

than to afford amusement. Poetry itself, which seems to have sprung from the pastoral regions of Arabia, is no longer courted nor acknowledged by this degenerate race; and the names of their poets are more honored and known in Europe than in Asia. Strange as this assertion may appear, there is nothing more certain than the truth of it; and it cannot be disputed, that the propagation of a novel and bigotted faith, has been always attended with the same melancholy effects in every part of the globe. The blindness of zeal destroys every thing that is not intimately connected with the object of its pursuit; and the high-priests of a new-fangled doctrine, are the Goths and Vandals of the age, who overturn the altars dedicated to the arts and sciences.

Another Christian accompanied those who paid us a visit yesterday, and we learn, to our great satisfaction, that they are waiting for the caravan which is to convey us to the Nile. There is an inexpressible pleasure in meeting with those of our own religion in a foreign land, and especially where the difference of opinion is sufficient to occasion the worst of treatment to a traveller. But it is universally acknowledged, that Christians have greater privileges, and experience better usage in Egypt, than in any other part of Turkey. Governed by her own beys, and but nominally dependant on the Porte, she deviates wholly from the false system which subsists in the Ottoman politics; and studies her own interest in the favor she shews to Christianity. Too supine for study, and too proud for labor, the Mahometan resigns the pen and plough to the industrious Christian. But for this despised tribe, the wheels of government would stand still, and the Nile would yearly fatten his banks in vain. The mechanics, as well as husbandmen, are of this persuasion; and the secretaries, as well as most of the confidential officers of the great and petty princes of Egypt, profess the Christian tenets.

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The Turkish commandant has just sent to acquaint us, by our *nokidah*, that it is customary to search the baggage of travellers, that the duties of the port may be levied on any merchandize they possess. Though we assured them that we were fitted out, not as merchants, but as travellers, we could have no objection to a practice so usual in all places. In the evening, therefore, we were visited by some of the principal people, to whom we opened our trunks; and can say, that the scrutiny was less rigid, and conducted with more decency, than in many of the custom-houses of Europe. While these gentry were drinking coffee with us, at sunset intelligence was brought us of the caravan's approach, which afforded us no inconsiderable pleasure. The young shaik was informed of his father's arrival, and hastened to receive him. We soon learnt that only a part of the caravan was come with the Arabian shaik; who sent us his compliments, and excuses for not waiting on us, being fatigued with the journey. He promised to visit us early in the morning, to provide us with camels, and to adjust the œconomy of our expedition by the return of the caravan, which would certainly be here in a few days. If we encounter no further delays, we shall not repine at being betrayed into this route, which is new, and may afford us matter of curious speculation. As the wind also continues to blow from the N. W. quarter, we can the more easily give credit to our *nokidah*, who assures us, that our boat would not have gotten to Suez this month to come, and that the season alone prevented our being carried to Suez agreeably to our desire. As this fellow seems very earnest to serve us, and has promised to remain here until we depart for the Nile, we the more readily forget the trick he played us, which the apprehensions of the vizier's resentment might induce him to commit. That titled villain has principally benefited by our misfortunes; and, were this last evil necessary to fill up the measure of them, instead of paying the enormous sum of 650 dollars for our

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our passage to Cofire, we might have been transported here at a trifling expence, on any of the numerous boats that trade between Yambo and this place.

SATURDAY, 12th JULY.

We were surprized this morning with an early visit from the Arabian shaik, attended by the chief people of the town. He is an elderly man, of a good countenance and a polite address, and in every respect answers to the idea which an European would form of one of these leaders. He confirmed the tenders of service, and promises of protection, made us by his son ; and seemed willing to dispatch us immediately to the Nile with the few camels he had here, provided we were content to leave our baggage behind, to be sent after us by the great caravan. Though our living on the Nile until our baggage came up, would be more agreeable in respect to the situation, and the cheapness of provision, when compared with this place, we determined to wait for the caravan, which we now found was not expected these eight days. And this not only on account of security, but as it appeared to be the wish of the shaik, who declared his intention of accompanying us himself, or putting us under the protection of his son during the journey. When this point was settled, we requested the shaik to furnish us with a camel to carry a letter to the Nile, from thence to be forwarded to the India Company's agent at Cairo, that he might be advised of our arrival in these parts. To this the shaik cheerfully consented, and we addressed the following letter to Mr. Baldwin, and delivered it to the Arab.

To

TO GEORGE BALDWIN, Esq.

“ S I R,

“ We take the liberty to acquaint you of our arrival at this place on the 10th instant. A concurrence of accidents has obliged us to undertake this uncommon route, although it was our intention to have proceeded to Cairo by the way of Suez. As we are charged with dispatches of the utmost consequence from the president of Madras to the Court of Directors, we flatter ourselves, that this circumstance will be a further inducement to your humanity, to interest yourself with the bey of Cairo in our behalf, that he may immediately issue passes to Ghinnah and Jirje, for our better security in going down the Nile. We have a protection from the vizier of Yambo to the Arab shaik of this district, who has treated us with great civility, and promises to send us to the Nile, under charge of his son, by the return of the caravan, which is expected here in a few days. It is with his assistance that we are enabled to forward you this intelligence of our situation. When we have the pleasure, Sir, of seeing you at Cairo, we shall do ourselves the honor to deliver the letters we are charged with to your address, which we consider of too much importance to you to be trusted to this conveyance.

“ In the hopes of meeting with you in a short time, and of expressing our sense of the services which your influence in this country may afford us, we remain,

S I R,

Your very obedient, &c.”

“ Cosire, on the coast of Upper Egypt,
12th July, 1777.”

When the shaik and his courtiers had taken their leave, we had a continual levee the whole morning, and the durbar of an eastern prince

prince could not be more crowded than our apartments. We treated our visitors with coffee only, as it is the custom of the country for every one to carry his principal entertainment about with him, which is the pipe. It supplies the place of meat and drink, and even thought itself; though they tell you here, that the pipe is the best friend imaginable to meditation. Be this as it may, the Arabs do not seem to benefit by it in this respect; though never did I see a passion carried to such excess as this.

At noon the young shaik accompanied us in a walk about the town, and as we passed the fort, we were saluted with one gun: a compliment for which we made a small donation to the gunner. In this excursion we gathered nothing, but a nearer view of the poverty of the people, and the dreary face of the country. At our return home we had another visit from the shaik, to acquaint us, that the carriage of a letter to Cairo would be very heavy, and that we might as well omit sending it. When he named 60 dollars for the trouble, we were not a little startled at the sum, and should have been well inclined to drop the matter, had we not held it of great moment to our concerns. We declined, however, giving such an extravagant price, for what we told the shaik was of little consequence in itself. He was called away by some business in the midst of this conference, and our nokidah offered to follow him, and to bring him to reason in his demand. The fellow accordingly went on this embassy to the shaik, who consented at length to take 20 dollars for the dispatch of the letter. The money was immediately advanced, and the camel was that night sent off to the Nile, if any reliance could be placed on the word of an Arab. The attempt to impose on us in a charge of this kind, was only considered by us as an essay on the strength of our purses; and we are in hopes, from our having lowered them so considerably in their prices, that we shall be the less liable to imposition, in our future dealings with the natives of Egypt.

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Our evening, as usual, was passed in receiving company, among whom we saw several people who were to be our fellow-travellers. There was a merchant, in particular, who was very intelligent, and offered to accommodate us with his house, on our arrival at Ghinnah, a large city on the Nile, to which the caravan is to carry us. He tells us, to our great satisfaction, that we shall find no difficulty in procuring boats for our passage down the Nile; and that at the easy expence of 25 dollars. So that our money holds out to Cairo, we must be content to pay for every inch of the road, through this strange and remote country. We have been obliged to make several little presents to the great people already; but these have been confined to pieces of Indian handkerchiefs, and bottles of European liquors. These the Turkish commandant carried away under his garment, with all the gravity peculiar to his nation; and, to heighten the joke, he was pleased to let the spirits pass under the denomination of physic.

The weather here is remarkably pleasant for this time of the year. This must be owing to the prevalence of the northerly winds, that blow across the Red Sea to this coast. Neither are the dews so heavy and troublesome, as we found them on the shores of Arabia. A lucky circumstance to travellers, who have been so long accustomed to the magnificent and spacious canopy of the sky, that they cannot sleep within doors, or be confined beneath the low and contracted roof of a chamber. We have a good yard belonging to the house, where we pass the nights.

SUNDAY, 13th JULY.

Our charges are considerably augmented by the price of water, which is become so scarce, that we are at times at a loss for a draught of it. The people here drink of a bad sort, which they

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bring

bring from a spring at above a league's distance, it not being in their power to pay a quarter of a dollar per skin, for so considerable a necessary of life.

The northerly wind continues to blow so strongly, that we have great reason to think we should have been much longer beating our passage to Suez, than we shall be in getting to Cairo by the route we have stumbled upon. The character of our nokidah begins to be again doubtful. After all his promises to stay by us until our departure, and to see us provided with good camels, he came to us this evening with the shaik, and, after a parade of his attachment towards us, pretended to regret the necessity which called him away. He even persuaded the old man to declaim in his behalf; to acquaint us that the letter which the vizier of Yambo had sent by the nokidah, was of the utmost moment to our interest; that we were thereby entitled to the shaik's protection, as far as his life would afford it; and that he hoped we would remember him, now he was about to leave us. Notwithstanding our indignation was roused at the prevarication of this fellow, we did not hold him worth our attention, nor did we chuse to let the shaik into the reason of our desiring his stay. It was our business to appear to place an unlimited confidence in the man, whom chance had made the master of our fates. And indeed he acted very impartially on the occasion, and concluded his harangue, with intreating us to consult our inclinations only, when we fixed on a recompence for the nokidah's services. We thanked him for his goodness, and carelessly added, that we would think on this subject in the morning. There is no doubt but the nokidah's waiting our motions, might be prejudicial to his affairs which summon him to Yambo; but it was our declared intention to have made him a very handsome consideration on this account. To have sent advices to our friends in India of our safety, and of our departure

ture for the Nile, was a matter which we had much at heart. This very fellow had promised to accomplish it. He has undoubtedly forfeited all further pretensions to our favor, so that the present which we give him will be very trifling.

MONDAY, 14th JULY.

The greatest part of the morning was spent in a conversation with the nokidah, and in writing a letter to the vizier, in testimony of this fellow's good treatment of us. His conducting us to this place appears to have been more the vizier's crime than his; and, in spite of his recent abuse of our confidence, our distresses had not deprived us of the principle of forgiveness, so far as to permit us to deny him a request of this nature. The safety of his family, who were in the vizier's power, depended, as he assured us, upon our word. The address was extraordinary enough, to a man who had been the primary cause of our misfortunes; and it may be expected that we did not miss the opportunity to give a vent to our indignation. But, irritated as we were against the minister, we disdained even to expostulate with him on his unfair proceedings. We were determined not to afford him matter of triumph, and concealed the effects which his detested policy had been attended with. The letter was expressed in general terms; and we bore witness to the conduct of the nokidah, as far as regarded his attention and respect towards us. With this he seemed better satisfied than with the present we made him. We assigned but ten dollars for himself and the pilot, of whom I have made such frequent mention in the journal of the boat. This was a sufficient mortification to people, whose expectations had been raised by the rewards we promised them on our safe arrival at Suez, and whose ideas of our wealth were so extravagant. The several trifles we had left

in the boat amounted to no inconsiderable sum ; but the value of these were already forgotten. We were more liberal to the boat's crew, who came at the same time to take leave of us ; as they had been the innocent instruments in the execution of the plot, which was devised against us in the town of Yambo.

We perceive a jealousy subsists between the Turk and Arab on our account, which we have no reason to be concerned at. As the presence of the former will prove an infallible check on the motions of the shaik, we shall rather be desirous of fomenting the difference, by paying an equal attention to these chiefs, than, by attaching ourselves to one, run the chance of incurring the resentment of the other. The government of the district is undoubtedly in the hands of the shaik, who holds it from the mandate of the bey of Cairo ; and to his influence we must commit ourselves in our journey to the Nile. But the ostensible dignity lies with the Turkish officer, who commands the fort of Cosire in the name of the bey, and is placed here as a spy on the conduct of the shaik. They never meet at our house but by accident ; and then nothing but common civility passes between them. The Arab, in particular, is uneasy at the frequent visits of the other, and it is no longer ago than this morning, that he cautioned us to trust to him alone for the supply of our wants. While the Turk, on the other hand, let us this afternoon into the knowledge of every thing that we wanted to be informed of. The customary price of camels to the Nile will be but trifling, and we hope, by his means, to escape the impositions which we should otherwise incur from the poverty of the Arabs, who, in many respects, are of no unamiable character. We have found them to be decent in their manners, and temperate in their diet ; addicted to no warmth or levity of temper, respectful in the last degree to their parents, charitable in their dispositions, and humane

humane to their dependents : strictly attentive to all the forms of their religion, and wholly unacquainted with the unnatural vices which originated in the East, and have long disgraced the Christian empire. But this assemblage of good qualities is thoroughly tainted by the lust of lucre, which no bounds are forcible enough to restrain. Their command of mind is applied to facilitate the basest purposes of gain, and their pretended sanctity often serves to cover some scheme of fraud. It must be owned, the necessities of people, who almost live in a state of nature, must bear hard on the innate principles of goodness which they may possess ; and when the prejudices of their religion, which inculcate the practice of deceit towards Christians, are thrown into the balance, it will not be so much wondered at, that the scale of injustice prevailed against us : that we were so maltreated in Arabia, or that we shall be obliged to win our way through the deserts of Thebais to the Nile, by dint of gold.

The young shaik, after his father had left us, took a liking to a very good spying-glass which we had brought with us. As he is likely to be our fellow-traveller, we begged his acceptance of it. At the same time our nokidah came to take his leave ; and we parted on good terms, notwithstanding what had passed between us.

TUESDAY, 15th JULY.

This morning a jar of water was brought to us from the shaik, which had just arrived from the mountains. He had heard us complain yesterday of the want of sweet water, and very politely sent this jar to our house, which had come for his own drinking. We were content to pay three dollars for the carriage, as we set an higher value upon water, in our present circumstances, than if it were wine. We had an early visit from the old man, to whom

whom we presented a piece of Indian chintz for his women. Had we been apprized of our going this road, we might have brought numberless trifles from our vessel, which would have appeared of some estimation in the eyes of a people, to whom all foreign articles have the charms of novelty. This man however has seen more of the world than the generality of his countrymen. He has been twice at Constantinople ; and at Alexandria, he tells us, he went on board an English man of war of sixty guns, from which he seems to have derived an high idea of the power and dignity of the British nation. He has been comforting us with the hopes of the caravan's not exceeding the time appointed for its appearance ; which now approaches, to our great satisfaction. There is nothing to be seen here but sea, mountain, and sky ; and we long to be coasting the banks of the Nile, and to become eye-witnesses of the fertility and beauty of a country, so celebrated by historians, and confirmed in our admiration by the testimony of the people here, who are never tired of repeating its praises. We learn that our boat, and four others, sailed this morning for Yambo ; and that three larger ones remain here to receive their lading from the caravan. The passage to Yambo can be made with ease in four or five days. What a contrast to the long and tedious voyage that we experienced to this place !

Nothing is a greater proof of the warlike dispositions of the Arabs, than the pleasure they take in the inspection of arms of all kinds. Our swords, guns, and pistols, have undergone a thousand examinations ; and been honored with a profusion of applauses, not, we suspect, without hopes, on their side, of profiting by our politeness. Were a sword or spear to be put into the hand of an Arab, whatever disguise he might be in, his bent of mind would as quickly betray itself, as did Achilles', when he handled the arms which Ulysses placed before him. He is al-

ways armed as if going to battle ; and we never see any one, whose profession allows of it, unprovided with a pair of loaded pistols in his girdle, a sabre and a dagger by his side, and a spear of about six feet in length in his right hand. In his left he always carries a pipe, which, moderately speaking, is not five minutes together from his lips in the course of the day. Though this general practice of carrying fire-arms on peaceable occasions, is totally repugnant to the ideas of civilized minds, there is nothing but what may be reconciled to us by the force of habit ; and we now view this threatening apparatus of war without the smallest emotion. In the evening the shaik brought us a plate of unripened limes, which, indifferent as they were, we understand have come from the neighborhood of the Nile.

W E D N E S D A Y, 16th JULY.

We are very fortunate in respect to the owner of the house we live in. He is an old Arab, of a civil demeanor and a quiet temper ; and if ever a mortal passed away an inoffensive life, it is this host of ours. His worldly cares extend not beyond the little œconomy of an humble roof, and the sale of a few articles, with which he makes shift to provide for the calls of nature. The only luxury he tastes of, is his pipe of tobacco and his cup of coffee ; and his sole enjoyment, is the tendance of a milch goat, that follows him about with the docility of a dog. The milk of this animal he kindly reserves for our use ; and, indeed, it is serviceable to us, in a miserable place, where milk is not to be procured. In the course of such a simple life, it is not likely that he should imbibe the errors which higher stations are apt to betray their possessors into ; and there is no doubt but the prayers of this poor Arab are acceptable to the Almighty disposer of all things. Content carries along with it the aspect of every virtue ;
and

and not to repine at the destiny which Heaven has allotted us, is certainly of more solid importance to mankind, than the attainment of a thousand dazzling talents, which, by fitting us to the admiration of this world, too often render us indifferent to the acquisition of a more glorious recompence.

The shaik and the commandant are become very regular in their visits to us. By this particular attention we conceive hopes of the caravan's approach, as we do not think they would thus court us *through mere form*. The Turk is by much the more modest of the two, which must be attributed to a more general knowledge of the world. He has asked for nothing but the liquor before mentioned; and has received nothing from us, but a piece of muslin handkerchiefs, which we presented him with last night. The Arab does not maintain this decency in his conduct, though he is by no means open in his demands. He is continually asking us, through the channel of our interpreter, of the things we possess; and this morning desired to look at a curious pair of pistols of mine, which I had carefully concealed from his knowledge. Though I could not learn in what manner he had discovered them, I was obliged to promise them to him on our arrival at the Nile; when we fondly flattered ourselves to be delivered from the necessity of standing upon our guard. These pistols have a stop upon the cocks, which must render them safer to an Arab, who is accustomed, on a march, to sleep with them in his girdle.

The weather was hotter to-day than we have before experienced it, which we attribute to an alteration in the wind, that has blown from the land, though very faintly. Were it not for the constant gales which prevail in these seas, the coasts would be intolerably hot, as the soil is nothing but rock and sand.

THURSDAY,

THURSDAY, 17th JULY.

The shaik brought us this morning a bottle of cinnamon-water under his cloak. We were prevailed on to taste it, out of compliment to him, who shewed us the example, but we heartily repented of it. Whether owing to the still, or whatever cause it might be, there was a copperas taste in the liquor, that did not agree with our stomachs. This will be a caution how we make free with foreign liquors, among a people, whose ignorance may be imposed on by the venders of these articles.

We have discovered an amiable trait in the character of the old man, which has considerably heightened our opinion of him. He has a paternal regard for his subjects, and seems to share in any innocent recreation they can take. It was no longer ago than last night, that a slave-boy, belonging to our company, was playing on the fiddle for the entertainment of the shaik. The novelty of the sound brought a crowd about the gate of the yard, where we were sitting on carpets to enjoy the cool of the evening. The old man perceived them to be pleased with the music, and asked our permission to let them come in. This was no sooner granted, than the yard was filled with people of all ranks, who expressed great satisfaction and surprize at the skill of a boy, who might be put on a footing with the blind fiddlers that set a country wake in motion. The ideas of the better sort of a simple people, cannot be expected to be more refined than those of the lower class of a polished nation. Nature is the same in every climate, and betrays its want of cultivation, by an undistinguishing taste in the several degrees of perfection to which the arts and sciences may be carried. The notes of a violin or flute may touch a rude ear with sensations of delight, although not regulated by the pauses of time; or how can we pretend to

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receive pleasure from the wild notes of the wood-lark or nightingale? The truth is, we look not for any excellence in the bird, but what nature has afforded. The sweetness of his pipe makes ample amends for the irregularity of the measure; and we drink the melody, without feeling the want of correctness.

We had a visit as usual from the Turk, who watches his time, and comes always after the departure of the shaik. He informs us, that he has just had a messenger, who brings advice of the immediate departure of the caravan from the Nile. If this account be true, it must arrive within two days at furthest. The Turk shewed us a chop or signet, that he received from Ibrahim Beg, the bey of Cairo, nominating him to the command of the fort of Cosire. He is a very obliging and good-humored man; and it will be our inclination, as well as interest, to cultivate his friendship.

It is not often that we venture out of the doors of our gateway, except by moon-light, when we stray down to the sea-side, which is the only prospect from this place that can bear observation. There was doubtless some appearance of cultivation, when the country was better inhabited, as the most stubborn soil cannot resist the efforts of industry. But as the power of the Turks began to decline in these parts, commerce failed apace; the inhabitants of this populous city removed by degrees to the more fertile banks of the Nile, and have left it a prey to poverty and desolation!

FRIDAY, 18th JULY.

We received very disagreeable tidings this morning relative to the caravan. The road is so infested with Buddoos, or wild Arabs, that its progress is delayed, until a reinforcement arrives from the Nile. It seems that a shaik of the mountains, through
which

which the caravan passes, has lately disappeared ; so that the security which the country was in from his influence, no longer subsists. It is customary for the caravan to pay a tribute to these chiefs, for a passage through their districts. They are only robbers of a larger growth, and openly set their protection to sale, to defend the traveller from the rapine of their tribes.

