in which the salt water had been left to evaporate, had been apparently dug out for that purpose, and still contained a quantity of pure and white salt. Many of the date-trees in the vicinity of Catieh lay on the ground, having been cut down by the French for various purposes on their retreat from Syria.

In the course of the day's march the Vizier sent forward a party of Dehliis to prepare a causeway over a river, which had formerly been provided with a capacious stone bridge. To impede the progress of the Ottoman army, the enemy had thrown down this bridge; but the impediment was soon removed by the Dehliis, who effected their purpose in the course of a few hours. The river had apparently been formed by the Nile in its periodical inundation.

Some authentic intelligence having been received relative to the enemy's movements, it was judged necessary to be very particular in

the arrangements for the artillery, for which purpose Major Hope gave several necessary directions.

Sheick Hassan arrived in the afternoon with dispatches from Admiral Blanket, who had obtained possession of Suez. These dispatches were instantly forwarded to the British commanders in chief. About the same time we received the intelligence of the death of Mourad Bey, to whose command Elphi Bey had succeeded.

We rose at two in the morning of the 26th, and set out at five. After a march of two hours and a half, we met with large pieces of water, which had been in several places formed into lakes and rivulets by the overflowing of the Nile. It was brackish, and far from being of a good quality. In this part of the desert there was a great quantity of green brush-wood. The ground was more level, with a less proportion of sand, and the travelling by no means disagreeable. At eight o'clock we halted for half an hour; and at ten o'clock passed the river over which the causeway had been thrown. At eleven o'clock we reached the ground destined for our encampment at Kantara, and found there plenty of good water, together with shrubs and grasses for the cattle. As an abundance of pigeons and ducks were flying, I took my gun and shot several of the former, which were highly acceptable to our mess, we being reduced to the spare diet of bread, coffee, and a little rice.

In consequence of the advices which were received of the capture of Rosetta by the combined British and Turkish forces, the Vizier fired a *feu de joye* and royal salute.

We rose at half past two on the 27th, and at five o'clock were on foot. We halted twice, about an hour each time, during our

march, and arrived at Salahieh at noon. The latter part of the route was very fandy and laborious. On our approaching Salahieh the quantity of shrubs gradually diminished, and at length totally disappeared, infomuch that we could not procure sticks for fuel to boil our coffee. The aspect of the country which immediately surrounded us was dreary, consisting entirely of an extensive desert plain, or level; but to the westward and northward of Salahieh lay immense woods of date-trees, which extended for several miles. We were encamped to the south of the fort, at the distance of nearly a mile.

On the approach of the Grand Vizier to Salahieh, his Highness halted under a grove of date-trees, to arrange the manner in which he should make his public entry, as well as the form of his encampment. The Turkish army afterwards marched in the following order:—First, a line of cavalry, small parties of horsemen riding up and down in front of the line, and firing while on full speed. Next another line of Arnauts, with the led horses of his Highness, and the priests, or imaums, singing hymns. Next followed Colonel Holloway, Major Hope, &c. the Turkish officers of state in succession, and his Highness the Vizier, with his bands of music, and attendants. And lastly, a body of cavalry, Dehlis, closed the rear.

Thus had we surmounted a troublesome, fatiguing, and hazardous march across the desert (a distance of about one hundred and fifty miles from Kahnyounes to Salahieh), but not without the loss of many animals, and several men. The lamentable scenes which occasionally presented themselves were truly distressing to a feeling mind. During the tedious and harassing marches to which we had

been subjected, it was found that in particular places which presented the greatest difficulties, the horses were not capable to drag the artillery. In these cases the camels were resorted to with great effect and advantage, in consequence of their very docile nature and steady draught.

The plate which forms the frontispiece of this work, represents the march of the Turkish army through a part of the desert. The Grand Vizier is seated on horseback, among a groupe of Turks, attendants, &c. His likeness is delineated with great fidelity; and in addition to this trait of resemblance, a very precise idea will be formed by the reader, on his consulting the plate, of the Turkish carriages, called tartavans, employed by the Vizier and principal officers of state on the march. The vehicles employed by the Turks in transporting their sick, and the sackars used for carrying water, are also represented in the engraving, with a variety of other subjects, which their nature sufficiently explains.

As soon as we had reached Salahieh, the Arabs brought into the encampment for sale a variety of articles of food, which were purchased with great eagerness by the half famished military. They also brought in straw and unthreshed barley for the cattle. The harvest had been very abundant; but such had been the losses which the population had sustained by war and diseases, that the corn, although ripe, had not yet been got in. The inundation of the preceding year had been remarkably high, and had produced very abundant crops.

The Vizier fired a royal salute on his arrival. At four in the afternoon there was a smart breeze from the south, accompanied by a

gentle fall of rain. The horizon was at the same time obscured; and the air so close and sultry as to be productive of much oppression and languor.

I walked in the evening to a small village inhabited by Arabs, who reside in huts constructed of mud and canes, and the tops of which are covered with reeds, branches of date-trees, and other similar materials. Nothing could be more wretched than the picture which these huts, and those who dwelt in them, afforded. Their proprietors were not, however, without their resources. They raised poultry; and having herds of cows, goats, and sheep, were thus enabled to supply the troops with milk, yourt, eggs, cheese, and butter. They were consequently very serviceable neighbours. The above articles were cheap on our arrival; but, as is always customary in camps, there was little doubt but their price would soon be advanced.

The ground being in part covered by grasses produced by the late inundation, presented a verdant surface, which had an agreeable effect on the sight, accustomed as it had been to the vivid reflection from the burning sands in crossing the desert.

The civil artificers who had been sent round by water, arrived on the 28th from Tineh, having left behind the principal part of the baggage, in consequence of their precipitate departure from the vessel on board of which they had been embarked. We were under some apprehension for the safety of our baggage.

We partook this day of the flesh of a young buffalo, which we found good and palatable. The inundation of the part of the desert surrounding Salahieh is explained in the following manner by the

Turks. On the overflowing, they say, of the Nile, the earth becomes fully impregnated with water, which, being forced up to the surface, exudes from beneath, and overflows the grounds. In passing through the strata of earth, it meets with portions of saline matter, which it dissolves, and thus acquires its briny taste. Being afterwards evaporated by the heat of the sun, it deposits, on the surface of the earth, its salt, and forms the salt lakes which are met with at different intervals.