Distressing as this circumstance is, we are habituated to disappointment, and are arrived at that happy temper of mind, which rejects complaint in things unavoidable. As soon as a sufficient number of camels arrive, to transport ourselves and baggage to the river, we are determined to set out, in company with the shaik or his son ; our number and fire-arms being sufficient, in our opinion, to put any band of robbers to flight. We shall, at least, make up fifteen camels ; not to mention the Christians and others, who might be glad to join us on such an expedition. But it is likely we shall not be reduced to take this step, which, at any rate, must be attended with risk. The caravan may come before any further intelligence, as it only waited for the dispersion of the Buddoos, who are between it and this place ; and the practice of giving notice of its approach, by lighting fires on the hills, has been discontinued, since the arrival of these troublesome neighbors.

The boats that waited for grain by the caravan, are now resolved upon sailing, as its appearance is so uncertain. The master of a boat belonging to Judda, came to us this morning to know our commands. As he seems to be a good sort of man, and this is the only opportunity we may have of advising our friends in India of our situation, we are determined to write by him, to the care of Mr. Horseley at Mocha, who has his letters very punctually forwarded to Suez *per viam* Judda.

The Arabs are beggars from the highest to the lowest. Indeed, so sacred is the state of poverty among them, that they hold its

votaries as under the peculiar direction of Providence. And this humane notion is the source of that charity, which is the most general virtue they possess. It is not, therefore, to be wondered at, that an Arab feels not the shame which overspreads the cheek of an European petitioner. He asks, without scruple, for what he thinks his poverty entitles him to; and intrudes himself in his rags into the presence of his superiors, from which he seldom or never experiences a repulse. A son of a shaik of Yambo is about to return thither on one of the boats, and came to-day to demand a present of us. As we were at a loss what to offer him, the old shaik stood our friend on this occasion, and gave him two gold pieces in our name, called mauheboops, of the value of one dollar and an half each. These we are to give him credit for when we settle accounts with the shaik. In the evening the man came for our letters, which we delivered to him.

SATURDAY, 19th JULY.

The air was so bleak during the night, that we were glad to retire into the house, though the place we sleep in is defended from the wind, by the height of the walls. This is one of the finest climates under the sun, the air serene and wholesome, and the sky always unclouded. The rays of the sun are tempered by the refreshing breezes from the sea, which constantly blow during the hotter months of the year. The southerly winds prevail only in December, January, and February; and at the changes of the moon, they are sometimes felt for a day or two in the other months. From our experience of this sea, we do not think it practicable for a vessel to get up to Suez later than March. But then she may always reach Cofire, whence her packets, and even her goods, may be conveyed at an easy expence to the Nile. Ghinah, a city of Upper Egypt, is situated about 130 miles W. N. W.

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of Cosire; thither the caravan goes, and there boats may be had in great plenty for Cairo, which is 500 computed miles from thence. This route can be only recommended to a packet-boat with dispatches from India, or to a vessel that loses her passage to Suez; as the expence of boat-hire down the river, and the customs of this port, would prove a considerable draw-back on the profits of the voyage. But in such a situation, we doubt not that vessels would find their account in coming here, instead of repairing to Judda, as the snow Adventure had orders to do, to the great loss of her owners. A treaty of commerce might as readily be effected with the princes of Upper Egypt, as with the bey of Cairo; if the India Company do not consider this trade as prejudicial to their interests. It is not my intention, at present, to enter into a discussion of this matter, as I acknowledge myself but an incompetent judge of it. But if the species of goods which are carried to the Cairo market, and the channels into which they are afterwards thrown, be considered, it does not appear, that the establishment of this commerce would operate materially to the Company's loss. The cargoes for this track are chiefly of the finest assortment, and their circulation confined to the ports of the Mediterranean; so that it is not to be feared they will interfere with the sale of the Company's merchandise*.

The Arabs here are much less reserved in conversation than in Arabia. The shaik himself has mentioned his wives to us more than once, though it is a subject on which his countrymen at home preserve the strictest silence. But in proportion as they are removed from the land of their Prophet, it would seem that they throw off the austerity which is inseparable from bigotry. Their features are considerably relaxed here, of the solemnity that they

* It is not unlikely that this question will be decided by the Turks themselves, whose hckleness and rapacity may lead them to overset an infant commerce, by means more forcible to those engaged in it, than the authority of the legislature itself.

affect at Yambo ; and the old man relishes a joke with as much glee as ourselves. He has just now gained much upon our confidence by an instance of forbearance, which bespeaks him somewhat divested of the rapacious spirit of his tribe. My European servant was imprudent enough to venture out in the dusk, into the quarter of the town where the *filles de joie* reside. He was discovered by the patrolle, and after having suffered some indignities, was hurried away to the guard-house, whence he was released by the shaik's order, as soon as the report was made to him. This happened two nights ago, and was kept from our knowledge. The old man was very backward to mention the subject to us, which he did at length, on account, we believe, of the mischief that might ensue to the foolish fellow, were he ever caught by the natives in such a place again. Had this incident occurred at Yambo, or even at Mocha, where strangers are less liable to impositions, there is no doubt but the servant would have been detained in prison, until his liberty was purchased at the price of three or four hundred dollars.

The shaik brought us word this evening, that he had just received certain intelligence of the caravan having left the Nile. While he was sitting with us, an express arrived, intimating that a party of Buddoos were in the neighborhood, and had seized a camel and four asses belonging to the town, which had gone out this morning to fetch charcoal. The old man immediately signified his resolution to sally forth with a few attendants, and observe their motions. For this end he borrowed the pair of pistols belonging to me, which he had long fixed his eye upon, and which I had promised to present him with on our arrival at Ghinnah. Fires were now lighted on the different eminences which overlook the town, and the drum beat to arms. Nor were these precautions useless, in such a defenceless place as this, which might be plundered with great ease by a resolute and well-

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accountered band. But these robbers are reported not only to be indifferently armed, but to be void of all spirit when they meet with resistance. The third part may be furnished with matchlocks, and the rest with spears and swords. A miserable race, wandering from hill to hill, and subsisting on the pilfer of straggling passengers. We prepared our fire-arms for their reception, should they venture to assault our castle ; and there was little occasion for our keeping a regular watch, as it was not possible to obtain a sound nap during the night, whose "dull ear" (as Shakespear denotes it) was deafened by the rattling of the drum, and the chorus of a war-song. These the Arabs continued until the morning dawned, and, delivering them from their fears, permitted us to take an hour's repose.

SUNDAY, 20th JULY.

We find that the Turkish commandant had every thing in readiness in the fort, to have done execution among the Buddoos. The gunner this morning was spunging the few pieces that are mounted on the walls, having drawn, we suppose, the charges of powder, which may serve on a future occasion. The Turk breakfasted with us, and magnified, with the rhodomontade of his nation, the strength of his citadel, and the valor of his troops ; both of which, however, we must confess, might withstand the attack of an army of such vagrants, as these have been represented to us !

Even in this remote corner of the globe the character of the Turks strongly displays itself. Suspicious of strangers, and jealous of observation, they endeavor to conceal their weakness under an ostentatious language. Though he has never invited us into his fort, the commandant frequently talks of the importance of his charge ; and though the contempt which the shaik entertains

entertains for him is too visible to escape our notice, he is willing to inspire us with an idea of his own superiority. Conscious that his power is daily mouldering away in these parts, the Turk grows more and more distrustful of the Arab; while the latter can no longer suppress the rancor which he has conceived against his tyrannical masters. To what lengths this mutual aversion will carry them, time alone can discover. But this appears probable: Should a favorable conjuncture present itself to the Arabs, to recover the territories of Egypt, it will not pass by unheeded. This conquest of their Prophet's family may return into their hands, and then, by a natural course of things, revert to the dominion of the original possessor. Thus, by a retrograde motion, the chains of bondage may be unloosed, and the rights of the native be restored to him.

One of the present subjects of our apprehension is, that the house we live in will not last our time, should the caravan meet with further delays. The rafters are of the date-tree, and instead of plank or tiles, the floor is composed of rushes laid close together. On this loose sand is placed, and over all the coarse mats of the country. Materials of this sort must have a wonderful elasticity in them; and every step we take, is attended by an universal tremor of the house. Neither would a stranger imagine that we were better provided in regard to the roof. This is formed of nothing stronger than rushes, on which stones are heaped, to prevent their being scattered by the winds. But in this settled climate the native requires no defence, but against the rays of the sun; thunder and lightning being almost unknown to him; and even rain a very uncommon visitor. By the accounts of the inhabitants, no rain has fallen at Cosire for these three years past; nor does it ever exceed a shower or two, when it comes. Of this the structure of their remaining houses is an unquestionable proof; for being rebuilt with mud, and half
thatched

thatched with rushes, one day of rain would mix them with their mother earth.

M O N D A Y, 21st JULY.

Old and desolate as this town is, cats are the chief and almost only nuisance which we have found here. But we are infested with these vermin to such a degree, that no provision can be secured from their talons during the night. It is to no purpose to lock the door, when the roof is so unable to withstand their assaults. A droll adventure happened last night, in consequence of the voraciousness of these animals, which may not be unworthy of remark. We had been presented with a dish of nice cakes by one of our Christian acquaintance, which a servant, out of his great wisdom, hung up in the room where one of our companions slept. Though the doors and windows were flung open on account of the heat, he thought the cakes would be safer here than in any other place; and for the greater security, suspended them over the gentleman's bed. But the very reverse fell out. When all was quiet, the cats, which had been attracted in great numbers by the savory smell of the cakes, rushed in at once from all quarters, and, without the least respect to the intended guardian of them, and directed by instinct to their booty, flew in a tumultuous manner towards it. Our companion was awakened by the growling of two of these ferocious creatures, who were disputing for a prize on his pillow; and, finding by the noise which assailed his ears, that the combat raged with equal fury on all sides, he ran to a stick that stood near him, and with an activity equally new and surprizing, lay about him with such success, that his persecutors made off at length with the remains of the plunder. We, who took up our lodging in the yard, were disturbed by this uncommon tumult, which did not

continue less than a quarter of an hour. It immediately recalled to our minds an adventure of Don Quixote's, with this difference only, that the present was not a preconcerted one. It was perhaps happy for our friend, that the cats had something forcible enough to draw their attention from him, or his face and body might have suffered equally with the knight's of facetious memory. Our mirth was increased however according to the innocence of the distress, which deprived him of his sleep during the whole night. This was every moment broken by the mewing of these animals, that hovered around the scene of action until the day broke, and disclosed to the unfortunate hero the cause of his perplexity.

Should we remain here much longer, we shall not have wherewith to supply the cravings of these people, who are continually importuning us for powder, ball, flints, and every article that they fix their eyes upon. Empty bottles are particularly acceptable to them; and the shaik himself did not disdain to request a dozen for his own use. Even such trifles as these have given rise to jealousies in this simple place: nay, one of the shaik's guards has gone so far, as to throw out threats of vengeance against our servant Ibrahim, because the preference of a few bottles was given to another. To punish his insolence, we took upon us this morning to forbid this fellow the house. Since our first arrival he has been remarkably officious, and profuse of his tenders of service; but as we have always considered him in the light of a spy, we did not regret the opportunity which permitted us to rid ourselves of so troublesome a visitor.

TUESDAY, 22d JULY.

A boat arrived last night from Tor, in the gulf of Suez, which brings intelligence that there are four English vessels still

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at Suez. We may therefore flatter ourselves with the hopes of relieving our friends in India from their apprehensions for our safety : the accounts we have hitherto sent being unsatisfactory, and their conveyance uncertain. Our Shaik likewise informed us, in the course of his visit this morning, that two Europeans had arrived in a boat at Tor, and had set out on camels for Suez without any escort, about a month ago. These we know to be the gentlemen already mentioned to have touched at Yambo, and who had the charge of the packet which Captain Dibdin brought from Madras. We could not but congratulate ourselves on being carried by this road instead of that by Tor, which would infallibly have been the furthest port that our boat could have reached in the Red Sea, at this season. Our situation appears to us in every respect more eligible than theirs. The country between Tor and Suez is esteemed the most uncivilized in all Arabia. There is no regular caravan, and we cannot but tremble for the security of these adventurers. Their appearance indeed is a powerful circumstance in their favor ; and it might be better for us, if we were as bare of baggage and money as they are reported to be.

The shaik informs us, that another camel and some asses have been taken by the buddoos, which occasioned his sending an express last night to meet the caravan, and warn it of the danger. The alarm which these robbers have spread through the country, has certainly been the cause of its extraordinary delay, which is so grievous to the inhabitants of Cosire, that the Turkish Commandant just now told us, he has dispatched a camel to Ghinnah, to request that an additional guard may be sent after the caravan, to conduct it hither. A scarcity of every article of life has been felt here for some time, and famine itself can only be warded off for a few days longer.

There is a trait in the character of the Arabs, which is very disgusting;

disgusting ; but no more peculiar to them than to Mussulmen in general. They are so dirty in their linen, that though they take great pains to adorn themselves in gay apparel, this habitual uncleanness cannot be concealed. Their shirt is of the coarsest linen, and much resembles the English shift. Their drawers are loose, and usually of silk, and their under garment of dyed linen, except on particular occasions, when it is exchanged for a more costly one of silk. Over this they throw a cloak of broad-cloth, which is edged with satin or fur. They wear slippers on their feet, and turbans on their heads, of much less magnitude than the other followers of Mahomet. The dress of the women varies little from that of the men. Their shirt and drawers are the same, but their whole habit consists of a loose gown, which is gathered up and fastened at the breast. They take the greatest pride in their hair, which falls down their necks in numerous plaits. But this is concealed when they go abroad by a part of their veils, with as much care as their faces. The veil is divided into two pieces, and joins by a clasp on the forehead, which is either of gold or of precious stones : so that the forehead and eyes are entirely exposed to public view. The complexions of the females are much fairer than those of the men, which must be attributed to the care which is taken to preserve them from the sun. In this particular they seem to be a distinct species from their swarthy mates ; and are really so in respect to the neatness of their dress, and the liberality of their principles. This encomium is but due to their merit, and falls short of the assistance which we experienced from them in the hour of our greatest distress.

WEDNESDAY,

WEDNESDAY, 23d JULY.

We were agreeably struck this morning with the appearance of three camels, which were hastening to the town. They brought the news of the caravan's approach. It left the river in three divisions, and travels by easy stages towards Cosire. The first division fell in with the wild Arabs who were lately in this quarter, and was attacked by them, and plundered of forty camels loaded with merchandize. It happened to be the smallest, and unprovided with a proper guard. The two larger divisions will not be here before to-morrow, and are said to consist of one thousand or twelve hundred camels. But the danger we learn is now over, as these banditti are gone towards Suez, which is the road to their own country. This is the intelligence which we received from the Turk at breakfast, and it was confirmed by the shaik, when he came to wish us joy of our speedy departure.

By these camels there is little come besides wheat, and we are still distressed for good water. We have been obliged to drink the water of this place for these two days past: it is very brackish and unpalatable: but we take the precaution to boil it for our use; and this has probably prevented its disagreeing with us.

One of the plagues of Egypt seems to be renewed to-day, to our extreme annoyance and regret. We had been quite free from the insects which are continually engendered in hot climates, when a warm southerly wind has brought such a swarm of flies along with it, as to prevent the possibility of obtaining our customary nap after dinner. The whole house is filled with them, and not a moment's satisfaction is to be found within doors. This is the first time that the wind has been in the southerly quarter since our arrival at Cosire; and consequently

is the first fair wind that we should have met with, had our boat pursued her voyage to Suez. The gulph of Suez is so narrow, that the wind must be very favorable to carry up a boat so badly fitted out as ours; and all attempts on our part to beat up the channel, must have proved fruitless. Though the charge of duplicity against the vizier and the nokidah of Yambo, remains unrefuted, this prevalence of contrary winds is no impeachment of their experience of this sea. The weather is considerably changed by the alteration of the wind; and had we a thermometer to announce it, I am convinced that it is hotter by many degrees, than it was yesterday. We are the more incommoded by the heat, as our house has not a window towards the sea.

THURSDAY, 24th JULY.

The shaik this morning proposed to us a scheme of getting expeditiously to the Nile, though he could not but take notice of the heavy charges that would attend it. We had been repeating our complaints of the delay of the main body of the caravan, and of the detriment which our stay here, would be of to our affairs. This was a fine opening for him to benefit by our necessity, which he judged was too pressing, to admit of hesitation in point of expence. He offered to procure us as many camels, as would transport us and our baggage, from those which arrived yesterday. For these, however, we were to pay double the price of camel-hire to Ghinnah, on account of the scarcity of these animals at present. To this measure we would readily have subscribed, had not the price he demanded, exceeded treble what it ought to have done from his own calculation. When he even reduced it, at our remonstrance, to eight dollars per camel, we were still at a loss how to act. We found that we could not manage without eighteen camels, for the accommodation of our-

selves, the shaik, and an escort of ten soldiers, which he thinks is the smallest we can have, and for whose attendance we must pay sixty dollars. As it is impossible for us to ascertain the charges that we shall incur on the way to Cairo ; as the impositions that we may meet with on the Nile may equal, if not exceed those which we have already experienced, it was but prudent to have an eye to our purses, which may be exhausted before we find a friend to replenish them. But our deliberations on this head, were put an end to by the advice of the other principal people of the town, who came upon us at this critical moment. They represented to us the danger that we should run, in travelling with so small a body ; that the caravan's delay was certainly occasioned by alarms on the road ; and that, at all events, it was better for us to wait for intelligence from the caravan, before we attempted to proceed. Nay, they even went so far as to reprobate the conduct of the shaik, which, in this respect, favoured of temerity, and an inattention to our interests. Though we gave not an entire credit to the insinuations of these people, whose jealousy of the shaik's good fortune was palpable enough, we had heard too much not to be guided by reason, which pointed out to us the safest path to pursue. Rejoiced as they would have been, to have enjoyed the opportunities which the old man had to pillage us daily, their malice confirmed our resolution, which began to waver, of waiting for the caravan.

To our great relief, some asses which we sent to the mountains, are returned this morning, with six skins of water. This we may drink without fear, as its quality is good ; but it is rather more unpalatable than that we have been using of late. The taste is oily, from the skins having been newly soaked in that disgusting liquid, to prevent their leaking. We have the agreeable prospect before us, of being furnished with this beverage during our journey through the desert ; as the Arabs,
whose

whose business it is to keep the skins in order, are too lazy to attend to the cleanliness of the inside of them.

FRIDAY, 25th JULY.

This morning the shaik brought the master of the Tor vessel to pay us a visit. It seems, that he went in company with the European gentlemen from Tor to Cairo, where he carried his own coffee for sale. We have the pleasure to be eased of our fears on their account, by this intelligence of their safe arrival at that capital. It is rather extraordinary, that we should have remained so long ignorant of these circumstances, and that the adventures of our countrymen should have been related to us by halves. But this has been more the effect of accident than design. The Arabs give us credit for the *sang-froid* which is the principal ingredient in the composition of their own minds; and were careless of the communication of an incident of such little importance to us, as the safety of these strangers. Great events are sometimes exhibited to mark the character of an individual; while a trait like this will suffice to fix that of a nation!

From the master of the vessel we enquired several particulars of a journey, so new to our experience, and so similar, in our idea, to the one which we were about to undertake. But little could be gathered from a man, whose imagination was wholly engrossed by self-interest, that could contribute to our instruction or amusement. The road, he tells us, lies through a continued desert, on which they travelled for fifteen days; and, to their agreeable surprise, they met not with any interruption or alarm. In the course of the conversation we learnt, that this man's vessel is the property of the shaik's brother, who is a merchant of Cairo. This connection of his may be a bond for the old man's good usage of us; as, over and above his dependence on the bey, his brother might
dearly

dearly answer any complaint which we might prefer on our arrival at Cairo.

At noon a camel arrived, with intelligence of the caravan's long-expected approach. It had halted during the heat of the day in a valley about two leagues distant, and will be here in the evening. The shaik confirmed this news in a visit in the afternoon, and gave us assurances, that we should set out the day after to-morrow at furthest. At sun-set about 200 camels came in, and the rest are expected during the night. We sent a message to the shaik, to desire he would provide us with camels, and give the necessary orders concerning our departure. This brought him to our house again. But the prologue to the scene was the demand of a loan of twenty dollars, which he was in want of to purchase coffee. As he was to accompany us to the Nile, an adventure of this kind would make it the better worth his while, and give him some employment during his absence. These were arguments not to be contested; at least, we should have been willing to keep the old fellow in humour, had it been at the expence of double the sum in question. For as to any discharge of the debt, it was the last thing we looked for. We had been too long acquainted with the genius of the Arabs, to consider such a demand in any other light, than a new species of begging. The crafty veteran received the money with many professions of gratitude; and while he promised to expedite our journey, we observed a smile of exultation on his countenance, which seemed to portend us no good.

S A T U R D A Y, 26th JULY.

The morning was ushered in by a visit from the shaik, who was attended by the principal Arabs of the town. We soon discovered the errand they came upon, which was agreeably to the national maxim, to see what they could strip us of before our departure.