It grieved me to notice that the disease of the eyes, so common in Syria, prevailed also in this part of Egypt. Persons of every age were alike subject to its attacks; and, independently of the numerous cases of blindness I observed, the inhabitants in general displayed, in their meagre and wan countenances, a predisposition to this and other diseases.

On the appearance of the Turkish army, the five hundred French who were in the fortress of Salahieh, fled: not with so much precipitation, however, but that they found time to destroy a considerable part of the interior of the work and detached buildings. It possesses considerable strength, and is provided with a wet ditch, well palisadoed. Sixteen guns appeared to have been mounted; and a part of these were found spiked among the ruins, together with several shells, &c. which had been thrown into the well. Within the fort is a mosque, the lofty minaret of which had served for a look-out. There had also been excellent barracks, now in ruins, within the fortress: it appeared to me that they were capable of receiving a thousand men. Considering that it was built in a plain, this fortress is of a very extraordinary construction.

Further arrangements and new dispositions were made for the Turkish artillery, and such other precautions taken as our approach towards the enemy rendered necessary.

Major Hope quitted the encampment on the 30th, on his way to Cairo, with propositions from his Highness the Vizier and Colonel Holloway to the French commandant of that place. The Major was accompanied by the Secretary to the Sublime Porte.

Lieutenant Milne, of the Goza schooner, arrived at noon, with overland dispatches from Tinch. He set out on his return on the following day, at which time a dispatch from Admiral Blanket was received and forwarded to the British commander in chief. Other dispatches were also forwarded to the admiral by Sheick Greded, who was directed to transact the business in that quarter for the British forces.

On the 2d of May I found in my tent the dried skeleton of a large reptile, apparently a species of the lizard, which, notwithstanding it had lost its tail, measured eighteen inches from the head to the stump of that part. It had four legs, with five toes on the fore feet, and four on the hind feet, sharply pointed. The surface of the body was scaly.

The period was now arrived for the fall of the rains in Ethiopia; and it was certain that their effects would be soon manifested in Egypt, by the rising of the Nile, and the general inundation of the country. A loose, dry, and sandy soil is in this way rendered so fertile and productive, that it is said the inhabitants are occasionally obliged to mix sand with the new soil, produced by the overflowing of the waters, to temper its too rich and luxuriant quality.

The heat was very oppressive on the 3d, when the kampsin prevailed, and induced great debility and faintness. I took a morning's ride into the country, and passed through several extensive woods of date-trees, among which I saw a variety of villages composed of the same wretched mud huts with those I have already described. Beneath the shade of the date-trees the inhabitants raise barley on extensive levels, on which they also grow tobacco. The corn was ripe, but not yet cut down. Several of the levels were still marshy, owing to the late inundation, which had destroyed some of the plantations of barley and tobacco. The cows and bullocks were fine, and of a large breed, with short horns. I noticed several buffaloes, which were of a grey colour, and very unsightly in their appearance. The inhabitants were in tattered garments, which scarcely covered their nakedness, miserably pale and wan, and as wretched as the dwellings which served them for a shelter. The women had the face covered with a piece of dirty linen. They are inured to the laborious employments of the field, and carry on the head heavy burdens, such as loads of provender for the cattle, &c. The melons are said to grow here to a very large size, and to be finely flavoured. In one of the villages I saw this fruit in blossom. Instead of being threshed, the corn is trodden, as in Turkey.

Our party which had accompanied the Tefterdar, arrived on the 5th from El-Arish; and at the same time Major Hope, and the secretary to the Sublime Porte, arrived from Cairo, with the reply of the French General Beliard.

In the afternoon of the 6th we had a sudden gust of wind from

the westward, the horizon being in every part obscured, with a wild and tremendous aspect, as if the atmosphere had been filled with combustion.

Ibrahim Pacha quitted the encampment with three thousand men, to proceed against Damietta, in consequence of the terms offered by the Vizier not having been accepted.

We marched at ten in the morning of the 7th, and about two in the afternoon arrived at Korin, a distance of sixteen miles. During the greater part of our route, we marched over sands. As we approached the place of our destination, the appearance of the country improved, the soil being more firm and gravelly. The fine plantations of date-trees continued to enliven our march until we reached our destination. We met with several hollows filled with the water which the inundation had left; and in the parts where the ground was moistened we observed that the inhabitants cultivated the lupine with great attention. The plants were extremely luxuriant, and grew to the height of more than six feet: on one of the stalks I counted upwards of an hundred and fifty pods. The barley cultivated in patches was also very promising. We saw an abundance of wild fowl on our route, in the prosecution of which we made but one halt.

Korin is a long village, in passing through which nothing is to be seen except the walls of the mud huts. There is only one building in brick, a decayed mosque. The complexion of the wretched, half naked inhabitants, many of whom are afflicted with blindness, is nearly black. They brought us water in white earthen pitchers. Within little enclosures walled with mud they have various kinds of

fruit-trees, such as the date, the Pharaoh fig, the lemon, lime and orange, the lotus or lote,* and the pomegranate. In passing through the village, we were nearly blinded by the immense clouds of sandy particles which enveloped us on all sides.

The troops encamped at a little distance from the village, to the eastward. On one side of us lay extensive fields of wheat, barley, and lupine, while on the other side a barren desert was in our view. The soil of the cultivated spots was gravelly, but was covered in some parts by the rich black mud which the inundation of the Nile had left. I collected parcels of the lupine seeds and wheat, to try the effect of their cultivation in England.

In our route we met with a considerable number of mud built villages, surrounded by high walls made of earth or mud, so as to form a square, at each of the angles of which there is either a round or a square tower. Either there is a small hole for the entrance into each of the villages, or a ladder is employed to gain access to it. Such is the uniform construction of the buildings, and it is most probable for the following reasons: It was necessary, in the first place, that the inhabitants should secure themselves, their flocks and cattle, from the general inundation of the Nile; and, secondly, they had to dread the attacks of the Bedouin Arabs, who are constantly hostile to the Fellahs, or tribes of cultivators.

The inhabitants of Korin had recently suffered from the plague, which was still making great ravages in several adjacent villages.

On the morning of the 8th the Grand Vizier and Reis Effendi,

* This tree bears a pod resembling a bean; the fruit, when ripe, has a sweetish odour, and is very grateful to the cattle.

accompanied by Colonel Holloway and Major Hope, marched to Belbeis, with a small part only of their retinue. This sudden measure was occasioned by discontents which had broken out at the above place among the troops of Mahomed Pacha, but which were soon quieted by the presence of the Vizier. The army was still to remain encamped for a few days at Korin.

From the time of our arrival in Egypt, the sky had been generally obscure during the day, with great haziness of the atmosphere, which constantly disappeared in the evening. It is said that this hazy state of atmosphere above the level of the horizon, is peculiar to the country.

In the soil in the vicinity of Korin I found several beautiful stones, carnelions, agates, &c. a small collection of which I made. In the afternoon, out of a covey of partridges, I shot a female, the plumage of which was very delicate. The head and neck, which were of a dark fawn colour, were small, like those of a dove. The wings were long, with alternate white and black feathers; and the body of a fawn colour, with white and black rings on the breast. The bird was smaller than an English partridge.

I visited, on the 9th, several of the neighbouring villages, which, both with respect to the inhabitants and the dwellings, might vie in wretchedness with those I have lately described. Notwithstanding there were abundant crops of wheat and barley, and fine herds of goats, sheep, and other animals grazing in the plains, still nothing could be more deplorable than the appearance of the miserable cultivators. In the gardens I saw melons, pomegranates, and tobacco plants. They are irrigated by the means of a well, to which earthen

vessels are attached; and the water is conveyed to every part of the ground by furrows cut out in raised causeways.

Flocks of doves, which, as they are not molested by the inhabitants, are very tame, frequent the cultivated grounds.

On the 10th dispatches from the British commander in chief were received, and others sent off in return. A Turk, who had remained prisoner with the French since the retreat of the Vizier the preceding year, and who had at length effected his escape from Rahmahieh, came into camp, and brought some account of the successes of the British troops in the vicinity of that post. He stated that strong patrols had been detached towards Cairo.

About this time a present was forwarded by the Vizier to the British fleet and troops at Suez. It consisted of a hundred bullocks, and a thousand fowls.

On the 11th, at half past five in the morning, we marched from Korin, and reached Belbeis about ten o'clock, having performed a distance of sixteen or seventeen miles, over a pleasant gravelly road. The inhabitants were busily employed in getting in their corn, which lay in great abundance on the ground. Instead of cutting it, they pluck it up by the roots, and collect it in heaps, each within his own particular enclosure, where the grain is trodden out. We met with several plantations of the henna. The dried leaves of this shrub form the celebrated yellow, or orange-colour dye, so much in use in Turkey, &c. The branches of it are cut low down to render it stubby. The inhabitants also cultivate clover, lentils, and the mustard plant. The country is open, being a complete flat, or level; and the road one continued causeway, on which the natives and

their cattle rendezvous at the time of the inundation, to shelter themselves from the floodings of the plains.

We passed through several villages, the inhabitants of which were the same objects in point of wretchedness with those we had observed on other parts of our route. They were nearly naked, and the victims of disease and blindness. The children beneath the age of six years were completely naked. It was distressing to see so much misery in so fine and fertile a country.

The troops we found at Belbeis were in an intrenched encampment. A redoubt had been constructed by Captain Lacey.

The weather was oppressively hot on the 12th. In a marabout adjoining to our camp, the walls of which were very thick, so as perfectly to prevent the rays of the sun from penetrating within, the thermometer at noon stood at 97; and on the pole of my tent, at 104.

In the evening a dispatch was received by the Vizier from the Capitan Pacha, with the information that Rahmanieh had been taken possession of by the combined British and Turkish forces. On this occasion a royal salute was fired in the camp.

A strong patrol, or reconnoitring party, of twelve hundred men, quitted the encampment on the 13th, to scour the country in the direction of Cairo, and collect intelligence.*

An English naval officer arrived at the same time with dispatches from Lord Keith.

* In sending forward this party, the Grand Vizier promised handsome rewards to those who should bring in their prisoners unhurt. If, on the other hand, they should have been put to death, or even in any degree maltreated, no recompense would be allowed.

We were exposed, on the 14th, to the very painful and distressing effects of the *kampsin*. To such a degree was the atmosphere heated, that the air which blew on us seemed to have issued from an oven or a furnace. We were nearly suffocated during this interval by the clouds of dust. In the morning the wind was westerly, but shifted during the gale, which was extremely violent, to the north. I had never before experienced such an oppression in breathing, nor did I ever know the thermometer to rise so high. At ten in the morning, within a box perforated to give a free admission to the air, and placed within my tent, it rose to 108; and within the above-mentioned marabout, inaccessible to the sun's rays, to 103. At one o'clock it was so high as 112 within the tent.

Colonel Montresor arrived in the evening with dispatches from General Hutchinson. The British army was in possession of *Rahmanieh*, in abandoning which place the enemy had left a part of their sick behind, and had fled precipitately towards Cairo. Their gun-boats and small vessels had fallen into the hands of the British and Turkish forces. Our loss was stated to have been very trifling; but that of the Turks was more considerable. Colonel Thompson, of the royal artillery, lost a leg in the action; and this brave and very meritorious officer died a few weeks afterwards at *Rosetta*.

In the evening I walked into *Belbeis*, which is situated on an eminence: the greater part of the buildings, formed of a reddish brick, were in ruins. To the south-west of the town stands a fortress built by the French, but which they in a great measure destroyed previously to their abandoning the place. It was not extraordinary that they should spike the guns, and leave the fortress in a very

ruinous state; but they very mischievously destroyed also the principal of the mosques, of which there were formerly three at Belbeis. On the west and north-west sides of the town the fine fields of corn were highly gratifying to the view; but to the south and south-east the land was a barren desert. Among the fruits the inhabitants cultivate the lime, the juice of which was highly refreshing to us during the intense heats which prevailed at this time.