Every eye appeared enlivened with expectation, and devoured in idea the contents of our baggage, which was piled up in one corner of the room. Whatever might be their dissensions in other matters, they were evidently unanimous on the present occasion. We were determined to bring them to the point at once, and demanded of the shaik the sum total we were to pay for getting to Ghinnah. This, after some hesitation and wrangling among themselves, they fixed at 205 dollars. The paper which they delivered to us to explain matters, will evince the knavery and extortion of this race : especially when it is known, that the usual hire of a camel is but two dollars, and that money bears ten times its original value, in a country where specie is so scarce. The translation is literally as follows :

To the government of Cofire for its protection	Dollars	100
To twelve camels from hence to Ghinnah	-	-
To pay for two askaries or soldiers, to guard you	-	10
To a present to the shaik for his company	-	15
		<hr/>
	Dollars	205

This sum, added to our other expences, will occasion our being sufferers to the amount of 500 dollars since our arrival here ; which may also be placed to the account of the vizier of Yambo. We paid it down, however, on the spot, and dismissed our visitors, who appeared to be well pleased with the success of their negotiation.

While we were employed in packing up our baggage, and preparing for our expedition, a man of a good mien, and a creditable appearance, entered the room without ceremony, and requested a private audience on business of moment to ourselves. He was of the race of the Seids, who pretend to be the descendants of Mahomet, and, as such, are universally respected among the followers

ers of that successful impostor. The generality of these Seids tread in the footsteps of their founder, and have as slender a title as himself to the homage which they demand from the deluded multitude. But so prevalent is the blindness of man, that the shadow shall outweigh the substance in his sight ; and these hypocrites, under the garb of a specious name, shall obtain pensions from Mahometan princes, who were never guilty of rewarding merit or virtue during their reigns. I have myself known more than one instance of this kind, while I resided in India ; and was once told by a Seid, who came to solicit charity of me, that he had rejected with scorn a purse of 300 rupees, or 40*l*. which was offered him by the nabob of Arcot, who was fain to purchase his prayers at a larger price ! With such a confidence, which would lead him into every secret, and such a protection, which would secure him from any chastisement, it is no wonder that the man who now visited us, should have become acquainted with the intrigues of the Arabs, or that he should have had resolution enough to warn us of them. After asking pardon for my digression, to this man we will now return.

When the servants were dismissed, and the door was shut, the Seid professed to us his concern at finding us in that inhospitable region. That he had heard of our former adventures with surprise, and was filled with admiration to conceive, how we should surmount the dangers which now encompassed us. That as our foes were numerous, our conduct could not be too circumspect ; and that, above all things, we should decline, to the utmost of our power, any proposal to travel in a body distinct from the main caravan : for, as he was convinced there were designs formed against us, the only chance to frustrate them, was to keep our persons and baggage with the croud. However bitter and alarming this communication was, we could not but pay our hearty acknowledgments to the author of it. We considered him as a good

spirit,' who had assumed this form to assist in our preservation, and we promised to hold his friendly caution in faithful remembrance. The yard was full of people, who were sewing up our trunks in bags, and the shaik himself was sometimes among them to give directions. This circumstance obliged the Seid to shorten our conference, who took his leave for fear of observation; but not before he had recommended us to the protection of his Prophet, whose votaries, at the very moment, were plotting our destruction.

Scarcely had our humane monitor left the room, when the shaik came in to excuse himself from accompanying us. He lamented that some affairs of importance required his presence at Cofire, because he should be deprived so soon of our company. But as to our convenience and safety, they would equally be consulted by his son, who would attend us on the road. He found no difficulty in persuading us of the truth of this conclusion. Our present views were to get, in the best manner we could, to some civilized place, whose extent would screen us from notice, or whose government would secure us from further depredations. In the immediate temper we were in, the services of the son seemed to promise us full as much sincerity as those of the father.

SUNDAY, 27th JULY.

We were employed the whole morning in preparing for our departure, which is fixed for four o'clock this afternoon. After all the money we have paid, the principal article of our journey is yet to be provided at our expence: and this is water. Ten new skins, that hold from three to four gallons each, were accordingly purchased for the use of ourselves and servants. And this stock stood us in no contemptible sum, in a country where good water is dearer than any other necessary of life. We furnished ourselves
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with a kind of bisket to satisfy the calls of hunger, and added to the store a mutton-pye of our own making : for cookery was a knowledge to which we had been indebted more than once, for a comfortable meal, since we left the snow Adventure.

Our old host is almost the only reasonable being we have met with here. While the rest of his countrymen are racking us to the utmost, he is very well contented with a gratification of fifteen dollars, for the time that we have resided in his house, which is upwards of a fortnight. We take a pleasure in bestowing on this good man the little trifles we leave behind us, such as chests, beds, and old linen, in gratitude for his services, which were not the slightest to people in our situation ; imposed upon as we should have been in every necessary of life, but for his timely interposition. We were obliged, however, to observe great secrecy in this donation ; which, mean as its intrinsic value may appear, might have excited the attention of his superiors, and induced the shaik himself to dispute it with him after our departure.

At four o'clock we put on our Arabian dresses, which we had provided for the journey. As we have suffered the hair to grow upon our upper lips for some months past, we are each provided with a tolerable pair of whiskers ; and as our complexions are by this time pretty well tanned by the sun, we hope the more easily to escape observation. But there is a peculiar characteristic in the individuals of every nation, that will distinguish them through the disguise of dress and language. This is exemplified daily amid the neighboring states of Europe, whose habits and manners are nearly the same ; and cannot so much excite wonder in our case, where the whole temperature of our minds and bodies was so contrary to that of the people, whom we endeavored to personate. Our landing on this coast, it is true, was known, and our progress was every where preceded by the herald of rumor. But neither of these causes conspired towards

the discovery of our origin, however they might have operated in the seizure of our effects, and the detention of our persons. Every eye immediately pronounced us to be aliens to the land, and did not require any further support of this opinion, than its own penetration.

The Turkish commandant had been very sparing of his visits of late, which we had imputed to his shame of seeing us, after the scene of extortion he had been concerned in. Though we gave him credit for a principle which the Arabs are wholly devoid of, it appears, that we did him great injustice in our conclusion. In the division of the sum demanded of us for the use of the government, the Arabs had not only excluded him from a share, but had kept the whole transaction from his knowledge. This we learnt from his own mouth, in a farewell visit that we now received from him. Whether he really was our friend, or was over-reached by the shaik and his adherents, we cannot pretend to determine; and if we thought favorably of this Turk, it arose from his personal civilities towards us, and could not be justified by the general deportment of his nation towards Christians. This Turk, and an Arab merchant, were the only people in whose professions we trusted; though it happened, that their good wishes were all they could bestow on us. The merchant was a resident of Judda, and was here on a commercial scheme. He had contracted an affection for the English in his native place, and cautioned us frequently against the knavery of his countrymen, though he was afraid to disclose his good-will towards us openly. To him we entrusted letters directed to the care of Mr. Horsley at Mocha, advising our friends in India of our departure to Ghinnah.

The shaik's avaricious disposition seems to equal that of his countrymen in general. He has thrown off at last the mask of dissimulation, and acts in his native character. While it an-

swered his purposes, he affected the humane patron; and now he plays the unfeeling tyrant with as good a grace. Our departure is deferred until the morning, on account of the caravan's not being in readiness; and the shaik has taken this opportunity to insinuate to us, that the camel-drivers are not satisfied with the price we have paid them! Gracious Heaven! of what latitude is the conscience of an Arab, which is not content with three times the value of his beasts' labor! for three times are we already charged, to what the native pays for the hire of a camel. We are bent upon not complying with this further imposition, unless this man should be base enough to obstruct our departure. The old fellow and we parted for the night on bad terms; and he was particularly irritated at our declining to accept of a centry to guard our baggage, which was piled up in the yard. This was done by the advice of our venerable host, who told the shaik, that his walls were a sufficient defence for our property. This diverted the shaik's attention from us, and he let drop some words significant of our reliance on a foolish dotard, who might not be able to protect our effects from the attempts of the town's people. We paid no other regard to this speech, than by spreading our carpets around the baggage, and taking our posts on the ground, ready to defend it against the designs of secret or avowed enemies.

MONDAY, 28th JULY.

"All's well that ends well," says the old proverb; and this, if ever, was verified with us. The shaik came early in the morning, and looked gloomy. His ordinary salutation was even omitted, and convinced us, that his discontent was great, and not to be removed, but by a compliance with his humour. When a Mussulman fails in the modes of politeness, the worst is to be apprehended from his power, which will carry by force the point which his
addresses

ambassadors was unable to accomplish. All ceremony was now laid aside, and he told us in plain terms, that he must have more money. He condescended, indeed, to place this requisition to the account of the people of the town and country, who had been pestering him for buxies, or presents, from us. That it was our misfortune to be considered by these people as men of vast wealth, whose trunks were filled with gold, precious stones, and rich merchandize, on which it was their custom to levy a tax. It was in vain that we remonstrated against this demand, which was as wanton as unjust. It was in vain that we referred to the shaik's own knowledge of our effects and profession, neither of which subjected us to the taxation imposed upon merchants and their goods. It was in vain that we appealed to the government of Cosire for its interposition in this matter, as we had paid so largely for its protection. The dependants of the shaik were yet to receive their mite, and he declared in a determined tone, that he could not pretend to send us in safety to the Nile, until he had received orders from the bey of Cairo, unless we satisfied the hill-people with a donation of twenty-five dollars. Hard as the extortion was, we panted too much for a return to our friends and country to hesitate long about it ; and the shaik was content with the sum of twenty-three dollars, which we had kept about our persons for the extra expences of the road. And lucky it was for us that this money was reserved from our baggage, which, in its present situation, could not have been opened for a supply, without exposing our real treasure, which was not inconsiderable, to the eyes of the shaik. Suspicion of our concealed money was the only ground on which he proceeded in his demands ; but a conviction of it might have operated more materially to our detriment. The cloud which had loomed in the countenance of the shaik, was in a moment dispelled, and, with a tone of infinite good-humour, he ordered the camels to the door to take up our luggage.

gage. The hopes of our departure were now for the first time certain, and while we gave orders to the servants in what manner to dispose of the things, our spirits insensibly returned to us, and chased all ideas of animosity and complaint. It appeared that during our altercation the caravan had left the town, but was to halt in a valley at a small distance, to be joined by all stragglers. To avoid the impertinence of the mob that surrounded the house, the shaik advised us to quit the town, and wait for our camels at the west angle of the fort. After a very cordial and moving separation with our good host, we resorted to the house of the Judda merchant, and partook of a breakfast which he had prepared for us. Having embraced him, as a friend who had been raised up to us from the tribe of our enemies, we hastened to the appointed spot. Here, as we sat beneath the wall, our other friend, the Turk, appeared on the ramparts, and bade us adieu ! At this instant the camels came up, and we found that they had only provided us with ten instead of twelve, for the eighty dollars. Nor was the shaik present to rectify this wilful mistake. To increase my own hardship, my companions happened, as luck would have it, to be beforehand with me, and to possess themselves of the two only riding camels that were in our train. I was, therefore, fain to put up with one of the beasts which carried the baggage ; and not finding my seat so easy as I could have wished, I consoled myself with bestowing an hearty malediction on the shaik, for this parting proof of his kindness. Soon after we had moved onwards, we were overtaken by the young shaik and the two guards, who were to be our escort on the road. They brought us the compliments of the shaik, who had grace enough left to shun an interview, after this last scene of his political farce. The young man endeavoured to palliate the offence, by assuring me it was a mistake, which should be rectified when we joined the caravan. Besides the aforesaid Arabs, our company consisted of Major Alexander,

ander, Mr. Hammond, and myself, my European servant, two slaves belonging to the major, our interpreter Ibrahim, an Arab servant named Abdul Ruffar, whom we had hired at Cofire, and an Indian fakeer, whom we permitted to ride on a baggage-camel, to assist him on his route to Cairo, where he was bound on a religious penance. We had a couple of muskets, as many blunderbusses, and two pair of pistols among ourselves, with plenty of cartridges which we had prepared. The shaik's son and his attendants were much more completely armed, as were the camel-drivers, who followed us on foot. At two o'clock in the afternoon we joined the caravan, which we found in a valley two hours journey from Cofire. The distance I computed to be five miles, as, by the best observation I could make now and during our journey, a camel goes at the rate of two miles and an half an hour. Here a scanty stream waters the thirsty soil, and about an acre around is covered with date-trees. Under these we made a delicious repast, upon the mutton-pye which we had brought with us. The water is brackish in this spring, and is what the inhabitants of Cofire generally use.

In this valley we had a glimpse of the friendly Seid, and it was the last we got of him. Some of the camels were in motion long before ours, and he passed us on one of them. At three o'clock, we moved off the ground, and were not a little startled to find that our whole collective force did not exceed forty camels. The caravan had departed, it seems, when the Seid went by, and the conviction of this brought his vain precautions to our minds. We could not help expostulating pretty severely with the young shaik on this neglect of his, which might subject us to risk. But as he laughed at any idea of danger to such a body as we were, and talked of overtaking the caravan before it reached the next stage, we were under the necessity of becoming quiet, to avoid the appearance of fear, which

which would have sunk us in their estimation. It was our interest to conceal, as much as possible, the real motives of our apprehension, and to appear to place a confidence in the man, who was become our conductor. Our party was the fourth of this little company, and we kept in as compact a body as the road would allow of, to secure us the better against the effects of treachery or surprize. We continued our way through the valley, which soon became desert and stony like the hills above it. At six o'clock we halted to drink coffee, and to feed our cattle. This stage was three hours, or seven miles and an half. At eight o'clock the signal was given for marching, but just as we had mounted our camels, an alarm was spread of the approach of the wild Arabs. In the confusion which this naturally occasioned, we immediately dismounted, and assembling our servants, marched directly to the quarter where our Arabs had set up a war-cry, and whence the discharge of several matchlocks had reached our ears. On the road we met with the young shaik and his attendants, who were seeking us out, and seemed not a little surprized at our alertness, and the good countenance we assumed in this ugly affair. This we understood from an expression which he dropped in the hearing of our Ibrahim; which, joined to the sudden cessation of the tumult, convinced us that he was at the bottom of it. But whatever he and his associates intended, the trick failed of any other purpose, than that of letting them see we were ready to repel any insult. They gave some trifling reason for the bustle, which they told us was owing to the unexpected appearance of one of the hill-people, who had threatened to pillage us while at Cofire. As we neither saw this man, nor received any satisfactory account of the matter, we attributed it to a design to try our mettle, and to make what advantage they could of our fears. But we lent a deaf ear to their demands of boxies or presents, which we mortified them in

saying, were not due to the timidity that they had betrayed. When all was calm we mounted again, and moved on; our only light the stars, which shone very bright. We continued to traverse the same valley as before, until two o'clock in the morning, when we halted beneath the hills, and spread our carpets to take such repose, as our time, and the peculiarity of our circumstances, would admit of. The last stage was six hours, or fifteen miles, and by our reckoning, we are twenty-seven miles from Cofire.

TUESDAY, 29th JULY.

At five o'clock the Arabs roused us to get ourselves ready. We were soon mounted, and began our march; fasting, and not recovered from yesterday's fatigues. We were very solicitous for a junction with the caravan, but from the last evening's manœuvres, and our disappointment at night, we are by this time ascertained that our separation had been intended, and consequently, that a meeting would be unlikely before our arrival at Ghinnah. In this uncomfortable situation, our only hope rested upon the knowledge which the caravan had of our being in the desert, which we flattered ourselves would deter our conductors from any open outrage. Besides, we numbered the camels and merchandize of a merchant of Ghinnah among our body, which we considered as a kind of protection; though whether we owed this union to accident or design, we could not determine. This merchant, by name Mahomet, travels with us; and we understand, that we are to be lodged in his house during our short stay at Ghinnah. He is the brother of one Ally, who professed a great regard for us at Cofire; and who is the cause, we suppose, of the invitation which the merchant has given us.

The country as we advance, still wears the same barren face.
Here

Here and there a dwarf date-tree appears, and the truffle-bush is frequent on the road, to the great delight and benefit of the poor camel, who devours it very greedily. Among these bushes we found several deer, who must necessarily live many days without water in the depth of this desert; except that, like the rein-deer, who digs with certainty for provender beneath the snow, they supply themselves with water from a similar practice. The Arabs find springs in particular spots, and I doubt not but nature has implanted in these poor animals the instinct to satisfy one of her loudest calls. We likewise saw numbers of quail, and several earths of an unknown animal; probably of the hare and gerbua, which are common in the deserts of Arabia, but did not come within our view. This country would be truly romantic, were it covered with verdure. The variety of slopes and declivities with which it is interspersed, the frequent vistas which the openings between the hills afford, would present the beautiful scenes of nature, were the soil fertilized, as they do the sublime, in their rude and sterile state. The mountains contain both alabaster and marble, of which many pieces lie scattered upon the road. We made a long and fatiguing march, and at eleven o'clock halted in a pass between the mountains, where the Arabs dig for fresh water, and find it very good. They have nothing indeed to do, but to remove the dirt with which the spring is choaked up; and as the water is drawn before its transparency returns, we strained it through a cloth to take off the foulness. The mountains here are so perpendicular, and approach so close together, that at noon there is a shade on the south side for travellers to repose under. We had centinels on the heights during our slight repast, as this place has the character of being very dangerous. The last stage was six hours, or fifteen miles. At one o'clock we moved onwards with a plentiful supply of water, and went near a mile through this pass, which winds about like the entrance of an

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an Indian fortress ; and where an handful of men might check the progress of a large army, were the country worth disputing for. The wind was very hot from the vicinity of the rocky mountains, and this day's journey proved very laborious to us, who had led a sedentary life for so many months past. Our minds indeed had been sufficiently exercised, but our limbs were enfeebled from ease and inactivity. We had no refreshment, but some biscuit and water, during the day, though our conductor, who was well mounted, pushed on frequently before us, and had his cup of coffee with his friends, beneath the shade of some projecting hill, that afforded fuel for a fire. This our camels would by no means admit of our doing ; and though coffee would have been the best recruit which our spirits could have received, we could only repine in silence at the young man's neglect. At five o'clock we halted on a plain to refresh ourselves. This stage was four hours, or ten miles.

At seven o'clock in the evening we mounted again, and for the first time ascended an eminence by a very easy approach. We quickly regained the level country, and advanced at a faster rate than by day, through the vallies in which we are constantly buried. The night was as bright as the last, and we should think it a lucky incident were we to lay by in the day, and to travel only by night. At two o'clock in the morning the moon rose, which was the signal for us to halt. And much indeed did we stand in need of repose, after a journey of such a continuance. Besides, we suffered greatly from the uneasy motion of the camels, which nothing but habit could reconcile to a man. For my own part, I am so particularly aggrieved by the saddle of the camel on which I ride, that the small of my back is stripped of its skin. This arises from my still being furnished with a baggage-beast, notwithstanding the fine promises of the young shaik. Authors are much mistaken in their particular ideas of this ani-

mal. His being able to go from 100 to 150 miles in the twenty-four hours, is a very fable. Perseverance and hardiness are the qualities which distinguish him above all other quadrupeds, and peculiarly adapt him to the barren countries, where he is found in the most vigorous state. His common pace does not exceed three miles an hour, at which rate he will go sixteen hours out of the twenty-four, for a journey of a month and upwards. But put him beyond his usual speed, and he soon tires. For a day indeed it may be quickened to five, and even six miles an hour; but he shortly grows obstinate, and refuses to proceed at a rate so disproportioned to his abilities. He is however very docile, and when trained to a caravan, requires neither a rein to guide, nor a whip to forward his motions. To a stranger nothing can be so ineligible as this mode of travelling; tedious and fatiguing to the last degree, and especially in these parts, where we could not provide ourselves with litters, to defend us from the scorching rays of the sun. Our course yesterday and to-day was generally to the northward of west, and sometimes west and by south, and due west. The last stage was seven hours, or eighteen miles, and by our reckoning we are now seventy miles distant from Cosire.

WEDNESDAY, 30th JULY.

At five o'clock this morning we were wakened from our sleep, which had been very sound, notwithstanding the suspicious company we are in. We got up more assured of the good faith of our conductor, seeing that no attempts had been made to surprize us, at a season when exhausted nature had left us at his mercy. At a moment of such alarm, there was something particularly aggravating in our situation. Worn out with the labors we had undergone, sleep insensibly stole upon the most determined eye; and the common satisfaction of keeping a watch at least upon the motion

motions of an enemy, was denied us. Short as our nap was, it gave us spirits to pursue our journey. But this might not long have proved the case, if we were to obtain but two hours repose out of the twenty-four, in travelling to any considerable distance.

Before we had gone far, my European companions and myself began to find our bowels greatly affected by the water which we got yesterday. This, at all times, is an alarming complaint; and nothing but our supposed vicinity to Ghinnah, could have administered consolation to our distress. We entered, after an hour's march, upon a large plain, sterile and stony like the mountains which we now left behind us. It is a circumstance worthy of remark, that we never crossed any considerable acclivity in our passage through this desert; though at every point of view, the traveller supposes he has a laborious height to ascend, and that he must make his way good, by conquering the stupendous precipices which continually present themselves before him. But indulgent nature has accommodated the country to the necessities of the native. Throughout the hilly region, which extends itself from the Red-Sea to the Nile, she has scooped out a line of vallies for the passage of the caravan. The soil is a mixture of stone and sand, which, beaten down by the constant tread of the splay-footed camel for many centuries past, affords an even and firm pavement to the beasts that travel over it. The road is wide enough in some places for an army to pass in a line; and in others, will not admit above two or three camels abreast.