Early on the morning of the 15th intelligence was received in camp that the enemy's forces were approaching to attack the army of his Highness the Vizier. This intelligence being afterwards confirmed, his Highness, who in the course of the early part of the day had frequent consultations with Colonel Holloway and Major Hope, ordered Taher Pacha to set out at the close of the evening with three thousand cavalry, and three pieces of artillery, to proceed in quest of the enemy, and to attack them during the obscurity of the night, should a favourable opportunity present itself. At every event he was to employ all possible means to impede them on their march. About three leagues from Belbeis, Taher Pacha fell in with the enemy, who, on perceiving him, halted, as did also the Pacha on his part. In this position the adverse armies continued during the whole of the night; when at length, at eight in the morning of the 16th, Taher Pacha, having been reinforced by about fifteen hundred additional cavalry, attacked the enemy. He was shortly after supported by Mahomed Pacha, with about five thousand men, and five pieces of artillery, and during the action large bodies of armed Arabs joined the Ottoman forces; the Vizier in person following, and animating by his exertions the Turkish troops, on whom his presence had a

very sensible effect. The action was continued for seven hours with but little intermission; at the expiration of which time the enemy, after having been driven from the different positions they had taken up, retreated, but not without being followed up and harassed by the Turks, by whom they were pursued to El-Hanka, a distance of seven miles from the spot where the action commenced. The loss on either side was not deemed considerable; but that of the French could not be exactly ascertained, as they carried their wounded off the field. It was probably greater than that of the Turks, who had thirty men killed, and eighty wounded. On this occasion Colonel Holloway and Major Hope acted with the Vizier, Captain Lacey with Mahomed Pacha, and Captain Leake with Taher Pacha.

While in the field, his Highness the Vizier received, in the afternoon of the 10th, from Damietta, official information of the capture of Fort Lesbie, and its dependencies, by Ibrahim Pacha, to whom the above fort had been surrendered on the 14th.

The Vizier had upwards of forty heads brought to him on the field of battle. He ordered the troops to halt towards the evening, leaving a small corps of observation to follow the enemy during the night. It was by no means his wish that his troops should advance too near to Cairo, after the fatigues of the action, lest the enemy should be reinforced by fresh troops from that city. They returned, therefore, to camp quietly and in good order, without betraying the tumultuous spirit they had manifested on other occasions.

The number of the enemy, according to the statements made by the French themselves, amounted to four thousand six hundred infantry, and nine hundred cavalry, with twenty-four pieces of ord-

nance. The greater part of these troops had retreated from Rahmanieh, and had been reinforced by detachments from the garrison of Cairo.

Notwithstanding this great and recent success, which occurred at a time when the event of a defeat might have been attended by the most distressing and calamitous consequences, the Turks still continued to display that total disregard to discipline and good order, without which a happy and successful issue cannot be expected from any military operations. This neglect had been frequently urged to them, and pointed out in the strongest terms of reprobation. It cannot, indeed, be expected, while they continue to entertain the prejudices by which they are now governed, and while they pay so little attention to discipline in the field and in the camp, but that they will be constantly inferior to their enemies, although there are very many among them who are by no means deficient in personal bravery.

In the field, however, the Ottoman army has, among other beneficial regulations, that of the establishment of sackars, a corps selected from the Janissaries, to attend and supply the troops with water. On this service they were also constantly employed on a march. They are mounted on horses provided with bells, to the end that their approach may be known to the troops; and each horse carries two leathern sacks containing about forty gallons of water. In a hot climate like that of Egypt, the utility of such an establishment is obvious; and it was owing to the want of a similar regulation, that the French troops, according to the report of General Regnier, suffered so severely from thirst on the 16th of May.

Major Wilson, of Hompesch's regiment, arrived in the camp on the 15th with dispatches from the British army. He set off in the evening, mounted on a hedgehog, with dispatches from the Grand Vizier.

On the 16th Colonel Holloway received information from Captain Chollet, purporting that he was arrived at El-Catania, in the Delta, with a small body of British cavalry.

Several of our people were at this time attacked with violent inflammations of the eyes, occasioned by the effects of the kampsin, together with the dust, and the intense heat of the atmosphere.

On the 17th violent gusts of wind, which prevailed throughout the whole of the day, raised the dust to a prodigious height in the air. In the evening we had a violent storm of wind from the eastward, accompanied by rain. A French deserter, by birth a German, was on this day brought into the camp, so excessively debilitated from disease and fatigue, that he died in the course of a few hours.

We quitted our ground of encampment at Belbeis at seven in the morning of the 18th, and after an agreeable march of twelve miles arrived at Meshtoule, a village distant from El-Hanka about three or four miles. We there pitched our tents. The country through which we had passed was a fine level, with a black soil on which abundant crops were produced. The wheat, which in Egypt is of the bearded kind, was perfectly ripe, and, as well as the barley, lay in great profusion on the ground. Flax, lucerne, and the mustard plant, were also cultivated.

The villages, which were thickly scattered to the right and left,

were very populous ; and the inhabitants appeared to be much more robust and healthy than those we had hitherto met, and were at the same time much better clothed.

There was only one inconvenience in our route, arising from the broad and very deep fissures in the earth, which in many places impeded our progress, and were even dangerous to the horses and cattle. We passed close to the site of the action of the 10th ; and encamped within about twenty or twenty-five miles of Cairo.

Colonel Montresor left the camp on the morning of the 19th at break of day, with dispatches for the British commander in chief. We marched at seven o'clock, and arrived at the village of Ben-el-Hazer, situated on the eastern bank of the Damietta branch of the Nile, our encampment extending to the river side. The water of the river, to which I walked after dinner, I found of an excellent quality. In the village, as well as in all those through which we had passed during our late marches, the inhabitants breed vast flocks of fine pigeons. For this purpose their houses are built of mud bricks in a conical shape, the lower part being occupied by the inmates, and the upper by the pigeons.

The country about Ben-el-Hazer is open, without shrubs or brushwood. The only trees we met with were the date, the Pharaoh fig, a small cedar, and the larch-tree. The breed of buffaloes was very fine, as was also that of the cows : the latter were delicately proportioned, and of a pale red colour.

The Vizier's movement to the above place from Meshtoule was with a view to meet General Hutchinson, the British com-

mander in chief, as well as the Capitan Pacha, to the end that the ulterior arrangements might be made.

Intelligence was received on the 20th that a body of six hundred of the enemy, with five hundred and fifty camels, had been captured by the British army on the route leading from Alexandria to Rahmanieh.

At Ben-el-Hazer there were several vessels on the river of a peculiar construction, of which I shall have occasion to speak more particularly hereafter. The Delta, from the distant view I had of it, appeared to be a vast plain yielding an abundance of corn and other productions, and interspersed with numerous villages built on eminences surrounded by date trees. On the banks of the Nile the Arab inhabitants cultivate water melons, gourds, tobacco, indigo, which in the Arabic is called nileh, and some few fruits, and other vegetables.

The Vizier was at this time indisposed with fever, and required my constant attendance; as did also Mahomed Pacha.

Major Wilson arrived in the camp with dispatches on the 21st; and set out on the following morning early, with dispatches for the British commander in chief. In the course of the morning of the latter day, Colonel Stewart, of the 89th regiment, Captain Diggens, of the 11th light dragoons, and three other British officers, with a party of light cavalry, came into the camp to pay their compliments to his Highness the Vizier. They had quitted their division, which was stationed in the Delta, at the distance of a few miles, and consisted of an advanced body of British troops, commanded by Colonel Stewart, who was to co-operate with the army of the Grand Vizier.

General Hutchinson, and the Capitan Pacha, were daily expected in the camp.

Lieutenant Janverin, of the royal navy, was at this time sent off with dispatches for Suez.

On the morning of the 23d, an officer belonging to the British cavalry stationed in the Delta came into the camp with letters. His arrival was followed by that of Major Wilson. We experienced on this day another kamsin, the heated wind blowing with great violence from the south and south-east.

Owing to the extreme scarcity of wood, we were at this time under the necessity of resorting for fuel to dried cow dung, which we purchased of the Arab women, who form it with chopped straw into cakes, and dry it on the sides of their dwellings.

On the 24th General Hutchinson, attended by Colonel Anstruther, quarter-master-general, with several other British officers, and his suite, arrived at the encampment, having accompanied thither the Capitan Pacha in his barge. On his arrival the British commander in chief had an immediate audience with his Highness the Vizier, who also gave audiences to the other British officers. Tents for the accommodation of the party were pitched close to the Vizier's own particular tent.

I rode on the 25th on the banks of the Nile towards Cairo, and saw several plantations of indigo, of the dye obtained from which the inhabitants make a great consumption for their cotton dresses.

Colonel Anstruther, and a part of the suite of the British commander in chief, quitted the camp on the 26th; and on the 28th General Hutchinson, with the remainder of his suite, also quitted

us. Both the general and officers were, previously to their departure, invested with pelices, and received during their stay the most conspicuous attentions.

A detachment of Turkish military arrived in the camp on the 29th, being part of a reinforcement of one thousand men expected from Belbeis, &c. ; and a body of five hundred Turkish cavalry quitted, to join the British troops in the Delta under Colonel Stewart.

Ophthalmy and diarrhoea prevailed at this time among the Turkish troops. The latter of these diseases appeared to originate from their eating too freely of unripe fruits, such as peaches and apricots, and also of cucumbers. To this abuse was superadded that of greasy food, which the debility brought on by the warm climate had rendered them in a great measure incapable of digesting.

Lieutenant Janverin, of the royal navy, arrived on the 30th from Suez ; and a party of camels left the camp to bring up a detachment of the 80th regiment, three hundred strong, under the command of Colonel Lloyd. This detachment was to act with the army of the Vizier. The camels were laden with four thousand okes of rice for Admiral Blanket's squadron.

We were reinforced on the above day by a corps of about three hundred Mamelukes from the Said, under one of the Osman Beys. We learned at the same time that Osman Bey Tambourgis, the principal of these Beys, had, together with eight other Beys, set out to join the British army. Their united force amounted to fifteen hundred cavalry, all collected in the Said, and having formerly acted under Mourad Bey, who was deceased.

Lieutenant Janverin quitted the camp on the 31st, and embarked

at Ben-el-Hazer for Damietta, with dispatches for Admiral Lord Keith.

On the morning of the 1st of June we quitted our encampment at Ben-el-Hazer, and after a march of three hours arrived at Dagoua, situated on the eastern bank of the Nile. We encamped between the above village and the village of Tahley, close to the river side. We were accompanied by a part only of our baggage, the remainder being brought up the river in germs, a kind of vessels which navigate the Nile.

A gun-boat, which had been taken from the enemy by the Turks, arrived at Dagoua on the 2d; and on the 4th Colonel Stewart, Colonel Lord Blaney, of the 89th regiment, and Captain Adye, of the royal artillery, came to the camp to pay their respects to the Vizier, by whom they were invested with pelices.

Colonel Stewart, with the troops under his command, crossed the Nile on the 5th; on which day Captain Curry, of the royal navy, commanding the gun-boats, came to camp, and had an audience of the Vizier, who invested him with a pelice.

We marched on the morning of the 6th, and about one o'clock, after having passed several villages, arrived at Shoubrah Shaàbi. This part of Egypt appeared to be well cultivated, and abounded in gardens, in which we saw a variety of fruit trees, such as the peach, apricot, pomegranate, fig, lemon, and orange trees. The cedars, acacias, and Pharaoh fig trees were planted in clusters, and gave a pleasing variety to the face of the country, at the same time that they afforded an agreeable shade. An abundance of corn was every where produced; and, in addition to the indigo, the carthamus was cultivated in the

fields. Large herds of oxen, cows, and buffaloes, were grazing in every direction.

In our march of this day we obtained a sight, for the first time, of the two great pyramids of Giza. The troops encamped close to the river; and in the afternoon the Turkish gun-boats, commanded by Captain Curry, arrived at Shoubrah Shaàbi. Major Wilson also arrived with dispatches.

The troops commanded by Colonel Stewart arrived at Shoubrah Shaàbi on the morning of the 7th, and took up their station within a mile of our encampment, whence Major Wilson and Captain Lacey set out on a reconnoitring party.

I rode in the morning along the bank of the river, to the vicinity of Shellacan, or Charlacan, at the junction of the two branches of the Nile, and had thence a view of Cairo, as well as of the pyramids of Giza.

On the banks of the Nile the Arabs cultivate the dourra, or Indian corn, which, at the date of this part of the narrative, grew very luxuriantly. There were also large plantations of water-melons, tobacco, indigo, &c. Shellacan is distant from Shoubrah Shaàbi about four miles and a half, and from Cairo about eleven.

An Arab arrived at this time from Suez with the intelligence that the 86th regiment was on its way from that place, and would join the Ottoman forces in the course of two days.

On the morning of the 8th his Highness the Vizier went in great state to visit the British troops commanded by Colonel Stewart. About four hundred sick from General Hutchinson's army were landed from the river at Shoubrah Shaàbi. The diseases chiefly prevailing among them were dysentery, ophthalmy, and fever

We marched at six in the morning of the 9th, and arrived at Shellacan at ten o'clock. We encamped on the banks of the Nile, a mile to the south of the village, the British troops commanded by Colonel Stewart taking their station a little in the rear of the Vizier's encampment. On the opposite side of the river the British army, and the troops commanded by the Capitan Pacha, were encamped. Accounts were this day received from Colonel Lloyd, who had reached El-Hanka from Suez. In crossing the desert, the troops under his command had suffered very severely.