This country must have experienced a sad reverse, were it ever so fruitful as the antients have represented it. For the last fifty miles we have not met with any tree but the hawthorn, or any verdure but what the sweet-scented shrubs faintly afford the sight; and now that we are within a few leagues of the Nile, the prospect is not mended for the better. At eleven o'clock we halted under a spreading hawthorn to breakfast; but had not as

yet a glimpse of the Nile, or any token of our being in the neighborhood of so fine a river. The last stage was six hours, or fifteen miles. Here, to our great astonishment, we found that our water was expended. This must have been owing, as much to thefts in the night, as to the impudence of the camel-drivers, who, as we go along, draw water from our skins in despite of us, though depending from the beasts on which we ride. The insolence of this tribe is surprising. Though their camels are hired by us, they pretend to a right of mounting them themselves, when they are weary of walking. Thus, do the poor baggage-beasts groan, at times, under the additional burden of a man's weight. It was as much as I could do to keep my camel-driver from getting up behind me; and my friend, the major, was not so fortunate, whose driver once effected a feat on his camel, in defiance of his remonstrances, and threats, to deter him from such a piece of assurance.

At one o'clock, the young shaik moved forward, to procure us a supply of water from some springs which lie out of the road; and we proposed to remain here during the heat of the day. But we presently discovered something that made us hasten our departure. There was a certain Arab, whom I have already mentioned to have rendered himself very disagreeable to us, during our abode at Cofire. This fellow had been appointed by the shaik as one of our guard; and was at this very time under the shade with us. By his assiduity on the road, he had tried to efface the unfavorable idea we had of him; and as our friend, he now insinuated to us, that it was better for us not to trust ourselves at Ghinnah, where the inhabitants were professed rogues, and would plunder our effects. Nay, he went so far as to propose to conduct us to Banute; a town a few hours higher up the river, where he could ensure us the best reception, and a choice of boats to transport us to Cairo. This circumstance was too

barefaced not to alarm us, and we determined to push on, through an almost insupportable heat. But our conductor was absent, and we were left in the hands of our guard and the camel drivers; a force which indeed we did not fear, but would have been glad to be quit of in a solitary and inimical place. This resolution was confirmed by Abdul Ruffar, our Arabian servant, who was entitled to credit from his past behavior. He advised us by no means to listen to, or remain with these rascals; but to follow the young shaik, whom they had the confidence to tell us was a foolish youth, who did not know our interests. Accordingly, at two o'clock, we mounted our camels, in spite of their importunities to wait until the evening, and moved on, in the most sultry day I had ever felt in the East. We soon rejoined the merchant's camels, which had taken shelter under a thorn-tree at some distance, and were ready to attend us. While united with this body, we did not fear going astray; and pursued our course, under a full security of being on the road to Ghinnah. We had no water, but what our earthen gurglets contained; and this was soon expended. It is impossible to describe what we suffered from heat and thirst during this stage. A mouthful or two of dirty water, which one of our guards gave me, made me forget for the moment his recent insolence; and all our former apprehensions were insensibly swallowed up in the more painful idea of falling victims to thirst. Our tongues actually became parched to our palates; and we were obliged to wet them every now and then, with spirituous liquors, to prevent suffocation from the clouds of dust which continual whirlwinds threw around us. This expedient was but transitory, and served indeed to encrease the rage of thirst. It was our common misfortune also to labor under a violent complaint in our bowels; and to the want of the bad water that occasioned it—a want which we had lamented in the most earnest manner—our preservation

ervation was probably owing. I was so afflicted myself with this disorder, that I could scarcely sit my camel through excess of pain. The wind and dust had equally affected our sight, so that we wandered on in agony and darkness. There is no doubt that our Arabian companions partook in some measure of our sufferings; but they were too much accustomed to the sun, to feel all the effects of his fury; and we had some reason to suspect, that their stock of water lasted long after ours had failed us. To crown this scene of distress, we at length overtook the shaik, who, we learnt, had been disappointed in replenishing his skins, by the appearance of wild Arabs about the springs. This news sounded like the knell of death in our ears; not from the neighborhood of these robbers, who were once so formidable to our fears, but from the absence of a fluid, on which we supposed our lives to depend. Faint and spiritless, therefore, we toiled on until eight o'clock at night, when we halted, without having encountered any foe in the way. But far different was this halting-place from any other we had come to. Without a draught of water to moisten our throats, it was impracticable to force down a morsel of bread; and the pain and weariness under which our bodies labored, were too extreme to admit of a momentary repose. Overwhelmed with hunger, thirst, and fatigue, we sat ourselves upon the ground, and revolved our melancholy situation in silence. Every skin was alternately ransacked by us for water, and not an article left untried that was likely to produce the least moisture. My companions and I had unluckily recourse to raw onions, which were among the baggage. But no sooner had we tasted of this potent root, than we repented of our rashness. The effect was quite contrary to our hopes; and our drought was irritated to the highest degree. This stage was six hours, or fifteen miles.

At nine o'clock the word was given to resume our march. The doubtful light of the stars, and the evils we endured, prevented

our seeing clearly what was going forward. But our Arab servant soon alarmed us with the intelligence of our having left the merchant's camels upon the ground; and by some words which the drivers had let drop in his hearing, that they had but a bad opinion of the shaik's intentions respecting us. The scene was now become very critical, and a catastrophe not very happy, appeared likely to ensue. We rode up immediately in a body to our fraudulent conductor, and charged him with treachery towards us. We instanced his first having parted company with the caravan, and then with the merchant's camels, which being both bound for Ghinnah, plainly indicated his unfriendly design of carrying us to another place. To our great surprize, he acknowledged the charge of deceit towards us in this particular, but endeavoured to divest it of any sinister motives. That it was his father's opinion, as well as his own, that our departure might be retarded at such a city as Ghinnah, from the rumor of our riches, which would induce the officers of government to visit our baggage. That he had it in command from him to leave the caravan at the first stage, and to carry us by another route, without awakening our suspicions, which he must confess his countrymen had given too much cause to be directed against them. That the merchant's camels, from which we had just parted, would reach Ghinnah in a few hours; and that we should arrive about the same time at Banute, a village somewhat higher up the Nile, where we might embark secretly, and without molestation for Cairo. There was something as plausible in the substance of this defence, as engaging in the delivery of it. That coolness of temper, and ready eloquence, for which the Orientals are so conspicuous, were fully exerted on this occasion. From the former declarations of our guard, and the present confession of the shaik, we were assured there was a combination against us; but whether it had any ill tendency, we could not so easily determine.

mine. In truth, we were now in the power of our guides, and our deliberations could only terminate in a resolution, to sell our lives as dearly as possible, should they attempt to play us false.

There was but little variety in the scene during the remainder of this stage. The night was too dark to favor our observation of the objects around us, if our misfortunes had not extinguished every spark of curiosity within our breasts. Hour succeeded hour, without a vestige of fertility appearing, to announce a speedy period to our troubles; and we were almost sunk into a fit of despair, when the sight of a camel, bearing two skins of water, raised us in a moment to the pinnacle of joy! Colors would be faint to express the transports of wretches half-dead like us of thirst, at such a change! We owed this supply to the good-nature of the shaik, who pushed on before us to the river, to relieve our distress; and I must do him the justice to own, that no service could have been more material than what he rendered us on this occasion. Nor did it pass unrewarded. It restored him to our good graces, and we renewed our promise of an handsome donation on his putting us into a boat. Before I ventured to drink, I had the precaution to wash my mouth, and to gargle my throat several times. I recommended the same method to my companions, and I do not believe it was unserviceable, as the extreme dryness of our palates would otherwise have obliged us to swallow a quantity that might have proved fatal to us. But still we drank with great eagerness and pleasure. And it is not to be wondered at, considering the goodness of the water, and our long abstinence. We were now within a mile of the Nile, and at three o'clock arrived at a village composed of tents and huts. We made no disturbance in unlading our baggage, and having stretched our carpets upon the ground, betook ourselves to a short, though sound, repose. The last stage was six hours, or fifteen miles; so that we travelled yesterday no less than eighteen hours, or forty-five miles; an amazing

ing stretch, if our calamitous situation be considered. This part of the Nile, by our reckoning, lies 115 miles to the west of Cofire.

THURSDAY, 31st JULY.

We awoke this morning long after the sun had risen, and, upon looking around us, had the pleasure of seeing the Nile, which now began to be gilded with his early beams. We were near a quarter of a mile from the river, and could only obtain a view of the water through different openings in the bank. Here the borders are adorned in several places with the date and other fruit-trees; though the country around wears the same dreary aspect as before. In one of these verdant spots lies the village of Banute; the place we are in, being lonely and uncultivated, and consisting of a cluster of cottages, the property of some camel-drivers. Nothing can more evince the magnificence of this celebrated river, than its breadth at this distance from the sea. It appears to our eye not much less than a mile wide; though, with its windings, it cannot run a course of less than 700 miles, from its leaving Banute, until it discharges itself into the Mediterranean.

The young shaik was absent some hours, and brought us the disagreeable tidings, that no boat could be procured in this neighborhood. We were now reduced to the indispensable necessity of seeking one at Ghinnah; and the shaik left us, to get fresh camels to carry us to that city. We are again inclined to doubt the errand on which we came here; but whatever may have been the view of our conductor and his associates, a solution of their odd conduct cannot be very remote. While our patience is thus exercised in respect to our minds, it is not less so in a case of equal importance to our bodies. Though we have fasted, in a manner, for three days past, we are afraid to send to Banute for a supply of

meat and fruit : the inhabitants, we learn, are impudent beggars, who would not wait our bestowing alms upon them, should they happen to be apprised of our small number. A pretty specimen, indeed, of a place which has been recommended to us by our guard ! But the humble distance which the shaik keeps, shews plainly his opinion of it. A pair of pigeons which this place afforded, served just to allay the appetites of our company ; and as we had no money at hand, the shaik lent us a couple of dollars to pay for them and some dried dates, which we took with us to eat upon the road.

At three o'clock in the afternoon we quitted this miserable village, and set out for Ghinnah, in tolerable health and spirits. Whether we owe our recovery to the salubrious water of the Nile, or to a cessation of fatigue for the last twelve hours, we arose this morning with a perfect freedom from our late complaint. Our faces were now turned to the north, and we went for the most part of this stage in the same direction. This was no unpleasing circumstance, as we thereby presented our backs to the sun, which had so dreadfully annoyed us yesterday. At four we entered a sandy valley, where we saw an herd of deer. When we mounted the hills beyond it, we had a glance, for the first time, of a cultivated country. The Nile appeared about two miles to the westward, washing the foot of the mountains by which it is skirted on that side. To the eastward, the whole space between us was laid out in plantations of grain, which were watered by inlets from the river. There was as extraordinary a contrast in the prospect before us, as could possibly occur in the wantonness of nature. The scene to our left, verdant, and crouded with clumps of stately trees, which were bounded by a fine river ; while that to the right was barren as before, and offered nothing but sands and stony mountains to the eye.

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Our company was reduced by the absence of our guard, who had got the start of us on the road by the shaik's orders, so that we could not muster above ten camels, had we been in the way of danger. At five o'clock we passed by the ruins of a large village, which our guides tell us has long been abandoned, on account of robbers, who were continually plundering the property of the inhabitants. Here we were also deserted by the shaik, who gave us notice of his intention to push on to the city, to prepare an house for our reception. He assured us, that he could answer for our safety on the road, and at Ghinnah, where he would introduce us under cover of the night, and previously provide for our embarkation. Whatever reluctance we might have towards this step, it was impossible to frustrate it, and he put his camel on at such a trot, as made us lose sight of him presently. We were even worse provided with cattle than before, and on our endeavoring to mend their pace to keep up with the shaik, we received remonstrances from the owner against hurrying his camels. This fellow attended us, and was as furly a dog as I ever met with in my life. When he found that my companions and I paid little regard to his words, he had the impudence to make Abdul Ruffar, our Arab servant, and the poor Hindoo, alight, and trudge along on foot, under pretence that the beasts they rode, were overladen. When we were apprized of this circumstance, we rated the owner soundly for his insolence. But he remained inflexible, and I know not to what a pitch our difference would have arisen, if Abdul Ruffar had not wisely urged us to acquiesce in a thing, which he now pretended was a matter of choice. He had great merit for his prudent interference, at a time when we were about to forget the restraint we were under in this Mahometan region. And happy would it have been for the Fakeer, if he could have yielded to circumstances with equal temper. But his spirit was

so wounded at the indignity which had been offered him, that he took the first opportunity of remounting his camel, unobserved by the owner. We were at this juncture some hundreds of yards ahead, and were not a little surprized to hear the most lamentable outcries in our rear. These proceeded from the unfortunate Fakeer, whom we beheld under the discipline of the Arab's stick, but urging his beast forwards, without betraying the least design towards quitting his seat. As we approached him, his confidence seemed to redouble, and he began to pour forth the vilest abuse on his antagonist in the Moor language. It was perhaps conducive to his safety, that the Arab did not understand him, who, at our instance, not only desisted from the assault, but left him in quiet possession of the camel. This so elevated the spirits of the Hindoo, that giving more credit to his own vociferation than to our support, he descanted largely on his own courage and rank in life, which he averred was formerly a Subedar, or commander of Sepoys in the English service. As this man had hitherto kept a centinel on his lips, we did not regret the rude manner in which they had been put off their guard; as the many stories which now fell from them, served, in some measure, to banish painful reflexions. But, indeed, the scene which now disclosed itself, quickly absorbed our attention. After a six months confinement in a ship, and in barren countries, it was not without an exquisite satisfaction that I beheld the earth cloathed again in green, and adorned with her fairest ornaments of wood and water. The captive, who has long pined in a gloomy dungeon, could not experience more joyful emotions at the sight of day, than animated me on this occasion. I looked about me with sensations unknown before. I called to my camel-driver to gather every blossom that the bushes afforded, which my imagination supplied with fragrance; and this part of the Nile, which would appear contemptible when opposed to the rudest banks of the

Thames, was to me fraught with numberless beauties. We now, for the first time on our journey, beheld the marks of agriculture. The people were in some places tending their cattle, and in others following the plough. The river discovered itself at various breaches in the banks, about two miles to our left; and we saw wells that were worked by * pacotahs, as in India. Water-channels now intersected the road, to supply the country to the right of us, which here began to be cultivated. At these channels our poor camels halted, and drank with the eagerness and perseverance of creatures unaccustomed to quench the heaviest call of nature, which I may safely pronounce to be thirst. I can truly say, that, during the last three days, I have not eat an ounce. Meat we had not, and I could never get down above a mouthful or two of bread. My companions were nearly in the same situation; which can only be attributed to our stomachs having been overcharged with the quantities of water, which the heat and dust obliged us to swallow.

Between the time of our seeing the ruined village and sun-set, we counted not less than a dozen desolated towns, which we were given to understand had been unpeopled on the same account: some large, and the houses still standing; and others defended by walls and towers, whose remains are still respectable. Were a traveller allowed to indulge a conjecture on a cursory view of things, I should rather suspect that these ruins were of far greater antiquity than the modern inhabitants of Egypt imagine; and that time, the grand destroyer of all human systems, had depopulated these parts, and not the dread of the roving Arabs. When the

* A pacotah is a machine of a very simple construction. By the means of a long bamboo, fixed across a mast, a single man will raise water from the depth of ten or twelve feet, by walking up and down the bamboo. During this leisure movement, the man above encourages himself with a song, in which he is accompanied by his fellow, who stays below, to distribute the water as it comes up in the bucket.

Saracens over-ran Egypt, whole cities must have yielded to the destructive tide; and while the bloody contest subsisted between them and the Turks, the rest were involved in the general wreck of this country's grandeur. I particularly remarked the ruins of one town, situated on two hills to the right of the road, and joined together by a wall which runs across the valley. The front of this town still extends itself a mile, and its towers and hummums, which are of stone, are many of them in tolerable repair. Our guides had, indeed, names for this, as well as some of the rest of these places; but being of Arab derivation, they could throw no light on the subject of our enquiry.

The night was very bright, from the countless host of stars which are wont to shine with unclouded lustre in this serene hemisphere. A full hour before we reached Ghinnah, we left our northern direction, and travelled due west. The many gardens and plantations that we passed, announced our vicinity to the city, where we arrived at nine o'clock. At our entrance we went by a large mosque, which was illuminated, and full of people, who were attending divine service. We saw many good houses and streets, before we reached the lodgings that had been provided for us. Here we were housed at half past nine, without having met with any adventure that could tend to a discovery of our persons. The mansion seems large and commodious, and belongs to the merchant whose camels accompanied us the greatest part of the way. He welcomed us with great cordiality, and, having seen our baggage carried up stairs, lighted us himself to our apartment, where some new bread and fresh dates were served up to us. During our repast the merchant Mahomet, his brother Ally, and the shaik, attended us, and on their wishing us a good night, we reminded them of our anxiety to be gone. The last stage was six hours, or fifteen miles, so that we have come 130 miles since we left Cosire, though the direct distance must fall somewhat short of that

number. While we were going to bed, we were thrown into some confusion by Major Alexander missing his Indian sabre. The baggage was rummaged for it in vain ; so that we were obliged to call up our host to lay the complaint before him. The major now remembered having left it below stairs, and, as it could not be found, the suspicions of our host immediately fell upon the soldier, who had been so long the object of our aversion. This soldier he now sallied forth at this late hour to seek ; and bidding the major to be of good cheer, assured him that the sword should be recovered, if still within the precincts of the city.

FRIDAY, 1st August.

I awoke at day-break to-day after a very sound repose. One night's rest had perfectly restored me to myself, if I may except a languor upon my limbs, which so laborious a journey might occasion to a constitution that is none of the strongest. When I had got on my Arabian habit, I perceived a pair of stairs that led to the top of the house. As I conceived myself to be sufficiently disguised, I made no scruple to ascend them, in order to take a view of the city. Ghinnah, or Cana, as the antients called it, is pleasantly situated on the eastern banks of the Nile, in that district which is known by the name of Upper Egypt. By our nicest observation of its bearing from Cosire, it lies in the latitude $26^{\circ} 40' N$, which brings it considerably lower down the river than we find it, either in the old or modern maps. Its length extends from east to west, and its principal streets run in a parallel line, and ascend by a gentle acclivity from the river to the center of the city. This situation seems adapted to the neighborhood of the Nile, which, in the time of the floods, must lay the adjacent parts under water. Its appearance is truly romantic, as every house is surrounded with an inclosure, and partly concealed

from view by the lofty date-trees, that every here and there mingle their tufted heads with the spiral mosques and swelling domes, as if ambitious to rival their proudest heights. I was proceeding in my observations, when our host came up to bid us good-morrow, and hearing that I was above, he called to me in haste to descend. I was rather surprized at this abrupt command; but when he pointed out the offence which his neighbors might take at having their women overlooked, I bore with the reproof, though my curiosity had not been awakened from that quarter. I was well acquainted with the jealousy of the Mahometans in this particular; and therefore did not consider the conduct of our host as any way unreasonable. To the great satisfaction of the major, he produced the sword, which he declared had been taken on the thief he mentioned. He demanded, however, eight dollars for the hire of two men, who had assisted him in the pursuit of the soldier some miles from the town. The money was paid to him without hesitation, as the weapon was of value to the owner; but our ideas of the justice which prevails here, became very unfavorable, when we understood that the loss of his plunder was the only punishment which the knave was likely to experience.

We feasted this morning at breakfast on cow's milk, to which we have been long strangers, and on the first good bread we have tasted in Egypt. Indeed, we learn, that this place is plentifully supplied with every necessary of life, situated in a serene climate, and far removed from the turbulence and intrigues of the capital we are hastening to. A picture, pretty in speculation, and what we flatter ourselves we shall find just in the practice. The shaik and our host joined us at our coffee, and we expected to have heard something of the boat; but their errand was to get such presents for the camel-drivers and guard, as are usual for travellers to give. We were content to be quit of them for a dollar each;

each ; though it went not a little against our inclination to include the roguish soldier among the number. Scarce had they left us, when we had a visit from the guard themselves. The offender came without a blush into our presence, and had the effrontery to make a jest of taking the sword, which he pretended he only meant to have kept as a pledge, for the present that was due to his comrade and himself. He added, that they were now come for that present, which they had so justly deserved at our hands, by the protection they had afforded us on the road. We were inclined enough to have disputed their merits in this case, had it not been in the power of these fellows to publish our arrival at Ghinnah, and expose us to the rapacity of the government. Their demand, therefore, met with a civiler reception than they expected, and we assured them that it had been already gratified. We were now witnesses to one of the most striking instances of the unlicensed tempers of the Arabs that ever occurred in history. For no sooner was the spokesman certified of the shaik's having received his quota, than he caught up his sabre which lay by him on the carpet, and half-drawing it, told us with a resolute air, that if we would disclose but the sum which the shaik had presumed to take without their knowledge, he would force it from his throat with the point of his sword. This language from a soldier, of his superior, did not suit our notions of military discipline ; and we dispatched Abdul Ruffar to seek for the shaik, and acquaint him therewith. He soon came, and such a scene passed between the prince and subject, as baffles all description. An hundred times did they catch up their sabres, and challenge each other to instant conflict, and as often did they revile each other in the bitterest terms. But our friend had the greatest justice in his reproaches, as he stigmatized the soldier with having betrayed his trust, in respect to the major's sword. This breach of trust seemed to both of these warriors the principal crime in the robbery ;
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and the quarrel waxed to such a pitch, that finding it impossible to soften their fury, we looked to our arms, in order to intimidate the foldier. His comrade had sneaked off in the beginning of this dispute, and wisely informed the people of the house of what was passing above. This intelligence, together with the noise, brought up the host and his family, just at the nick of time, that our apartment was about to become the scene of bloodshed, in a populous and civilized city, on the trifling subject of a few dollars ! This company soon accommodated the matter, and the foldier was dismissed, with a promise of obtaining his dividend of the sum in question.