I rode in the afternoon to Harrachneah, a village distant three miles from Shellacan, and eight from Cairo. Near this village Taher Pacha had fixed his encampment.

On the 10th, in the morning, the detachment of the 86th regiment, commanded by Colonel Lloyd, arrived in camp, and joined the British troops under Colonel Stewart. Gunner Foster, belonging to the mission, died suddenly from an attack of fever.

Captain Stevenson, of the royal navy, who at that time commanded the flotilla of gun-boats stationed on the Nile, came into camp to pay his respects to the Vizier.

I rode, on the morning of the 11th, along the banks of the Nile, to within about five or six miles of Cairo, and passed through the villages of Harrachneah, Abblewed, Heliub, and Beifous. My companions and myself halted near a marabout, beneath the shade of some fine Pharaoh fig-trees, or sycamores, and had from thence a delightful view of Cairo, Boulac, and their environs. We could also distinguish the three principal pyramids of Saccara. To the eastward of the marabout, distant about half a mile, we saw a handsome stone

bridge, paved with fine marble, and provided with six arches. At this spot Mr. Read, the draughtsman, made a sketch, which is given in Plate XVII. Cairo, Boulac, &c. appearing in the distance.

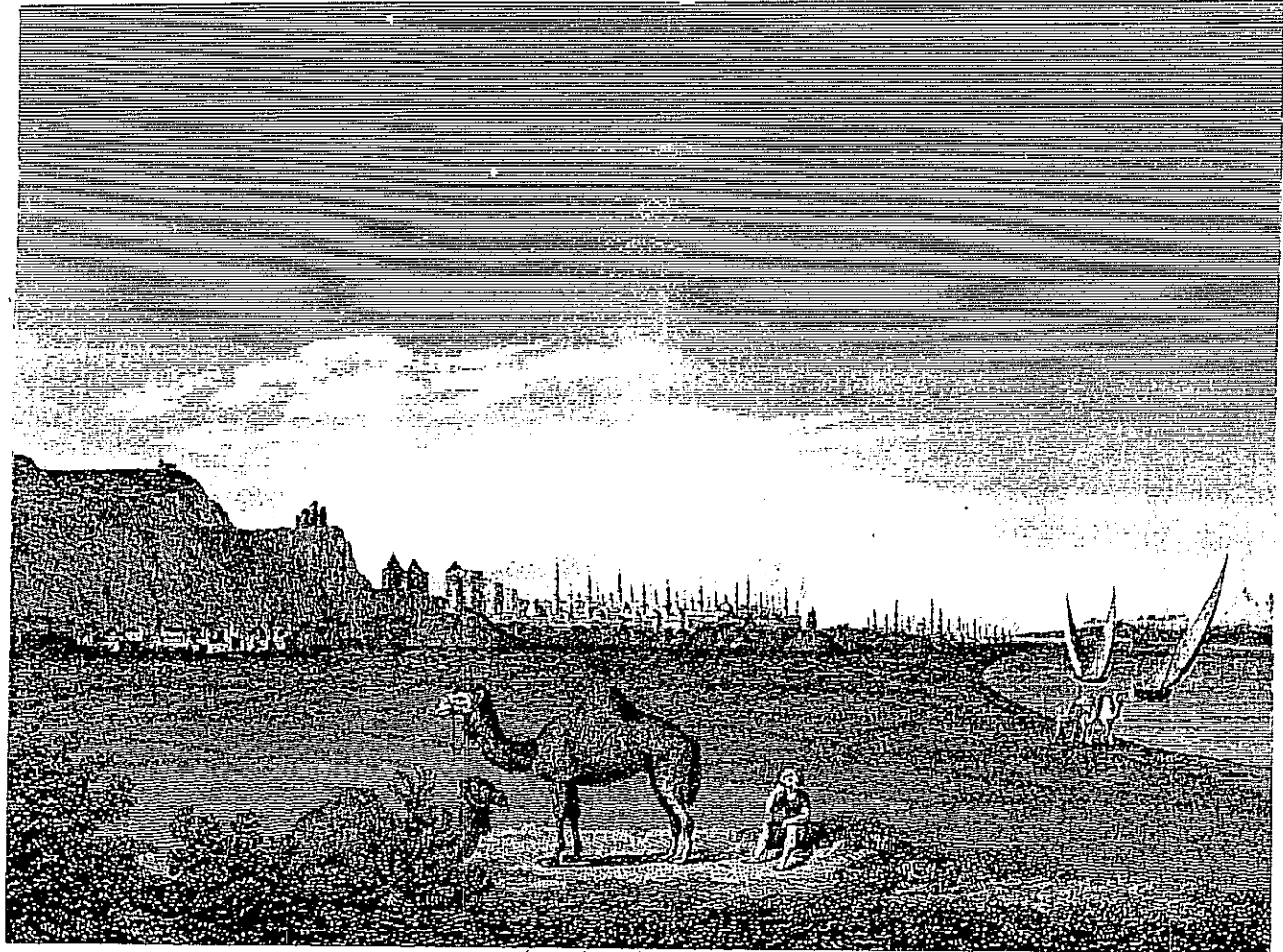
The carthamus, the flower of which is employed as a yellow dye, was cultivated in great abundance. From the bruised seeds of this plant the inhabitants also express an oil to burn in their lamps.

In the afternoon of this day Generals Craddock and Doyle, and several other British officers, came to the camp to pay their respects to the Grand Vizier.

Preparations were made, on the 13th, to throw a bridge of boats across the Nile at Beisous, under the direction of Brigadier-general Lawson, of the royal artillery; and on the 14th, at four in the morning, the British troops made a movement.

On the morning of the 15th we quitted our ground of encampment at Shellacan, and marched to Beisous, whence we had a fine view of Cairo, situated at the distance of about four or five miles from the station we had taken. During the day-time, when the soil becomes heated by the rays of the sun, forming a haze of the atmosphere, to judge with accuracy of distances in Egypt is extremely difficult.

To protect the bridge of boats over the Nile, which was nearly completed, the British army marched towards Cairo on the morning of the 16th, at which time Colonel Stewart proceeded with his detachment along the eastern bank of the river, to the canal in front of Shubra. Taher Pacha, Mahomed Pacha, and several of the Mamelukes, advanced on the left of the above detachment, and proceeded to the vicinity of the stone bridge at Kantara.



Engraved from an Original sketch by the artist.

Grand Caern with its Citadel under Mount Hobart.

Engraved from a sketch by H. Phillips, Esq., of Hobart, Tasmania.

On the 17th discontents broke out among the Janissaries, on account of the British troops under Colonel Stewart, and the corps of Turks commanded by Taher Pacha, being advanced in their front. A deserter belonging to the French cavalry came into the camp. He was followed by two others on the 18th, who were nearly naked, the little covering they had on them consisting of tattered garments which had belonged to Arabs. They had deserted fifteen days before, and had been in the action of El-Hanka on the 16th of the preceding month. According to their report, the number of French troops amounted, on that occasion, to nearly six thousand men. They had suffered a great loss; but to what precise extent these deserters could not ascertain. They confirmed the general accounts of the wish of the French (who were heartily tired of the warfare in Egypt) to surrender to the British forces; and expressed the extreme reluctance they would feel at being obliged to surrender separately to the Turks.

I rode on the morning of the 20th to Heliub, situated at the distance of two miles and a half to the north of the camp. The inhabitants were busied in preparing the indigo plant for use. To this end the plants were cut into small portions, and thrown into warm water, in which having lain simmering for a short time, they were, together with the liquor, thrown into earthen jars. In this state the liquor very soon acquires a blue colour.

On the morning of the 21st the British army under the command of General Hutchinson, together with the troops commanded by the Capitan Pacha, and the Mamelukes, marched, and took up a position before Giza; at the same time that the British troops under

Colonel Stewart marched with the Vizier's army, and encamped between Shubra and Cairo. The latter took up a position, with their right extending to the river, and their left towards the desert, a small canal being in the front. Taher Pacha, with a corps of dismounted Arnauts, posted himself at Jzaoui; and several pickets were advanced. By these movements Cairo and Giza were in a great degree invested. At this time the Ottoman army, under the command of his Highness the Vizier, amounted to about twelve thousand cavalry, seven thousand infantry, and about one thousand artillery, with a large battering train, and forty pieces of light artillery.

The enemy having on the 23d sent out a flag of truce to the commanders in chief, requiring the presence of a British officer of rank, General Hope was appointed to that service, and an armistice agreed on for forty-eight hours.

Early in the morning of the 24th, a flag of truce was sent into Cairo by the British commander in chief and the Grand Vizier. Major Birch and the Jebedgi Bashi were the bearers of this flag.

General Beliard, on the 25th, sent into camp three Turks who had been found under the walls of Cairo, observing, that it was owing to the high respect he entertained for the Grand Vizier that he had delivered them up, instead of treating them as spies. They were ordered by the Vizier to be put to death immediately.

The effects of climate and fatigue began now to manifest themselves among the British troops, many of whom were attacked by fever, dysentery, diarrhoea, and ophthalmia.

During the armistice the Grand Vizier went daily to a village situated in the front of the encampment; to prevent irregularities

among his troops, who had manifested a desire to advance too far, and had discovered some dissatisfaction while the treaty was pending.

On the 28th, in the evening, about two hundred British troops, and one hundred Janissaries, entered and took possession of Fort Shoulkoufki, so named after one of the aids-du-camp of Bonaparte, killed in Egypt. It was delivered up agreeably to the convention which had been agreed on; and at the same time the gate of the pyramids of Gaza was surrendered to the troops ordered for that service by the commander in chief of the British forces.

Hostages were exchanged on each side for the due performance of the convention.

On the afternoon of the 29th I rode to Heliopolis, or the city of the sun, situated at the distance of about three miles to the north-east of the camp. It is at present called Matta-reah, and is the ON of the scriptural writings. It is celebrated for a fountain of excellent water; and here stands a fine granite column, nearly seventy feet in height, with numerous hieroglyphics upon it. Several other columns, one of which was afterwards carried to Rome, and another to Constantinople, anciently stood on the site of Heliopolis. A temple dedicated to the sun is said also formerly to have stood here.

On the 2d of July three boats, with two hundred French sick, sailed down the river to be embarked for France. An hundred and fifty boats were sent to Boulac and to Roudah, to be in readiness to receive the baggage of the French troops who had capitulated. The Nile was at this time rising daily. In the sequel I shall enter into a particular detail of its rise and subsequent fall during my stay in Egypt.

Generals Moore and Hope came to the camp on the 3d to pay

their respects to the Vizier. It being the first visit of the latter of these general officers since the convention had been signed, he was invested with a pelice by command of his Highness the Vizier.

Several boats filled with sick French went down the Nile to Rosetta on the 5th.

A violent vomiting, unaccompanied by any other complaint, affected at this time a considerable number of persons in camp. I was led to account for it by the relaxation and debility brought on by the extreme heat of the weather, which had had the effect of weakening the organs of digestion. As, however, it came on in most cases very suddenly, I examined both the copper utensils employed in cooking, and the water of the Nile, which at the time of the rising of that river is very thick and muddy, but could impute this complaint to neither of these causes.

I was informed that there were several cases of malignant fever among the troops, who were also attacked very generally by dysentery, diarrhoea, and ophthalmia. In the latter of these complaints the eyes became red and painful, and the lids so swollen almost immediately after the attack, that in the course of a few hours the eyes were entirely closed. In addition to these diseases, the prickly heat and inflammatory eruptions of the skin were very prevalent, and appeared to have been brought on by great irritation on the surface of the body, which, in consequence of the excessive heat of the weather, was covered by a copious transudation from the pores. It is not difficult to conjecture that this diseased state of the skin might have been occasioned by a check given, for however short a period, to the passage of the perspirable matter.

The corpse of General Kleber was on the 6th raised by the French from the tomb in which it had been deposited at Fort Ibrahim Bey, under a general discharge of artillery from the forts, citadel, &c. This step was preparatory to its being conveyed to France.

The Vizier paid a visit to the Capitan Pacha, and also to General Hutchinson.

About this time our existence was rendered very uncomfortable by the immense clouds of dust which were thrown up daily, about one or two o'clock in the afternoon, by the fresh breezes which generally blew from the north-west. To the great heat of the atmosphere, as well as to the irritation produced by the dust on the organ of vision, the prevalence of ophthalmy in Egypt at this season may certainly be ascribed.