Our distaste for the people we are among, was so heightened by this late transaction, that we now pressed the shaik, very seriously, to discharge the obligation he was under to embark us in a boat for Cairo. We found ourselves at greater liberty, and under less apprehension, when committed to the wide waves in an Arab boat, than now when we are upon Arab ground ; and I doubt if there was one among us, who would not have undertaken the pilotage of a boat to Cairo, though the current was the only guide he could depend upon, in preference to staying at Ghinnah a day longer. The shaik saw our anxiety, and assured us solemnly of his intention to keep his word, as soon as a boat could be got ready. Our host, and his brother Ally, offered to pledge themselves for the shaik's sincerity, and the latter proposed himself to accompany us to Cairo. They left us to sit down to a meal of wheat, boiled in mutton-broth, which had been delayed by the strange business of the day.

SATURDAY, 2d AUGUST.

We are doomed to be the sport of fortune, to achieve adventures which we never aspired to, and to find our situation more dangerous

dangerous than ever, at the moment that we are foolishly expecting the period of our troubles. Though the night was close, and I had not rested well, from the dust which incommoded the terrace we sleep upon, I was up, according to custom, at day-break, and in going down stairs to the back-yard, in order to wash me, was met by a servant of the house, who took me by the arm, and, with a significant gesture, hurried me up again in apparent agitation. When he could make a shift to explain himself, by the means of Ibrahim, we understood, to our great concern, that the vizier of the city was in the house, and locked up in close conference with our host. This early visit had a very unpromising appearance, and as we had remained within doors since our arrival, we attributed this discovery of us, to some treachery in those who were in the secret. My companions posted themselves on the stair-head, to learn, if possible, what was going forward, and I was ruminating in an inner apartment on the consequences of Arab duplicity, when they came running to me, with an account of the street-door being besieged by a body of horse. Our host himself followed them into the room, and, with the utmost shew of terror, desired us to load our fire-arms quickly, and assist him to defend the house, which he expected would be assaulted every moment. It was some time before we could get him to interpret the meaning of this alarm. We were not a little surprized at last to learn, that the horse at the door belonged to the shaik of Banute, and were sent with injunctions to carry us before their master, who had been apprized of our having passed his residence, without paying him the usual compliment. As improbable as this story appeared, what imposition was there which could not have been practised with success on people, who were utter strangers to the customs and language of the country? We were well informed of the independence of the Arab shaiks, and their propensity to extort money from travellers; and though the sounding

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an armed force into a commercial town was incomprehensible to us, yet we did not know but it might enter into the system of their politics, where one party was superior to another. In order, we suppose, to terrify us into their measures, our host told us, that there was no regular government at present in Ghinnah; that every man was the protector of his own house, which he would defend, on our account, against all invaders. From one of our windows, which in this country more resembles a pigeon-hole than any thing else, we beheld a number of horsemen, who paraded the street, but did not betray any intentions to proceed to violence. On our observing this matter to our host, he pretended that it discovered an inclination to treat with us; and immediately went down to the gate, to make, as he said, the best terms for us in his power. Thus were we, on a sudden, shut up in a beleaguered place, and either on the point of being put to the sword, or being obliged to deliver ourselves up prisoners of war. The castle was besieged in form, and the treacherous governor about to forego his trust. We remained, during this interval, under arms in our apartment, and had centinels posted on the stairs, to apprise us of any danger. After this farce—for a farce it was, though of a very serious nature to us—had been kept up for two hours and upwards, our host at length came up. He told us, that he had so far succeeded, as to get us excused from our visit to Banute for a pecuniary consideration, and that the sum of 150 dollars would free us from these troublesome guests. From the vizier's visit, and the strange conduct of the host, we suspected there was a collusion between them and the cavalry at the door, and that we had already fallen within the gripe of the government of Ghinnah. Under this persuasion we submitted with a good grace, to what we judged was unavoidable. We paid down fifty dollars in advance, though we loudly protested against the imposition, which we declared would leave us almost destitute of money. To moderate our vexa-

tion, and to revive the pleasing ideas of our departure, our host very artfully shifted the subject, and reminded us of putting him in cash for the boat, which the shaik and his brother were gone in pursuit of. His demand was forty dollars, which we readily deposited in his hands, on his solemn declaration, that he received them for the hire of a boat, which should be ready for our reception at night.

In a short time after our host had left us, he returned to advise us of the vizier's approach, who followed him into our apartment, attended by a number of officers of state. They came, as they informed us, to enquire into our business, and our reasons for travelling through their country. Tho' they had taken us rather unawares, we put the best face we could upon the matter, and declared ourselves travellers, whom ill fortune, and not our own inclinations, had led among them. On their demanding our pass, we produced the one from the vizier of Yambo; and we thought it fortunate that we could shew them letters from Captain Bacon, and the supercargoes of the snow Adventure, to Ibrahim Beg, the bey of Cairo, to convince them that our journey was not a secret to the bey. The vizier put the pass into his pocket, and we remarked, that he eyed the letter to the bey with great attention, and whispered with apparent earnestness to some of his followers before he returned it to us. We gathered the most flattering pre-
sages from this incident; and as he had preserved the utmost politeness and moderation in this interview, we saw the vizier and his train depart, in the fullest confidence of having found protection in our letters, against the government, which were so well inclined to have persecuted us.

When these people were gone, we partook of a repast which the family had provided for us. It was simple, but well-drest, and consisted of meat and vegetables, both stewed and roasted. We had not seen the young shaik all day, and were uneasy at his absence.

sence. When he made his appearance, he assured us that he had been employed in our service since we saw him last, and that he only wanted the money, to secure the boat which he had engaged for us. But this information seemed chiefly to be a prelude to his own demands, and we discovered that he was come, like the rest of his countrymen, for a present. Though we had promised him a gratuity conditionally, yet as we placed too much reliance on the oath of an Arab, we hoped to bind him more strongly to us, by an act that favored of confidence, as well as of bounty. We therefore presented him with twenty dollars ; and Mr. Hammond gave him a shawl to which he had taken a liking. He appeared so much struck with this generosity, that he swore by his Prophet, he would not leave the house until a boat was provided for us. We then sent for our host, with whom we had entrusted the boat-hire ; but understood from him, that he had just paid it away with the rest of the money to the Banute cavalry, who, on this prompt payment, had relinquished their first demand. Tho' this story was rather strange, it carried not a suspicious air on the face of it. We saved sixty dollars by the manœuvre, and readily proffered to advance the boat-hire anew. A reys, or nokidah, accompanied the host, who, after some altercation, agreed to let us have a large, commodious boat, to carry us to Cairo, for fifty-five dollars. As the price was considerably increased, we affected to run short of cash, in hopes to impress them with a notion of our being too poor to be worth detaining. Accordingly we produced several Indian coins, both of gold and silver, which we desired might be weighed, to make up the sum. Though we let them understand that these were pocket-pieces, which we had preserved through curiosity, I fear this expedient was the means of awakening the avarice of these robbers, and teaching them to expect a hoard of this treasure. On receiving the amount, with five dollars besides, to provide bread and two or three sheep for the

voyage, the shaik, our host, and the nokidah, swore in conjunction to the immediate performance of the treaty. But they think, as the poet says of lovers, that "Jove laughs at *Arab* perjuries," and they can swallow the most sacred oaths, without the smallest intention to keep them. And this we found more strongly verified than ever.

On the faith of their promises we had packed up our baggage, and disposed ourselves for our removal. Nine o'clock was the appointed hour, and we waited for it with all the impatience of a bridegroom, who looks forward to the moment which is to crown his fondest wishes. But our watches announced the hour, and no Arabs appeared. We, however, accounted easily for the delay; especially as the natives must find it difficult to ascertain time, in a country where clocks and watches are unknown. Ten o'clock came, and brought no intelligence of them. Our suspense now began to be cruel; and we sent Abdul Ruffar down stairs, to enquire what was become of the host and his companions. He returned without having obtained any other tidings, than their being still abroad. It is impossible to give the reader an idea of our situation during this interval. We were assembled on a terrace that was open to the air, and had no other light than what the stars afforded us. The worst interpretation was put upon their absence, by some of our company. Ibrahim began to despair; and Abdul Ruffar himself could not account for the conduct of his countrymen. Tired out with fruitless expectation, we stretched ourselves upon our carpets, and endeavored to compose ourselves to rest. In the midst of our disordered slumbers, we were suddenly alarmed, about midnight, by a noise at the outward gate of the house. We heard the door open, and the sound of a man's feet hastily ascend the stairs. Hope hung upon his steps; and when we beheld our host enter with a light in his hand, we called out, as if with one voice, that we were ready to attend him.

him. Judge ye, who have ever experienced the fallacy of appearances in matters nearest to the heart—judge of our emotions, when we found, that, instead of a boat being in readiness to carry us away, the vizier and his train were below ! The late hour, our recent disappointment, and the surprize which this news threw us into, operated together to render us very unfit to receive these unwelcome visitants. But we had not even time to enquire into the meaning of this intrusion, when the vizier entered. He was accompanied by all the officers who were with him in the morning ; but his retinue was now enlarged by a number of soldiers, each of whom bore a torch in his hand. They seated themselves, without waiting to be asked, on the carpets which we had risen from ; and calling for our interpreter, the vizier desired him to tell us, that he was come to levy a duty on the goods and jewels that we had with us : that he and the council of state had formed a resolution to demand no more than 4,000 dollars ; and if we refused to pay so moderate a sum, they must send us to their master, the Shaik-Ul-Arab, who was then on the frontiers of his dominions, to answer for our refusal. The exorbitancy of the demand made us treat it in a light manner ; and as to our taking another journey upon camels, we declared it was better to die here, than to fall a sacrifice to the fatigues of the Arabian method of travelling. We told them our baggage lay ready for their inspection, and they might soon satisfy themselves of our poverty. Whether this confident behavior impressed them with an idea of our sincerity, or that their designs were not ripe for execution, we cannot pronounce ; but the vizier declined the search. He however politely insinuated, that a shawl or two would be very acceptable to him. I had two fine ones belonging to my Turkish dress, which had stood me in 100 dollars. These I produced without hesitation, tho' I declared truly they were all I had, when I presented them to the vizier. On receiving them, the minister

nister begged us to be easy, as he now considered us to be under his protection, and would give us a pass in the morning for our safety down the river. When he had taken his leave, we reproached our host for the failure of his word. But he shifted the blame from himself to the vizier, who, he assured us, had put a stop to our voyage for this night. He repeated his former assertions, that the boat was ready for our reception. In short, he drew so flattering a picture of the vizier's good intentions towards us, and expressed such a zeal for our service, that he obtained his ends of getting a shawl himself from Major Alexander, and of lulling us once more into a transient security.

SUNDAY, 3d AUGUST.

The morning came, only to furnish us with fresh instances of the perfidy of these people. Instead of the vizier's pass, or any signs of our departure, we were left to our own reflections, and we saw nothing of the young shaik, of our host, or of his brother. Nay, to such a pitch was their neglect carried, that at noon we found there was no dinner provided for us in the house. In this embarrassment we sent out Abdul Ruffar to purchase us some provision; and as we understood the city abounded with Christian merchants, we directed him to apply to them for their opinion of our detention, and for their advice and assistance on this alarming occasion. Too strict a watch was kept upon the motions of Ibrahim, to admit of his negotiating such a matter for us. It was rarely that he was suffered to stir out of doors, under pretence that the people of Banute were once more in search of us, to tax us in another present; and when this liberty was allowed him, he was attended by the host, or some of the family. We were yet in the dark, therefore, in respect to the form and nature of the government under whose extortions we groaned. But we gave the ab-
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sent prince, whoever he might be, full credit for a principal share in our sufferings.

In about an hour's time our faithful domestic returned, with a couple of fowls and some greens, which he immediately set about to dress for us. But, to our great concern, he had met with no success in the more material part of his errand. No admittance had been given him at the Christian houses, because it was the hour of dinner; an hour sacred to privacy among the Oriental nations. While we were waiting for our humble repast, we were not a little surprized at the sight of the vizier, who came to pay us a visit, attended only by his servants, who remained below. It was about two o'clock, and long past his time of dining. Nevertheless, on our victuals appearing, he sat down to a single dish with us, and partook with much seeming satisfaction of the fare which was put before him. He called for spirits, which he jocosely said the Christians were the most choice in, and drank several coffee-cups of rum, both during and after our meal. The vizier's name is Mahmoud. He is a young man of about thirty years of age, tall and well made, of a pleasing aspect and insinuating address, lively and entertaining in his discourse, and void of the reserve which marks the generality of his nation. It appeared to us that he was come *incog*, with an intent to unbend himself with the novelty of European company, and with the charms of a liquor which is forbidden by his law. But strong as these motives might be, we had quickly cause to be convinced, that there was another more prevalent in his bosom, which induced him to honor us with this visit. He began his attack in complimenting the knowledge and sagacity of our countrymen, and in passing the highest encomiums on the manufactures of our country. He dwelt in particular on the beauty of the fire-arms, and, by an easy transition, expressed a desire to possess a pair of English pistols. I had one pair left, very handsomely mounted with silver,

which I immediately presented him with. These had been seen by our treacherous host the preceding morning, when we had taken up arms to defend the house, and as I perceived that the vizier had got an item of them, I parted with them in the best manner I could. Not satisfied with this compliance, he now cast his eye on the major's sword. But its master had too great a value for an old and trusty servant, to give it up so easily. He had already redeemed it from the hands of a robber, and, perhaps, on that account, prized it more than ever. But the vizier's inclination for the sword seemed to increase, in proportion to the reluctance of the owner to resign it. In such a situation as ours, I could not see the use of with-holding any article from a man, who, by his rank and authority, might apparently dispose of us as he pleased. In my experience of these people, I had never found the good of resistance, in cases of this nature; and cannot take any shame upon myself for advising conciliating and pacific measures, in a country where a successful opposition would prove fatal to us. We had arms to defend ourselves, and I believe skill to have repelled superior numbers; but it must be allowed, that we should dearly have abided a recourse to them. Under this conviction, I endeavored to soften the vizier's disappointment, by tendering him a creese, or dagger, in lieu of the sword he wanted. Its handle was agate, studded with small rubies and emeralds; and as it belonged to my Turkish dress, was a very proper present to an Arab. This creese, with the pistols, cost me seventy dollars at least; but the sooner we are divested of our valuables, the nearer will be the hour of our departure. The meaning of this interview was too obvious to escape our notice; and we should have been content to have purchased this minister's friendship at the price of our baggage. Though every request he made could only be construed into a demand, he never exceeded the bounds of good-breeding in this piratical visit; and it must be acknowledged, that there
never

never existed a more polite robber than the vizier of Ghinnah. He had the art to shift the discourse to something flattering or amusing to us, whenever we attempted to touch on the subject of our departure; and notwithstanding we perceived his drift, he had the address to evade the question, and to lead us from the point we had always in view. In short, he laughed with us, rallied with us, and drank with us; and, as a particular compliment, obliged us in our turns to smoke of his pipe. He lengthened his visit until eight o'clock in the evening, and, during the whole time, displayed all the skill and education of a professed courtier. We were absolutely foiled in our attempts to sound this politician's mind; and, at the end of the interview, had not obtained the least insight into the extent of his designs upon us. When we lamented our confinement in a private house, and complained of the deceitful conduct of our host, he affected to take a part in our troubles. But his language was ambiguous, and left us to conceive something more than it conveyed. At his departure, however, he assured us with a smile, that he intended to renew his visit on the morrow; but that he should insist on standing our caterer, and sending us a dinner more suitable to our condition. To this he added, that he hoped it would be the last meal we should eat in Ghinnah. Inconclusive as these words were, we were somewhat assured by them, and thanked the minister very cordially for his good intentions.

MONDAY, 4th AUGUST.

What with the anxiety of our minds, and the closeness of our apartment, we pass our nights in a very uncomfortable manner. The weather is very sultry, and the high walls which surround us on all sides, seem calculated to prevent a free circulation of air. But we had more important cares to engage our attention. From the wreck of our fortunes, we were intent to save a sufficiency to

carry us to Europe, should it please God to deliver us from this rapacious tribe. I had about 100l. left in venetians and guineas, which, with a gold watch, and a ruby ring of some value, I concealed in an handkerchief about my waist. My European servant contrived also to carry about him some pictures and trinkets set with jewels, of mine, in his sash and turban. Mr. Hammond and the major made use of similar contrivances, to preserve their treasure. But the abundant riches of the latter became a grievous burden to him. He had lent the supercargo of the Adventure 1000 pagodas, or 400l. respondentia, to be paid at Suez. At our departure from Yambo he had received this sum, and what with pagodas and rupees that he had besides, he could not at that time be in possession of less than 1000l. in specie. A large capital, and though somewhat lessened by our former travels, still considerable enough to put him to great difficulties in the disposal of it. An heavy bag of 500 venetians was suspended about Ibrahim's waist, and afforded us no little trial of the honesty and attachment of this Indian. The major's slave-boys were likewise encumbered with gold and silver; and a prodigious handsome sword, which he had hitherto secreted in his bed, was now, for greater security, hidden in a hole under the stair-case. The handle and scabbard were of silver, highly wrought, and doubly gilt. This sword was valued at 100l. sterling, and was once the property of an eastern prince. These measures were adopted, from a suspicion that our trunks would undergo a scrutiny to-day, and that nothing but this ceremony having hitherto been omitted, obstructed our departure. It was our original misfortune to be lumbered with too much baggage, and it had been better that we had committed every thing to the waves at Cosire, than to have brought any packages but papers with the caravan. Its appearance almost warranted the exaggeration of the vulgar; and the approach of the English travellers, loaded with gold, precious stones, and merchandize, was every where published.

published. As they had no idea of people being led by curiosity or accident to visit their country, it was very natural for them to place our journey to the desire of gain, and to consider us in the light of merchants. Instead of coming here with privacy—as we had foolishly believed on the word of our conductor—it now appears, that we were expected with impatience by the principal inhabitants; and that our persons and our goods had only been transferred from one hand to another. To the blessing of God only can we now attribute the moderation of the shaik of Cosire, and our preservation on the road hither. Our lives and property had been at the disposal of him and his dependants, and we could not but shudder to reflect on the company we had travelled with. But to be exposed to pillage in a large and populous town, to which merchants of different countries resort, is only to be explained by the strange ideas they entertain of our baggage, which they will not search, though we press them to do it, and will not seize, though inclined to possess it. Thus kept in a struggle between avarice and fear, our journey is delayed, our apprehensions awakened, and our lives possibly endangered, until the conflict shall be decided in the breasts of these spoilers!

We have seen nothing of the young shaik since he received his present, nor of our host Mahomet, since he made us the fine promises of a speedy departure. Ibrahim watched an opportunity this morning to slip out unobserved, and to accompany Abdul Russar to some Christian houses. They were directed to sound these people, respecting the protection they were inclined to afford us. To know whether they could harbor us in their houses, in case we effected an escape from our prison; or at least would assist in procuring us a boat, to accomplish our flight under cover of the night. This negotiation was as fruitless as all the others we had undertaken. Neither their desires to serve us, nor the hopes of a good reward, were forcible enough to command the interposition

of these Christians, confident as they were that we labored under the persecution of the government. To fill up the measure of our distress, the very boatmen, whom Ibrahim spoke to distantly on the subject, positively declined to receive us on board without a passport. Once more then must we give up the flattering prospect of liberty, and attend with patience the issue of our misfortunes.

It has been remarked by some philosopher, that in every trial to which humanity is put, how numerous soever the illusions of hope, there is still a succession of causes to revive this active principle, and to preserve the mind from the influence of despair. It is a pleasure to me to subscribe to a sentiment, which holds out so comfortable a truth to mankind, and which ascribes so benevolent a property to the divine ordination of events. Various had been the turns of our fortune, but never had we lost sight of an happy sequel. Even now, when all immediate succour is denied us, we look forward to a distant promise. The Indian Fakeer, whom we had not seen since our arrival here, and whose absence we could only attribute to his having pursued his journey, followed Ibrahim into the house, and offered to carry a letter to Cairo. He informed us of his having been frequently denied admittance to us, and urged us to dispatch him with all possible speed, that he might depart unnoticed. The gratitude of this poor Indian excited our admiration, and we delayed not a moment to take advantage of his unexpected offer. We penned a short but pathetic letter to Mr. Baldwin at Cairo, acquainting him of our alarming situation, and begging his interest with the bey to demand our release of this government. We had every reason to believe that our letter from Cosire had not reached Mr. Baldwin, but we had a better foundation for the success of this, as the bearer had evinced himself our friend, and was in a character that would render him unsuspected. But to ensure the delivery of it,

it, as much as lay in our power, we presented the Fakeer with five dollars, and on the back of the letter desired Mr. Baldwin would pay him as much more, as a reward for his fidelity. The Indian was very thankful for this kindness, and after concealing the letter in his turban, took leave of us with no little emotion. He luckily went out of the house unquestioned by the porter; and we prepared ourselves to receive the vizier, in a better temper of mind than we had been in for some time past.

At two o'clock the minister came, accompanied only by the rascal Ally. We were glad to find that he was not unmindful of his promise; and indeed he exceeded our expectations in the sumptuous dinner he had provided for us. It consisted of thirty covers, wherein various kinds of fish, flesh, and fowl, were served up to our table. We had not seen so plentiful a meal for many a day, and were not backward in doing honor to it. The vizier was particularly attentive in recommending the best dishes to us, and seemed much pleased at the appetite with which we ate. He relaxed entirely of his state, and when the victuals were removed, he and Ally set in for serious drinking. It was impossible for us to escape a dram or two, which he forced upon us. But he would take no excuse from Ally, who being a Mussulman like himself, was called upon to keep him in countenance. The rum was old, and consequently potent, and did not require a great quantity to intoxicate these boon companions. The vizier's head however was much the strongest; and while the liquor only rendered him more talkative, its effects upon Ally were mischievous and alarming. He acted a thousand extravagancies, and at length pulled one of the vizier's pistols out of his girdle, and fired it in the air. In this state of frenzy the pistol might as well have been directed at one of our breasts, and we were very glad, in a few minutes after, to see him sink upon the floor in a fit of stupefaction. This afforded matter of great triumph to the minister, who began to

conceive an infinite affection for us, talked of carrying us home to an house more eligible for our reception, and in the fulness of his heart, offered us horses and guards to conduct us through the city. He was very desirous to play a game of chess with me, when he understood I was conversant with it; and we were entertaining hopes of being benefitted in some shape or other by this paroxysm of kindness, when he was suddenly overcome by sleep. He stretched himself upon the carpet on which he had been sitting, and all our airy notions of relief vanished with his waking thoughts.

He had been upwards of an hour in this situation, when a messenger brought a letter, the delivery of which was too important to be dispensed with. We therefore ventured to wake the minister, who I believe was ashamed to be found in such a manner. On perusing it, he said the contents concerned us. That the shaik of Banute had sent two boats to pursue us down the Nile, under a supposition of our having pushed on for Cairo, and that they were now returned to seek us here. He bade us however to rely on his protection, and to keep ourselves quiet until these people had left the city, when he would dispatch us with safety. He then took his leave, not empty-handed, as during the visit he had wheedled the major out of a shawl, which appears to be the chief object of his desires. We had gained no ground in this interview; and held the revival of the Banute story, as a mere feint to renew our apprehensions, and to conceal the real motives of our detention.

TUESDAY, 5th August.

The prospect begins to grow darker and darker; and our departure seems to be more distant than ever. We are utterly neglected

lected by the family, and, in a manner, forsaken by the world. We had sent Abdul Ruffar to search for them in vain, when about eleven o'clock he returned with Ally. He was just risen from his bed, and the fumes of the liquor were scarcely evaporated from his brain. We were not sorry to see him in a situation, from which we had a chance of procuring some material intelligence. But he was a traitor in his cups, and gave the lie to the notion, that good liquor will make a rogue honest. For my own part, I had been so mortified at the depravity of human nature, which, in the shape of our landlord and his associates, had not only violated the rights of hospitality, but repeatedly broken the most tremendous oaths which could be taken in the sight of a just God, that I was tempted at times to disown my alliance to such a race. Oppressed by one part of it, and unassisted by another, whose religion should have enforced their compassion towards us, it is not surprizing that we beheld them with an eye of abhorrence and distrust. We had experienced that there was no safety among them, and to the interposition of the divine Power alone, could we look for our deliverance. But the simplicity of Ibrahim led him to renew a confidence, so often misplaced. He gave more credit to the word of a Mussulman, and was the last to see into their falsehood. He took great pains to worm out of Ally the secret intentions of his brother. Repeatedly did he demand what they sought for from us, and as often did he proffer in our name to leave our baggage to them, provided they would convey us and our papers to a boat. Shame frequently appeared in Ally's face during this interrogation; and it was not without the hesitation attached to a guilty conscience, that he acknowledged they wanted more valuables. On this the major produced a silver mug, which he promised to deliver to the brothers at the river-side. But Ally would not be satisfied without a diamond-ring, which he had seen on the major's finger at Cosic. This

was a ring of no inconsiderable value, and had been imprudently exposed by the major, at a moment, indeed, when he did not suspect the mischief which was hatching against us. It would have been impossible, perhaps, to have waved this demand, if the major had not luckily been in possession of a paste ring of nearly the same size, which he imposed upon Ally for the diamond one. This ring and the silver mug were to be his, when he performed his engagement of putting us into a boat. The sight of them seemed to rouse the fellow, and to animate his zeal in our behalf. He left us on the instant, with a design to seek his brother, and to see what could be done for us. As an earnest of his good intentions, he left word with Abdul Ruffar below, that he would provide a dinner for us, which we were likely to have gone without before. We saw nothing of him however until two o'clock, when he brought us a very scanty and indifferent dish of fish stewed in oil. We could not help murmuring at our condition, and the rascal apologized, as well as he could, for the badness of the victuals. We were now left to ourselves for the rest of the day, to solve if possible the intentions of our enemies, and to deliberate in vain on the best measures to guard against their malignity.

In the evening, Ally brought his brother to us, whom we had not obtained a sight of for the three last days, though supposed to be under the same roof with us. Nature had been very just to this man, as the villainy of his disposition was written in legible characters in his countenance. He was in a manner dragged up to our apartment, and his present appearance would not have discredited a king's evidence at the Old-Bailey. He hung his head, though possessed of an infinite stock of assurance, and the frivolous reasons which he assigned for his absence, were the plainest proofs of his guilt. He now joined with Ally in seeming earnest for our departure, and which he assured us nothing delayed but the search of our baggage. This ceremony he under-
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stood, was to be performed in the morning, and he fully discovered his principles, by desiring us to suffer him and Ally to inspect our baggage before the vizier came to do it. There was a time when this proposal would have been treated with the contempt it deserved; but our immediate dependence on these fellows, obliged us to listen to it with complacency. We were aware of their knavish designs, but we considered our effects as the clog which impeded our course; and a livelier picture cannot be exhibited of our situation, than the readiness with which we accelerated the hour, which might leave us destitute of the common necessities of life. Our operations were now confined to the obtaining of our enlargement. We thought only of resuming our journey. The means of accomplishing so arduous an undertaking, were entirely left to the direction of chance.

W E D N E S D A Y, 6th AUGUST.

This is the sixth day of our arrival at Ghinnah, and we are as perfect strangers to the place as the hour we came here. Our view is limited to the street in which we live, and which we peep into from our windows, that are very small and very high. Here our faces engage the attention of passengers, many of whom are brought by curiosity to view us: the detention and ill usage of European travellers having made no little noise about the city. But compassion is the only medicine they can afford us. Although our case is known, we have little chance of relief under so precarious a government, where the ruling maxim seems to be, that the weaker side must go to the wall.

It is our fortune once more to excite the pity of the fairer part of the creation, and to find tenderness and humanity among the members of an Arab tribe. Exactly opposite to our prison is the haram of a man of some consequence, if we can judge of him

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from the number of his women. It was but two days ago that we discovered we were the objects of these females' regard ; who, when the sun goes down, come tripping by pairs to the front of their terrace, and, by signs and salutations, enquire into our welfare, and lament their inability to relieve our distresses. Some of these women are beautiful, and all well made ; and they make no scruple to appear before us unvailed, at no greater distance than the breadth of a narrow street. It would be an easy matter for us to discourse together, with the help of our interpreter, were we not afraid, in our critical situation, of incurring suspicion and danger. We find satisfaction, however, in this dumb intercourse. Unavailing as their sympathy must prove, our vanity is not the less flattered by it. We have retorted upon our oppressors without design, and triumph over them in the tenderest point !

Before we had breakfasted, our host and his brother visited us, to make the proposed search. We readily opened our trunks to them, and they were not a little surprised to find nothing but linen and cloaths, where they expected at least to light upon piece-goods, jewels, and money. They took, however, two handsome china bowls, a box of cut Trichinopoly stones, half a dozen sheets, and a Turkish habit from the major ; and from me a Turkish coat only. Mr. Hammond's trunks escaped their hands. We were much astonished at this moderation, but suppose an apprehension of the vizier's catching them in the fact, occasioned their hasty retreat. As they were going away, Ally staid until his brother was out of hearing, and then asked the major in a whisper, to let him secrete the silver mug which was promised him in the boat. It unluckily stood on the window-seat with the remains of the major's breakfast, and without waiting for an answer, Ally took it up, and marched with it down stairs.

We had scarcely got rid of these plunderers, when the vizier
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and his train made their appearance. They were very rigid in their scrutiny, until they came to a box belonging to me, which contained a packet and letters of consequence. The manner in which this box was secured, with nails and wax-cloth, gave them hopes of being well rewarded for their trouble. But when the lid was taken off, and the contents were displayed, never was such surprise seen, as was betrayed in the countenances of the vizier and his adherents. They seemed to awaken as from a dream, and after conferring together with evident marks of disappointment, they precipitately retired, notwithstanding our remonstrances, that they would finish the examination, and permit us to depart, though at the expence of our baggage.

We had sent Abdul Ruffar abroad to procure intelligence, and he returned with the news, that a boat was on the point of setting out for Cairo. He had sounded the nokidah, to know what he would do in our behalf; who, in defiance of bribery, would only venture to convey a letter for us to that city. As nothing could be effected towards our escape, we were content to address another letter to Mr. Baldwin, relating the new troubles we had met with, and the necessity of his immediate assistance, to deliver us from the perils which environed us. This letter Abdul Ruffar carried with great secrecy to the nokidah, who, in consideration of a present, undertook to deliver it to Mr. Baldwin.

In the afternoon the vizier repeated his visit, under pretence of taking down our names, and making out the pass for our departure. The conduct of this man towards us had been truly singular. He had courted us for his own views, and he had deceived us without any apparent motive. He had taken indeed many things from us in a polite way, but when he had an opportunity of satisfying his avarice with the choice of our moveables, he shrunk back, as if ashamed or afraid to persevere in his

intentions. This palpably shews that there is a ruling authority to which he is accountable, and to which we are indebted for our security to this hour. He positively told us that we should go at night, and our host as positively promised us his camels, to transport us and our baggage to the river-side. At six o'clock our host came, but it was only to inform us, that the young shaik had ran away to Cofire with the boat-money. We could not at first think so ill of our conductor, but our host assured us, that we had seen our last of him. More money was now demanded for the hire of a boat, but we had so long persisted in the story of our money being all expended, that we could not have produced any, without confirming their opinion of our wealth. This fellow, however, had the address to obtain the sword from the major, which had been refused to the vizier, and had been redeemed, with such trouble, from the clutches of the soldier. This sword he now demanded upon the footing of a former promise; and the major thought proper to gratify his wishes. He has been a material sufferer during the transactions of this day.

THURSDAY, 7th AUGUST.

We were at breakfast upon ripe figs and bread, for which we were indebted to the attention of Abdul Ruffar, who is our caterer at such times as our host neglects us; when two of the vizier's people entered the room, accompanied by our host and his father. The last is an old man, and not only privy to the iniquitous conduct of his sons, but a tormenting solicitor himself for any thing that comes within his view. The trite tale of the Banutecavalry being returned for money, was once more attempted to be imposed upon us; but we had learned to parry the attack, by desiring them to convey our baggage to the horsemen, who were welcome to dispose of it as they thought fit. This liberal offer

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did not suit their designs. It was the specie which they looked for, and it seemed as if they began to suspect that we did not keep it among our baggage. From 1000 dollars, which these mock agents at first demanded, they fell at once to 100, then to 80, 60, 40, and at length to 20 dollars! The vizier's adherents soon retired, when they found themselves treated in so cavalier a manner, and left us to discuss the matter with Mahomet. This is the Cerberus whom we are to gain over, if the door to our escape is to be opened to us. We have tempted him with many a sop, but his price is yet to be reached, if it be in his power to permit of our departure. We condescended to assure him, that we had not the money to satisfy this demand; but that, to oblige him, we would give up our silver spoons, which we used at our table, and which were equal to the value of twenty dollars. He appeared to listen with great attention to this proposal, but suddenly recollecting himself, he paused for a moment, and told us, that without a letter from us, specifying that he had received no money from us, he could concern himself no further about our affairs. The effrontery of this Arab exceeded, if possible, his depravity. He talked as if his endeavors had been exerted for our good; and held the language of friendship amid the daily practice of injustice. We were, therefore, not a little rejoiced to find, that our host did not quietly enjoy the fruits of his villainy. On inquiring into the necessity of giving him such a letter, we learned that the town's people threatened to pillage his house, and to share with him the 1000 venetians which he was reported to have obtained from us. A declaration under our hands of its falsity, would stifle the report, and preserve his property from being left to the mercy of an enraged populace. We had been so little accustomed to truth in this country, that we were become sceptics in every thing, which did not immediately fall under our own observation. This fellow, however, had evidently some reason for

for his fears, and, in order to ~~ascertain~~ their origin, we dismissed him with a promise of ~~supplying~~ him with the paper he wanted.

Ibrahim informed us, that he had been frequently pressed by Ally, to go abroad with him at unseasonable hours. This behaviour awakened our suspicions, that some foul play was intended to this faithful domestic; and we accordingly cautioned him not to trust himself in Ally's company. But by a strange infatuation, he neglected this admonition; and by venturing out of doors, when we had laid down to take our afternoon-nap, fell into the net which was spread for him, and very nearly involved us in the danger we were mostly to apprehend. He returned about five o'clock in a state of intoxication, and could hardly find words to explain the cause of it, when he became quite beside himself. We gathered, nevertheless, from him, that Ally had met and inveigled him into a coffee-house, under pretence of treating him with a dish of coffee. That he had tasted something particular in the coffee, and would not be prevailed upon to stay, when he found his head begin to grow giddy. That villain Ally had doubtless introduced an opiate into the cup; and whatever his view was, it was baffled by the resolution of Ibrahim, who forced his way home in that condition, and displayed a conduct we did not give him credit for before to-day. The major's bag of venetians was still about him; but it was impossible for us to know, what intelligence might not have been drawn from him in such a situation. He was by no means addicted to liquor; and though he would not refuse his dram when on board the Adventure, he had so long abstained from spirits, that we were convinced he had not been assisting to his own intoxication. We had the greatest confidence in his honesty and attachment, but we dreaded the discoveries which he unknowingly might have made. We were anxious to suppose that no harm had yet been done, and hurried him

him to bed in an inner apartment, where we watched him like a child, that he might not get down stairs, or hold any conversation with Mahomet or Ally, until he was sobered again. These blood-hounds followed the scent which the latter had hit off, and came up repeatedly, under pretence of talking to Ibrahim about our departure. But we were aware of their intentions, and hindered their waking or getting any access to him. It would not have been so easy for us to have prevented the intrusion of the vizier, and we trembled for his appearance at this moment. I can declare for myself, that I have not experienced the poignancy of distress until this accident; by which we find ourselves brought to the brink of destruction, through the simplicity of one of our own attendants. The morning, we hope, will restore him to a sense of his folly, and dispel the cloud which thickens around us.

FRIDAY, 8th AUGUST.

The occurrences of this day have been so crowded, so strange, and so affecting to humanity, that the reader will doubtless offer a plea to himself for the irregularity of a narrative, which was taken down late at night, and while our fates were still in all the horrors of uncertainty. The desire of being held in the memory of mankind, even awaits us to the mouth of the grave; and however hideous the danger, a liberal mind cannot bear the idea of going out of the world by an obscure and unknown track, while there is a chance of transmitting its sufferings, its fortitude, and its resignation, to the regard of posterity. And should it please God to permit this journal of our distresses, to survive the general wreck which threatens our lives and property, it may have the merit of disclosing to others, the perils which attend the traveller through this savage clime; and to warn him by our examples, of the little credit he should repose in the sanctity, the hospitality of

the Arabs; for which virtues they have been falsely celebrated by uninformed historians!

The morning had passed as usual, in suspense and distrust of these people's intentions, nor did any thing occur to sweeten our daily potion, but the repentance of Ibrahim, and the behavior of the poor women whom I before mentioned to have taken notice of us. Immured in a similar confinement, they felt for our situation, and partook of our troubles. The tale of our disasters had certainly reached their ears, as they enquired by signs whether we had cloaths left, or victuals to eat. Actuated by our melancholy gestures to suggest the worst, these tender-hearted creatures brought fruit and sugar-canes, all they could probably lay their hands upon, and threw them by stealth across the street to our terrace. This humane task they were employed in for half an hour and more, when they disappeared, on our advertising them of the arrival of visitors.

The alarm was false, for it was only Abdul Ruffar, who was returned from reconnoitring the motions of the enemy. In his walk he had been encountered by some Christian merchants, who now recommended to us, to get a letter privately written to the Shaik Ul Arab, complaining of the usage we had met with, and imploring his protection. They not only advised this expedient, but promised to forward the letter for us, in the success of which they implicitly confided. We could not do better, we thought, than follow the opinion of those of our own persuasion; and we had actually dispatched our agents to them upon this errand, when the scheme was unknowingly overset by the major. We had all along considered ourselves as close prisoners; and the major resolved to make an effort to get into the street, to be certified of the worst of our situation. He found the door locked, and knocking to get it opened by the porter who constantly attended without, the family were alarmed, and came in

in numbers to prevent his forcing this passage. A struggle ensued, which the major thought prudent to desist from, and returned up stairs with our servants, who were detained at home by this untoward accident.

While we were consulting on some remedy for this disappointment, a body of people came up to our apartment, ushered by our host. The principals were an old fat man, and one dressed in a scarlet robe, who told us that he was the hakeem or governor of the town, and had been commanded by the Shaik Ul Arab, his master, to take us under his protection; to enquire into the particulars of the injuries which we had sustained; and to transmit a faithful account of us to the shaik, who would see justice done to us, let whosoever be the aggressor. Our spirits had long been in want of a cordial to revive them, and this speech operated very powerfully upon them. The appearance of these officers, and the authority which they took upon them, gave credit to their words. We considered ourselves as distinguished by the compassion of the shaik, though we could not discover by what providential accident the tale of our disasters had come to his knowledge. But elated as we were by this sudden change in our affairs, and consonant as the hakeem's offer was to our hopes of revenge, we were too well aware of the unstable state of an Arabian government, to be led astray by a false emblem of power. The event proved that we did not judge much amiss; and that it is dangerous to make enemies in a body, where we are not assured of friends.

Before the assembly had well seated themselves, the vizier arrived, and took his place among them. He betrayed a downcast and irresolute countenance, and I observed him to look often at us, to guess I suppose at our intentions. I endeavored to clear his doubts with a smile. In reply to the hakeem, we declared our scruples to prefer complaints, strangers as we were to the country, and unassured of protection. On this we were urged by

most present to a plain recital of facts, which they said was due to the honor of their nation, and that their character would be injured by the mal-treatment of strangers, who were suffered to roam in their dominions without redress. Ibrahim on this advised us to give a general statement of our losses, without specifying the names of our oppressors; which would irritate no one, and still obtain the protection of the government. Had this counsel been followed, it might have turned out better; though it is impossible for human judgment to determine it. The examination began under this restriction, and Ibrahim expressed sundry sums of money and articles of value we had been deprived of, by the arts and menaces of persons unknown. The vizier sat in the circle like a private man, and listened in silence to the account of the robberies; in which he seemed satisfied not to be declared an accomplice. But the zeal of Abdul Ruslar quickly altered this peaceable scene. I had observed him sitting in a corner, with indignant looks and restless postures, when, unable to bear with the villainy of his countrymen any longer, he started up, and pointing to his own neck as a pledge for our safety, he went up to the hakeem, and pronounced aloud, that our doubts of protection prevented the truth from appearing in its proper colors. That, to his knowledge, our host Mahomet had forced money and effects from us; and that the vizier himself had defrauded us of shauls and other things to a considerable amount. But the integrity and courage of this poor fellow met with a very unworthy recompence. He had built more than ourselves upon the regal authority, which could not, in the persons of the shaik's officers, shield him from danger and disgrace. The vizier rose abruptly from his seat, and half drawing his sabre, would have stopped his countryman in his tale, had he not been luckily prevented by those near him. The assembly broke up in confusion, and we could not but

he charged for our own safety at such a moment. No sooner was Abdul Ruffar delivered from one enemy, than he encountered a more bitter in the host and his family, who fell furiously on him in the presence of the hakeem, and it was with much difficulty that we rescued him from their hands, at the expense of some heavy blows. But the scene did not conclude here. In the good our host's assertion, that every one is absolute in his own house, he turned the vizier, hakeem, and all the shaik's officers out of doors, and told them deridingly, to go and consult elsewhere. Our faithful domestic would fain have followed them, but he was prevented, which so intimidated him, that dreading the resentment of the family, he came unobserved to our terrace, and dropped himself thirty feet at least, from a perpendicular height, into the street. He escaped; but not, we apprehend, without some sprain or contusion, from so desperate a leap.