The French Generals Morand and Dongclot, who had negotiated the convention on the part of General Beliard, were on the 8th invested with pelices by command of his Highness the Vizier.

On the 9th General Hutchinson and the Capitan Pacha had each of them a conference with the Vizier; and in the evening Colonel Stewart, with the 89th regiment, and a detachment of the 86th, marched and took possession of the citadel of Cairo.

The Vizier on the 10th marched with his whole army, and encamped near to the works of Cairo, and close in with Boulac. He afterwards entered the town, attended by his suite, and having visited the principal streets, bazars, and public places, returned to camp.

Early in the morning of the 11th the mission marched into Cairo, and was immediately put in possession of the house, the property of Kaffan Bey, one of the Mamclukes, which had been recently occu-

picd by the French Institute. The forts Institute and Ibrahim Bey, on this side of the Nile, together with the island of Rouda and Giza on the opposite bank, were still in the possession of the French.

In passing through the streets I observed that the principal of the bazars were shut, there being but few commodities for sale. The utmost tranquillity prevailed; and many of the inhabitants, who had the same wretched appearance with those of the other towns and villages of Egypt, saluted us on our way.

I rode after dinner to the citadel, situated on an eminence beneath Mount Mokattam, by which it is commanded. The buildings within-side were for the greater part in ruins, little attention having latterly been paid except to those which were calculated for defence, and which, on a close inspection, appeared to be but ill adapted to such a purpose. The commanding position of the citadel, which occupies a great extent of ground, is, notwithstanding, such as to enable those within to annoy the enemy on his approach. From the quarters of Colonel Stewart I had a very complete and extensive view of Old Cairo, Grand Cairo, Boulac, Giza, the island of Rouda, the Pyramids, the Nile, &c. The grand aqueduct rising from the Nile, and ascending to the castle with upwards of two hundred arches, was distinctly in sight.

On the 14th, the 30th and 86th regiments took possession of the forts on the side of the Nile on which we were encamped. A party of Mamelukes and Arnauts crossed the river, to accompany the French troops, who were to leave Rouda on the following morning. Those who had capitulated amounted to about twelve thousand; and were to be accompanied to France by the Coptic General Yacoub, and a considerable number of male and female Arabs.

I rode on the morning of the 15th to the reservoir of the aqueduct on the bank of the Nile, in the vicinity of which labourers were employed in banking up the earth to prevent the influx of the Nile during its ascent, until a particular period when the mound which has been thus thrown up is broken down with great ceremony, and the waters allowed to pass through Grand Cairo by the canal which is by Savary denominated the Prince of the Faithful.

In passing through the gateway which leads to Old Cairo beneath the aqueduct, I met with several columns of red spotted granite, some of which were in a tolerably perfect state, and were more than forty feet in length, with a diameter of five feet.

I visited in the evening a bath situated near the house in which we were lodged. It differed in this respect from the baths of Constantinople, that it was necessary to descend into a square cistern of warm water, supported to a certain height by the constant introduction of that fluid. The bath was very neat, and paved with marbles of different colours, which were so disposed as to resemble a tessellated pavement. Indeed, the floors of the greater part of the principal houses at Cairo are paved in this manner, so as to produce a cool and pleasing effect.

Cairo and its dependencies were on the above day evacuated by the French, agreeably to the convention. They were accompanied on their march by the British troops and a part of the Turkish army. British garrisons were at the same time thrown into Giza and Fort Ibrahim Bey. The baggage belonging to the French was sent down the river in an immense number of germs.

On the morning of the 16th I rode to the Mekias or Nilometer; it

derives its name from the use to which it has been dedicated, Mekias signifying a measure. It is situated on the southern extremity of the island of Rouda, which, when compared with the country we had recently passed through, had the appearance of a nicely cultivated garden. Within this building there is a lofty stone column, provided with a capital of the Corinthian order. It rises from a square deep basin, its inferior extremity having a communication with the Nile, the waters of which, in ascending, have a free inlet. Upon the column are marked the different degrees of the elevation of the waters; and these degrees are noted down in proportion as the river rises or falls. In the former of these cases, when it has ascended to the height of fourteen cubits, the mound which had been thrown up at the mouth of the canal, denominated the canal of the Prince of the Faithful, is broken down, to the end that the refreshing and fertilizing waters may spread themselves through the city, and over the whole of the adjacent level country to the northward of Grand Cairo, &c.

On the above day his Highness the Grand Vizier made his public entry into Cairo, under a general discharge of artillery, and amidst the acclamations of the inhabitants, who were assembled in immense numbers on this great and solemn occasion. The whole of the ceremony was conducted without the smallest confusion.



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طبع في ٨٠ نسخة

نشر بمعهد تاريخ العلوم العربية والإسلامية
بفرانكفورت - جمهورية ألمانيا الاتحادية
طبع في مطبعة شتراوس ، مورلنباخ ، ألمانيا الاتحادية

مؤلفات الرحالة الأوربيين
عن العالم الإسلامي

٢٩

رحلات إلى تركيا وآسيا الصغرى وسوريا
ومن خلال الصحراء إلى مصر
في السنوات ١٧٩٩ و ١٨٠٠ و ١٨٠١م

تأليف
وليم وثمن

إعادة طبعة لندن ١٨٠٢م

القسم الأول

١٤١٥هـ - ١٩٦٥م

معهد تاريخ العلوم العربية والإسلامية
في إطار جامعة فرانكفورت - جمهورية ألمانيا الاتحادية

منشورات
معهد تاريخ العلوم العربية والإسلامية

يصدرها
فؤاد سزكين

مؤلفات الرحالة الأوربيين عن العالم الإسلامي

٢٩

رحلات إلى تركيا وآسيا الصغرى وسوريا
ومن خلال الصحراء إلى مصر
في السنوات ١٧٩٦ و ١٨٠٠ و ١٨٠١م

تأليف وليم وتّمن

القسم الأول

١٤١٥ هـ - ١٩٦٥ م

معهد تاريخ العلوم العربية والإسلامية
في إطار جامعة فرانكفورت - جمهورية ألمانيا الاتحادية

منشورات
معهد تاريخ العلوم العربية والإسلامية
سلسلة مؤلفات الرحالة الأوربيين عن العالم الإسلامي
المجلد ٢١