This tumult had scarcely subsided, when one of a more serious and insulting nature ensued. Apprehensive of a discovery, and perhaps weary of carrying about such a load, Ibrahim had deposited the bag of venetians which he was charged with, in the corner of a dark room which held fire-wood. The major was apprized of this step, and might very well be satisfied of the security of his treasure. But the prying disposition of the family surmounted our precaution. Ibrahim had been met coming out of this room by Ally, before the arrival of the hakeem and his company. Suspicion is ever on the watch, and gives a motive to every action that falls under its observation. The late dispute, in which he had borne so active a part, had not driven it from this fellow's mind; who, when all was quiet again, stole up softly to the room which had excited his curiosity. Ibrahim by good fortune saw him enter it, and crying loudly for assistance, ran towards the place which concealed the money. He was heard and followed by the major and my European

servant, who found him at the room-door struggling for the bag, which Ally had secured, and would have retreated with. Numbers however prevailed, and the bag was presently redeemed from the rascal's gripe, who retired, muttering vengeance against us.

We had soon reason to lament this unfortunate discovery. It awakened a new spirit of avarice in our host, and confirmed him in his exaggerated ideas of our wealth. He came up stairs, attended by the informer Ally and his servants, armed with swords and spears, to demand the contested treasure. We had expected this, and in the interval, the major had time to change the bag of venetians for one of rupees, which was not a twentieth part its value. The gold was again committed to Ibrahim's waist, and the silver was carelessly thrown into one of the trunks. The deception succeeded; and, after some altercation, the bag was produced from the trunk, and imposed upon Ally for the one that he had seized upon. The bulk was nearly the same, though nothing but the confusion he was in, can account for his not distinguishing the difference between the weight of the gold and silver. Though this action was nothing less than a robbery, these Arabs were willing to give it a more favorable term, and said, that they took it on condition of providing us with a boat, and accelerating our departure. There was something too gross in this behavior to amuse us with expectation; but we were as ready as themselves to save appearances, and to conceal our mortification at being subjected to such violence. Some of our company had proposed manual resistance; and a musket was actually taken up on the occasion, which was laid down upon a conviction of the folly of opposition, where our lives were not concerned, in a country so inimical to Christians, and so severe in its decrees against those, who, however justly, have dipped their hands in the blood of a Mahometan. We adopted a middle course, and so far maintained our dignity, as to insist upon the host's dis-

missing his servants before we would treat with him. This he easily complied with, and received the bag containing eighty-seven rupees, with many assurances of fidelity, and promises to effect our deliverance from this city.

Our host justified the opinion we entertained of him. So far from keeping his word, and endeavoring to serve us, in return for the money he had extorted, he only left us, to contrive some method to make sure of our remaining treasure. In less than half an hour he returned, accompanied by two villains, who called themselves the servants of the Shaik Ul Arab, and who produced a paper, which they termed his order to search our baggage. Though we could not but doubt the authenticity of this paper, we were far from opposing a measure which we had so often solicited; and which we hoped would deliver us from further persecution on this head. It is too cutting to my reflection to recount the particulars of this scrutiny, which was conducted rather with the violence and indecency of a robbery, than with the forms of a search. Not a single thing escaped the hands of these fellows, that was of the least value. Mr. Hammond, among other articles, lost a pair of silver-mounted pistols, which he had hitherto preserved, and they plundered the major of his silver spoons, a silver urn handsomely chased, and weighing above fifty ounces, which he had in vain concealed within some kitchen utensils, besides a quantity of linen to a considerable amount. From me they took a silver hookah, a set of gold buckles, two pieces of Indian hankerchiefs, a gold brocade waistcoat, and a Turkish gown, which, at the lowest calculation, were worth 200 dollars. I left the room while this scene was transacting, as it was to the last degree grating to my nature, to behold, unrevenge, so daring an outrage against all divine and human laws. They retired about eight o'clock in the evening, loaded with their spoils, and we threw ourselves upon the floor, to endeavor to get some

some repose, after a day spent in uproar, altercation, and fatigue : insomuch that we had not leisure to take a proper rest. It is no wonder if our rest was disturbed, and our imagination haunted with gloomy ideas, under such peculiar circumstances. We could observe from our windows a strong guard be posted about the house, with camels ready saddled at the door, but for what purpose we knew not ; whether to take the boat, or to any place more suitable to their black designs. We were deprived of our servant, who used to provide us with the necessaries of life, and were to trust to chance for the morrow, should it ever dawn upon our eyes, after the unparalleled treatment we had suffered. Guilt might possibly be touched by the stings of distrust and fear ; and to quiet these monitors, it was uncertain how much further our persecutors would plunge themselves into the abyss of wickedness. In the variety of this distress, life was still dear ; and, divested as it was of ease and enjoyment, we slept with arms in our hands, to preserve it from violence !

SATURDAY, 9th AUGUST.

The dawn relieved us from our apprehensions, but found us in all the agitations of suspense. We were chiefly distressed at the absence of Abdul Ruffar. We knew not what mischance might have befallen him, in his attempt to escape the death which was intended him ; and we were at a loss to furnish ourselves with provision for the day. There was a risk attended the going abroad of Ibrahim, after the adventure of yesterday ; and we had not much dependence on the charity of the family, who had already forfeited every pretension to humanity in our estimation. We had luckily a little coffee left, which we boiled, and made out a breakfast with the stale bread of yesterday. About an hour after

This, a servant of the house unexpectedly brought us up
 milk mixed with water, with a scanty allowance of bread.
 We understood that we were indebted to our host for this meagre
 but we neither saw him, his brother, nor any living crea-
 ture about at a distance, during the whole morning. Among these
 our kind friends in the opposite house, to whom only we
 appear to be of the least consequence. These compassionate
 neighbours had been alarmed at the tumult in our apartment on the
 preceding evening. I had observed them, at the time, frequently
 peep over their wall, to see what was going on, and seem-
 ingly anxious about the consequences. Nor had they exhausted
 their attention towards us. At the still hour of noon, when
 the streets are deserted by the people, they came to their terrace,
 and with sympathizing looks would have consoled our sufferings.
 Often did they wipe their eyes which were suffused with tears, and
 as often did they inquire, by the most significant signs, whether
 our lives had been endangered during the transactions of the past
 day. Notwithstanding our forlorn condition, we should have
 little deserved the name of men, if this behavior had failed to
 make a suitable impression upon our minds. Like the cordial
 which is administered to the dying patient, it served to revive our
 spirits, though we were sensible its effects were temporary and
 insufficient. Their generosity was equally extended to our
 wants. Naturally supposing that we were stinted in our nou-
 rishment in such an inhospitable house, these affectionate souls
 threw over loaves of bread and boiled eggs, tied up carefully in
 their vails, which came safely to us, and would have proved a
 plentiful supply, if something extraordinary had not disturbed
 them while taken up with this charitable act. We are appre-
 hensive that they were discovered assisting us by their keeper;
 and, as they did not appear to us again, that they are doomed to
 stricter confinement, for exerting an impulse of benevolence to
 their

men fellow-creatures in distress! No breast but a Mussulman's, could harbor a jealous thought on such an occasion, or ~~con-~~ found a principle of compassion with an amorous inclination towards persons in our situation.

About two o'clock the same servant whom we had seen before, brought us a wretched composition of eggs and oil, which, for my part, I found it was impossible to touch. I was content, therefore, to adapt my meal to our prison, and dined upon bread and water. At this moment we had notice given us, that the hakeem and his train were below stairs, and that he purposed to remove us in the evening from this hateful habitation. He presently came up to us, to confirm this agreeable intelligence, and received our cordial acknowledgments for his humane intentions. We had experienced many reverses of fortune since our arrival in this country, but none so sudden, so unlooked-for, as the present. From the circumstances which attended the hakeem's expulsion yesterday, we little expected to see him re-enter the house in triumph, and rescue us from the force which had so successfully opposed him before. But it seems that he comes armed with new powers from the shaik, to take us immediately under his own protection. It is not easy to unravel the politics of this state; but the decisive behavior of our host last night, is a presumptive evidence of his authority being about to draw to a conclusion. He has plundered us of all he could lay his hands upon, and he wisely absents himself at a period when he either cannot, or does not, think it worth his while to detain us. We found from the hakeem, that Abdul Ruffar is securely lodged in his house, tho' his legs and feet are violently contused by the fall. We are happy in his safety; but the damage which this faithful adherent has sustained in our cause, cannot but strongly affect us. The hakeem now bade us farewell until sun-set, when he promised to return with a camel and an escort, to convey us and our baggage to a dwelling

dwelling of his own. To prevent the family from giving us any further disturbance, he left a servant at the door of our apartment, whom he directed to keep watch during his absence.

There was no danger, however, of our being molested in the smallest degree. The house appeared to be abandoned by its inhabitants ; and this solitude luckily afforded the major an opportunity of recovering his costly sword, from the hole in which it had been deposited. This he once more sewed up in his bed, and we had packed up the remains of our baggage, long before the appointed hour of our removal. We waited with great patience until the day closed, and it was quite dark before any of us betrayed the least uneasiness at the hakeem's stay. But as the night waxed old, we relapsed into the dreadful state of uncertainty which we had so repeatedly known. We had not a doubt of the veracity of the hakeem ; but we began to suspect that our enemies had prevailed against him, either by secret intrigues or open violence. We were apprized of their animosity, and we had every thing to dread from their success. It was ten o'clock before this gloomy prospect was dissipated, by the arrival of the hakeem. He came attended by a party of soldiers, and a camel to transport our baggage. The villain Ally had now the assurance to shew himself, and to superintend the removal of our things. Before we went out, the hakeem obliged us to prime our fire-arms anew, and dropped certain expressions which seemed to Ibrahim to imply danger on the road. Had we been convinced of an ambuscade being laid for us, we should rather have preferred to encounter it, now we were patronized by the government, than to have remained in an house, which had been a scene of mortification and deceit to us. The die was cast, and we were to abide by its decision ; which we did, by marching after our camel and servants, who helped to carry the baggage, accompanied by the hakeem and his guard. Each of the servants took a lighted taper in his hand,

and, to heighten the scene, we were enjoined profound silence. In this manner did we traverse a number of streets, each of which we found secured by a gate; and after going above half a mile, arrived at the place of our destination about eleven o'clock, without having met with any interruption. We were introduced by the hakeem to our lodging, and after passing through a large court, were carried up stairs to a small, but airy, bed-room. Our baggage was also brought up, and deposited in a back-room, where the servants are to sleep. The friendly hakeem now took his leave of us, and fixing a centry at our door to protect us, left us to enjoy almost the only sound rest we had known since our departure from Cofire.

SUNDAY, 10th AUGUST.

Here are we, after all our difficulties and dangers, safely pounded within the precincts of an haram. Such, on our awaking this morning, did we find the house we were got into. It is an antique structure, much injured by time, and stands upon a spacious foundation, though the apartments are small, and huddled together after the mode of these eastern piles of lasciviousness. Around our chamber the floor is raised about two feet from the ground, which serves us to eat upon by day, and to sleep luxuriously upon by night. Hence we have a fine view of the river, from which we are but two or three streets distant. It is here scarcely less than a mile in breadth, and discovers itself through different openings in the gardens, with which this city is adorned. The wind from the north-west now prevails, and meets the current, which runs with the utmost rapidity towards the sea. This produces a fine effect. The town lines this side of the Nile, and the opposite bank is bordered by a mountain, which at one place breaks off abruptly, and discloses a large plain, covered with enclosures

closures of grain, and here and there embellished with groves of date and orange trees. While we were indulging ourselves with this prospect, we had a visit from the friendly hakeem, who seemed alarmed at our exposing ourselves to public view, and hastily shut our windows. He excused this check to our curiosity, from the necessity there was for us to remain in privacy until the arrival of his master, or of further orders from him respecting our concerns. We could not but acquiesce in this measure; and after bidding us to rely on the justice of the Shaik Ul Arab, he left us to partake of a meal of good bread and milk, which his domestics had provided for us. Our breakfast was scarcely over, when the hakeem sent for Ibrahim, to attend him at his own house. We expect this interview will determine something positive about our fate.

When we left Cofire, we laid our account that our troubles would end with our journey to the Nile. Who could have dreamt that after escaping the perils of the desert, we should be reduced to despair in a populous city! It were better that our baggage had been sunk to the bottom of the Red Sea, than that it should have afforded us a trifling part of the uneasiness we have suffered. Prisoners for ten days in a private house, where each moment was impoisoned by the uncertainty of our destiny, we were now, perhaps, in a more honorable confinement in the hands of government, which we shrewdly suspect asserts our cause, rather from a desire of recovering the plunder for itself, than of doing justice to us. But we are content if our departure can be purchased at so low a price.

We were anxious to see Abdul Ruffar, whose ankles we find are much more strained by his fall, than were at first reported. But he is not to be moved here until the evening, when we shall be able to administer such relief to him, as is in our power to do. At one o'clock Ibrahim returned to us, and we understand that the hakeem has got out of him all our losses, not excepting the

the other night's pillage, which he had at first determined to conceal. And with some reason, as the villains threatened our lives if we divulged it to any one. But Ibrahim says, there was no one present at the examination, but a Christian secretary, who took it down, and the hakeem privately assured him, that his master would give orders to seize the robbers, and make them restore their booty. God only knows the termination of this matter; but, for our parts, we would compromise to escape with our present damages. We now ate heartily of a plentiful meal, which Ibrahim had provided for us. Mutton, fish, and vegetables, are very cheap here, and no European could complain of their manner of dressing their food.

We saw nobody during the evening, but the servants belonging to the house. But we received a complimentary message from the hakeem, with notice of his master's approach, who is expected here immediately. These are welcome tidings to us, who have no idea of getting away, until the arrival of this great man. It is our plan to be rid of this place as soon as possible; and we propose to make a tender to the shaik of all he may recover on our accounts. Happy, if we have the luck to escape without further pillage.

In order that we might enjoy the benefit of a cool wind, and a moon-light evening, we went to bed very early, as we had been desired not to open our windows until the lights were extinguished. And now an adventure occurred, which was romantic to the last degree, and bore a resemblance to those feigned ones, portrayed by the inimitable pencil of Cervantes. I was awakened out of a sound nap about ten o'clock, by a loud knocking at the gate, which secures the upper end of the street we live in. I found my companions had been disturbed by the same noise, and were equally surprized with myself at the strangeness of it. Presently after the gate was opened, and a number of people assembled before

fore our house, whom we could discern by the light of the moon, disposing themselves in different situations on the ground, and conversing with great earnestness and vociferation. While we were pondering on the issue of this business, which had an alarming appearance at such an hour of the night, when we knew our residence was meant to be kept secret, and that our lives might be sought by the villains whom we had informed against, I went out on the back terrace to awake the guard, which was stationed to protect us, when suddenly a band of music struck up without, and recalled me to the scene of action. This band was composed of string, wind, and parchment instruments, and though the harmony was none of the best, it could not fail to have a singular effect upon our imaginations, haunted as they were with doubts and apprehensions. A single voice sometimes accompanied the music, which was in general of a melancholy strain. This serenade lasted until midnight, and when the moon went down, it was continued by torch-light. But the intent of it we are utterly at a loss to discover. Whether to celebrate a marriage, or a funeral, or whether it was performed by the hakeem's guard, to divert their master or ourselves. It was one o'clock before the night was restored to its usual quiet ; at which time I fell asleep, but had my repose disturbed by the extravagance of fancy, which brought a motley jumble to my mind, of music, harams, arms, captivity, and impassable wastes !

M O N D A Y, 11th AUGUST.

This day was the most barren of incidents of any that we have long experienced. Not a message, nor the least intelligence from the hakeem, in regard to our affairs. This has at least a good appearance. He means, perhaps, to wait the arrival of his master, instead of deceiving us with the hopes of his own interposition, and obtaining presents from us on that score, like the vizier

and the people into whose hands we at first fell. We learn from Ibrahim, that the rude concert last night was intended for the hakeem's entertainment, who is our neighbor, and who sate smoking and drinking coffee with his women the greatest part of the night. This is a favorite diversion with the Arabs and Turks, who keep themselves still during the heat of the day, and enjoy the cool hours of the night, and the serene light of the moon, with a relish unknown to the inhabitants of the inclement north. Those only who have partaken of this enchanting scene, under a sky still unclouded, can form an idea of its luxury ; where the very dews are genial, and the night-breeze carries a temperate coolness on its wing. And this season favors more the bringing of their women into view ; when silence and solitude prevail without, and afford them the selfish satisfaction of beholding beauty, without the intrusion of a rival, and tasting of its charms with the avarice of misers.

At four o'clock we had a visit from the hakeem, who only staid to enquire after our healths, and to reassure us of his protection. We had determined on making this man a present, to secure his further good offices, and finding that he was averse to taking any thing but money, we sent him twenty-one venetians by Ibrahim, with an apology for the smallness of the donation, which had been bounded by our poverty. To our great joy, our domestic, Abdul Ruffar, returned with Ibrahim from the hakeem's house. He was obliged to be moved in the arms of the servants, though we are pleased to find that his hurts do not portend any ill effects. One of his ankles is quite reduced, and the other promises fair to admit of his getting abroad in a few days.

TUES-

T U E S D A Y, 12th AUGUST.

The indisposition of Abdul Ruffar has already proved very inconvenient to us. Our silver is expended, and we are at a loss to exchange our gold for dollars, or to gain any intelligence of what is passing without doors, during this poor creature's confinement. He often cautions us against trusting any of his countrymen in matters of such importance; sensible as he is of their want of charity for Christians. As for Ibrahim, he is as much a prisoner as ourselves. The hakeem tells him, that he cannot answer for his safety, until the shaik returns, should he fall in the way of our old host and his gang. We are too well ascertained, from ocular proof, of the little order which subsists here in the absence of the chief, to doubt it. We learn that his return is anxiously expected by the whole city, and cannot be very distant, if we may trust to the information of Abdul Ruffar, who says, such is the temper of this people, and such the instability of this government, should the shaik remain for any length of time in another place, the inhabitants of Ghinnah would throw off all submission to his officers, and fall to cutting each other's throats. What a blessed land have we dropped into! What a race are we amongst! who are only to be ruled by the sword, and to be taught humanity at the expence of their blood!

We had scarcely breakfasted when the hakeem entered our apartment, accompanied by a man whom we had frequently seen at Cofire. He had been assiduous in his visits to us there, and had proffered us the use of his house during our stay at Ghinnah. This the shaik of Cofire prevented by his intrigues, and the man arrived here yesterday in the caravan. We find he is a merchant of this city, and though, agreeably to the mode of Arabian

Arabian travellers, he was wont to assume a poor habit at Co-fire, we now saw him in a creditable dress, and seemingly on an intimate footing with the hakeem. He lamented our misfortunes, which were the common topic of conversation, and reproached us for not having accepted of his offers of assistance. Though he must have been sensible that we did not merit this reproach, while our conduct was directed by another, and though we have cause to be on our guard against the professions of an Arabian, there is little doubt but we should have fared better under this man's protection, than in the vile hands we fell into. Our present situation is far from being disagreeable. The hakeem is civil and attentive to us, and at the same time does not pester us with his company, or solicit us for presents. From this conduct we draw more favorable omens, than from any incident since the change of our situation; and as he confirms the report of the shaik's approach, we endeavor to resign ourselves with patience, for the accomplishment of that desirable event. It may be, that our release will be at last owing to the interposition of Mr. Baldwin at Cairo. We have great expectations that our letters are both safely delivered to him. The reward of five dollars, which is to attend the receipt of each, is the strongest incentive that could be devised to secure the fidelity of the messengers. But fortune has been so much out of humor with us of late, that we cannot promise ourselves a return of her smiles, until they beam upon us.

Just as we had laid down to rest, there was a knocking at the outward gate, which we found to be made by the hakeem, who came to borrow one of our fuses. He was mounted on a fine horse, which I observed from the window, and was accompanied by a party of armed men on foot. He sent us word, that he was going about the town to preserve peace and good order;

order; which is a necessary practice in cities better regulated than Ghinnah.

WEDNESDAY, 13th AUGUST.

We are obliged to be early risers, in order to receive the company that wait upon us during the cool of the morning. We have generally finished our breakfast by seven o'clock, and at that hour to-day we were summoned by our servants to the back terrace, which commands a noble view of the river, to see a number of boats under sail. These we learnt were the Banute fleet, which arrived here two days after us; with the soldiers of which our host, the vizier, and others, had alarmed us, and forced us to pay down a sum of money, which was falsely charged to their account. They are going down to Firje, and being chiefly galleys, painted, and gilt, and adorned with streamers, they cut no contemptible appearance in falling down with the stream, to the amount of twenty boats. We descried armed troops on the poop of each galley, and heard the drums beating to arms on board. There is a mystery in the accounts of these Banute people, which we cannot unravel. Immediately after their departure, we had a visit from the hakeem, who threw open the windows of our apartments, and told us with a cheerful air, that we had now nothing to fear, as the Banute people, who are a set of thieves, and apt to plunder defenceless vessels on the river, were sailed for Firje. This description neither answers the stay which these people made here, nor the good condition of their boats, which is far from bespeaking them to be a needy race. We therefore enquired of the hakeem of the origin and government of Banute; and were told, that it formerly belonged to his master, the Shaik Ul Arab, but had lately been taken possession of by the Turks. This confirmed us in a vague re-

port we had heard, of Banute being really in the hands of Ibrahim Beg. It might consequently be, that the hakeem wished for his master's return, that justice might be done ere we proceeded to Cairo; and was willing to conceal us from the Turks, whom he artfully represented as robbers, to prevent our applying to them for a passage. So strongly had this prepossession taken hold of our minds, that some among us were not wanting to lament our ignorance of this circumstance, and to consider the departure of the Banute fleet, as a preclusion to the escape which we had so long meditated.

At five o'clock the hakeem paid us a second visit, in which he was accompanied by two considerable merchants of the town. They all produced letters from the shaik, which they told us respected our losses, and his coming to redress our wrongs. When the merchants took their leave, the hakeem asked us, whether we were inclined to take a walk with him to the river-side. This agreeable invitation my companions were obliged to decline, as the rascals who plundered our trunks, had not left them a Turkish gown: but I readily accepted of it, as I had a gown that luckily escaped their search. It is easy to conceive the joy I felt at being restored to the freedom of the air, after our perilous confinement; not to mention the good face which our affairs assumed by this step, as the people's intentions must appear to be honest, who exposed us to the eyes of the town. I accordingly arrayed myself in the best manner, and followed the hakeem, attended by my European servant and Ibrahim. As we walked towards the river, we were accompanied by a croud of people, who behaved themselves very respectfully; awed, perhaps, by the presence of the hakeem and his guard. We soon left the town, and ascended a dyke which is thrown round it, to prevent it suffering by the inundations of the Nile. I had the good fortune to be witness to the commencement of this periodical phenomenon,

menon, by mere chance. From the dyke we descended to the river, by a pier that extends itself to the natural strand, and measures some hundreds of yards in length. At the extremity of this pier we seated ourselves on carpets, which were spread for us on the ground, and I had full leisure to survey the objects around me, the novelty and beauty of which equally engaged my admiration. The Nile is originally of a tolerable breadth here, and at other seasons would not disappoint the traveller in his expectations of so celebrated a stream. But two days ago it began to assume a grander aspect. The kitchen-gardens which supply the town, and stand in the low grounds, are already overflown; and several channels are opened in the bank, through which the waters rush with great rapidity, and promise by to-morrow night to spread themselves to the dyke, which is at least a quarter of a mile distant. The same effects seem to have been produced on the opposite side; where I observed the country to be overflown even to the mountain's edge, and the rising lands to appear like islands in the waters. In mid-channel the stream runs with amazing force; carrying down rushes, bushes, and fragments of trees, which the floods have swept away with them from the heights, and will in a few days discharge into the Mediterranean. The sun was fallen behind the hills on the western banks, from whose burnished tops a dazzling radiance played upon the ruffled waters. The boats glided along their curling surface: the date-groves rung with the amorous cooings of a thousand doves, and the cattle lowed in the distant dale. The charms of this lovely evening are beyond my art to depicture, but they will be ever faithfully imprinted on my imagination. At dusk we returned homeward, and I could obtain but a very imperfect sight of Ghinnah from this point of view; as it stretches towards the river like the end of a Turkish slipper, and is screened by the dyke from the eye. We passed by a bridge on our way back, turned on a single arch over a creek where the boats

lie, and which appears to be a modern work of no elegant design *.

* It may not prove unpleasing to the reader, to compare the observations of other travellers on this place and its neighborhood. As we passed over the desert, between Cosire and Ghinnah, we can confirm the assertion of Captain Norden, that there are no remains of the antient canal mentioned by Herodotus and others, to have been dug for conveying goods from the Nile to the Red-sea. Ghinnah and its environs are still noted for manufacturing the best earthen-ware in Egypt; in the bottoms of which, the same peculiarity subsists as related by Dr. Pococke.

“ At two o’clock in the afternoon there came on a calm, which obliged us to land on the same side, a little below *Giene*, or *Kiene*, a town, which is not at present very considerable, but which has, however, a mosque. There was formerly in this place a great commerce; for they had made a road which led to *Cosfre*, a port of the Red-sea, and in three days they crossed the deserts of Thebais. But at present this route is not secure, on account of the robbers.

“ I had been told much of the antiquities of this place, which engaged me to go thither; but I found nothing there. The inhabitants themselves of the place could give me no account of them. In vain did I seek for the antient canal that was dug for conveying merchandizes to the Red-sea, and for bringing others from thence by this means. I did not perceive the least mark of it, neither in the town, nor in the adjacent places. It is in this town they celebrate every year the great festival, at which the Bey of Girge is commonly present; but not without having first obtained permission from the Arab princes or Schechs.

“ I perceived that all the neighboring places of *Giene* were covered with all sorts of plants, such as pompions, coloquintidas, and others, which were, for the most part, unknown to me. As I did not see any corn there, I imagined that they had cut it, and that the plants which I perceived, were the second product of the ground.

“ There were in the neighborhood of the town divers ponds, in which water was preserved after the inundation; but it was not good for drinking. It had a brackish taste, which it takes from the soil itself; and indeed the inhabitants do not use it for any other purpose than watering their grounds, and giving drink to their cattle.”

Norden’s Travels in Egypt, &c. vol. ii.

“ We now pursued our voyage with a fine wind, and passed by the canal that goes to the city of Coptos, which is at present remarkable for making the best earthen-ware in Egypt, it being very light and much esteemed; but they could never be prevailed on to make the vases with broad bottoms, that they might stand without danger of falling; so that the people are obliged to set them in wooden frames.” Pococke’s Travels, chap. vi.

I found myself rather fatigued from my walk, and was glad of the approach of our hour of repose, which, for want of candle-light, we are obliged to anticipate as soon as the day is closed. But we were awakened from our first sleep by the sounds of tinkling instruments, accompanied by a chorus of female voices. I looked out of the window, and saw a band of thirty damsels at least, come tripping towards us, with measured paces, and animated gestures. The moon shone very bright, and we had a full view of them, from their entering the gate of our street, until they reached our house. Here they stopped, and spreading themselves in a circle before the door, renewed the dance and song with infinite spirit, and recalled to our minds the picture which is so fully given of these dancing females in holy writ. After they had favored us a few minutes with their lively performance, they moved on to the hakeem's house, and serenading him with an air or two, this joyous band quitted our quarter, and went, as the dying sounds informed us, to awaken the other slumberers of the town, to melody and joy ! These are certainly the descendants of the women of Israel, whose beauty and skill gladdened the heart of the sapient king. The dancing girls of India are not to be spoken of at the same time : they are but an illegitimate race, were their excellencies to be compared with those of the nymphs of the Nile. Had these figures presented themselves to me in a vision, I should have concluded that they were the fair inhabitants of our mansion, who were come to demand the restitution of their late possessions !

THURSDAY, 14th AUGUST.

We were impatient to know the cause of the agreeable disturbance we met with last night, and learnt from one of our guard, that the dancing girls observe the ceremony we were witnesses

ness to, on the first visible rise of the Nile. It seems that they took our house in their way to the river, where they went down to bathe at that late hour, and to sing the praises of the benevolent Power, who yearly distributes his waters to supply the necessities of the native.

It is designed, to all appearance, that we shall meet with no friends in this inhospitable region, or immediately lose the protection of those who have displayed a ray of humanity for us. We were but this morning congratulating ourselves, on having fallen into the hands of a good man, who has not only rescued us from the house of a villain, but has even sheltered us under his own roof. He had yesterday admired a couple of carpets belonging to Mr. Hammond and me. We had sent them to him after breakfast, when he paid us a visit to thank us for our attention. He came escorted by a large train, little dreaming how shortly his glories would set, which now shone forth in meridian lustre. The change in his fortune was announced to us about five o'clock in the afternoon, when several strange servants came to our house. Their errand was to advise us of the approach of a new hakeem, who was sent by the shaik to displace our friend, and meant to take up his quarters for the night, in the back part of our habitation. While we were forming conjectures on this sudden event, several of the principal merchants of the town visited us, to confirm the news. They assured us, that the shaik had particularly charged this new officer with our affairs, and had dismissed the old hakeem from his employment, for having suffered European travellers to be plundered, and detained within his jurisdiction. In our own minds, we would readily have dispensed with this severity, to a man who had rendered us the most material services. Moreover, we could not but suspect, that the interest of the vizier, and others who had benefited by our arrival, had prevailed against the more honest character

character that had exerted itself in our behalf. This reflection wounded us deeply, as the truth of it might reduce us to our former desperate situation. Considering the bad treatment we had met with, it is not strange that we should be jealous of any innovation in the protection which had been lately extended to us ; and, in our experience of this tribe, that we should doubt of finding a second man of moderation among the officers of government.

About sun-set the new hakeem arrived, and sent us word that he was ready to receive us. This is the first visit we had paid to another. We found him seated upon a carpet on the back terrace, with a crowd of people about him. He is an elderly man, tall, thin, and of a mean appearance ; distant in his behavior, and seemingly full of his own consequence. This may possibly arise from the lowliness of his origin, which is that of an Abyssinian slave. His deportment was so different from that which distinguished his predecessor in office, that we could not but look upon him as an arrogant upstart, who promised to abuse the favour of his lord. He condescended, however, to tell us, with a smile, that his master had recommended us to his good offices, and had directed that the strictest justice should be rendered to us. While we staid, a number of persons came to pay their compliments to him, among which was Sauker, one of the rascals who had assisted the two brothers to pillage our baggage. By this effrontery he perhaps expects to escape suspicion ; and to intimidate us by his presence, from bringing a charge against him. We soon retired to our apartment, and found that the vizier, among others, made his court to this new magistrate. Nothing can be a more direct implication of the arbitrary government we are under, than the promotion of this Abyssinian to one of its first dignities. When Charles of Sweden, the most despotic monarch of his age, wrote to the senate of Stockholm, that he would send his jack-boot to preside over them ; ungrate-
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ful as the idea was, it surely was less humiliating, than if he had threatened to dispatch a Turkish slave from Bender for that purpose. And yet we were now witnesses to the universal homage that may be paid to such a character. The suddenness of his arrival, and the respect which he commands, no doubt bespeak, that he is charged with some important business; but we should be pleased to depart, without waiting the issue of his errand, though it prove to be the restitution of our losses. The shaik, it seems, is but a day's journey hence: but we fear we shall be necessitated to wait his arrival, which the critical situation of his affairs still renders uncertain.

We have not seen our old friend since his disgrace, but we sent Ibrahim to make him our acknowledgments and good wishes. He seemed much flattered with a mark of attention, so new to a person in his condition; and returned us assurances, that he will represent our story in its true colors to the shaik, for whose court he is to set off to-morrow or next day. This kind interposition may serve to advance our suit; and we understand that we shall then get rid of the company of our new guest, who goes into the house of his predecessor, on the latter's departure. His servants let off some paltry fire-works at night behind the house, for which they demanded a gratification. They were cunning enough to call that a compliment to us, which was more likely intended for their master; and we were glad to be released from their impertinence, at the expence of a few silver pieces, of the value of a penny apiece.

FRIDAY, 15th. August.

We do not find that we are likely to be as soon quit of our guest, as we at first expected. There is no talk of his moving
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this morning, and as it appears to depend upon the departure of his predecessor, we may have the pleasure of his company for some days longer. This is a sad restraint upon us, who are confined to the front of the house, which consists of two small apartments for ourselves, and one, more roomy, for our servants. Nor are we free from apprehensions, lest some discovery should be made to our disadvantage. The hakeem's servants are continually mingling with ours, and may draw inferences of our abounding with money from our manner of living, if not from the imprudence of our people, whose simplicity may betray us, notwithstanding the cautions we have given them on this head.

Just as we had dined, an order came from the hakeem to clear the room which our servants were in, for the reception of some travellers. This, at the time, was a very disagreeable command to us, though it may turn out as much to our benefit, as any thing which has occurred since our arrival here. The travellers prove to be a company of Turks, on their return to Cairo, from an excursion into this country. There is a man of consequence among them, who, on notice of our being here, immediately sent some of his attendants to enquire into our business in this quarter. It may be supposed that we were very particular in the narration of our troubles, and the ill usage we had met with. The politeness and humanity of these Turks were very striking to us, who had so long experienced *nothing* but rudeness and barbarity from the human race. They regretted the impossibility of having our company on the road, without the permission of the Shaik Ul Arab; and were hurt at the thoughts of leaving us among a people, whom they seemed to have no opinion of. But they promised to represent our case to the bey of Cairo, and to exert all their interest with him to demand our release from the shaik. They acknowledged, however, that the reasons for detaining us until the shaik's arrival, may be very good, as the river is at present so infested with pirates,

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that they are obliged themselves to go by land to Cairo. There is a Christian among them, who has charged himself with a third letter, which we have addressed to Mr. Baldwin from this city. He is a confidential domestic, and, by his influence, has prevailed upon the Turk his master, to write to the shaik in our behalf, to state our uncomfortable condition, and to advise him to dispatch us forthwith to Cairo, as we are content to leave the punishment of our oppressors to his discretion. Heaven knows what effect this kind mediation may have with the shaik; but we have long suspected that our release can only be accomplished from Cairo; and are stocking ourselves with a fund of patience to support us in the tedious interval. The journey by land, we are told, is from ten to twelve days, and the Turks propose to set off at day-break. Allowing, therefore, three days for obtaining an order from the bey in our favor, three weeks at least must elapse, before the return of the answer which is to set us at liberty. But Hope, the deceiver Hope! sometimes whispers better things in our ears; and as we are importunate in our desires to be sent away, we are inclined to expect the shaik will not detain us after his arrival at Ghinnah.

SATURDAY, 16th AUGUST.

The Turks have deferred their departure until night, which, on account of our reliance on their good offices at Cairo, and their delivery of our letter, has given us more vexation than the matter may deserve. The itch of avarice appears to have infected the mass of the people we are among, from the highest to the lowest. The new hakeem, though an Abassite, and a slave to the shaik, cannot resist the disease, and is already fingering, in idea, the gold and valuables which he conceives us to possess. He sent
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for Ibrahim at midnight, and questioned him closely touching our circumstances, and the presents we made to his predecessor : and, lastly, if we had any offering left for himself. Ibrahim, in conformity to his instructions, represented the poverty we were reduced to, and which utterly disabled us from tendering any thing worthy the hakeem's acceptance. He disclaimed all knowledge of our having given either money or goods to the *quondam* hakeem, though he found that this man had got an item of the removal of our carpets. It is a bitter comfort to us to observe, that the man who was sent down by the shaik to protect us, should be the first to attempt our property. The substance of this mercenary interview we received from Ibrahim, while we were at breakfast.

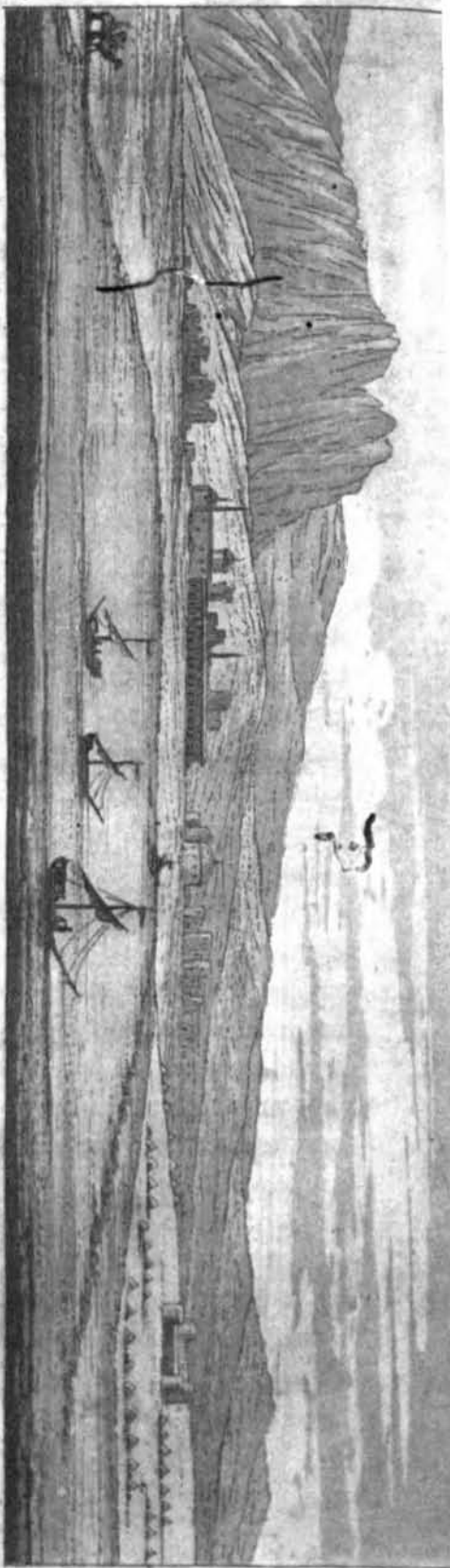
We had visits to-day from several of the Turkish gentlemen, who are in the suite of the grandee. They repeated their tenders of service on their arrival at Cairo. A very fine Georgian boy is in the train, whose beautiful features and fair complexion easily distinguish him from the Turks. He is a slave, and, we understand, is in high favor with his master.

As the hakeem had offered us the liberty of going abroad, whenever we pleased to apply to him for a servant to protect us, at five o'clock Mr. Hammond, who was now equipped with a cloak, accompanied by myself, Ibrahim, and the hakeem's servant, sallied forth. We directed our steps to the bazar, or market-place, and entered a caravansera, which attracted our curiosity. These buildings are receptacles for travellers, and are either erected at the public expence, or by the donations of private people. The one we saw was a very large structure. Its entrance was through a stone gateway, which led into a square court, surrounded by apartments of two stories. The ground-floor was open in front, and thrown upon arches, and divided into different rooms, by a balustrade of stone. The back part was closed, and appropri-

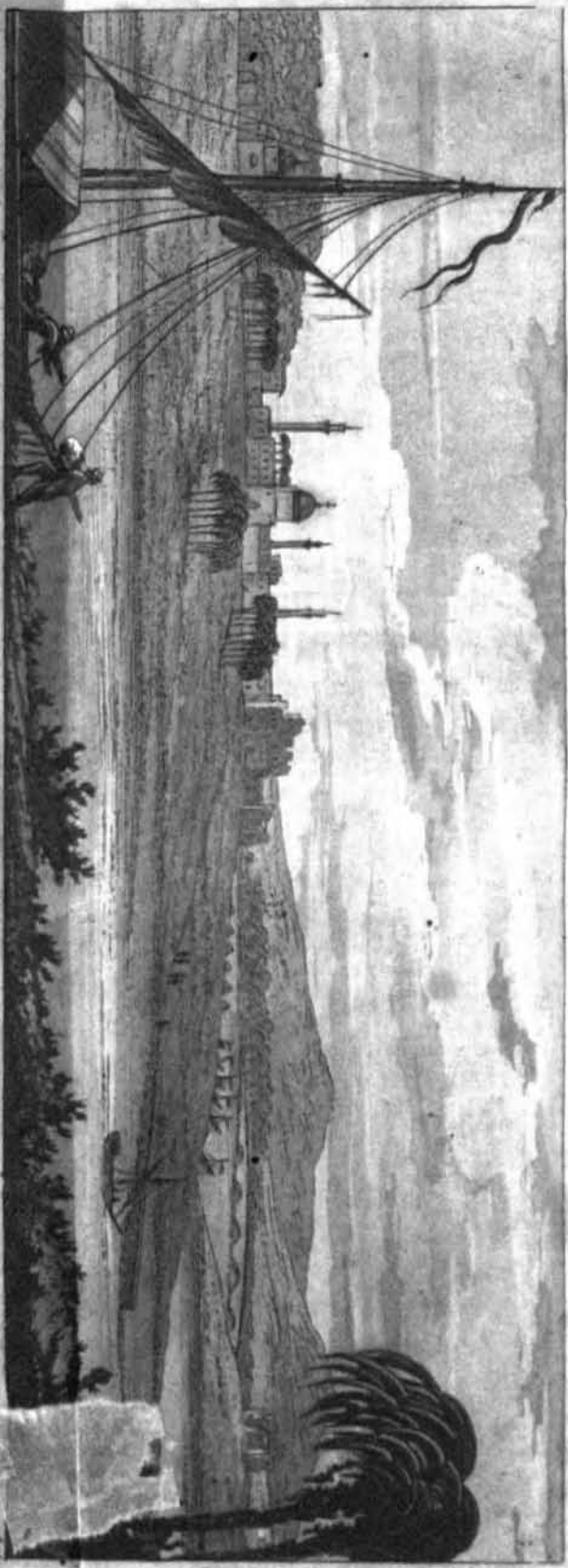
ated for warehouses for the merchant. Beneath one of these arches we found a Turk sitting, whom we had left at Yambo, and who had once put it into our heads to come by this inauspicious route to Cairo. We immediately recognized one another, and were very hearty in our congratulations on this unexpected meeting. He took us into his apartment, and placing coffee before us, very kindly condoled with us on our misfortunes, which had reached his ears. We find that he remains here, on account of the dangers on the river. After pressing this Turk to visit us frequently, we took our leave, and walked without any interruption to the river. Here we went on board a boat, which waits for a lading of coffee for the Cairo market. This boat is one of the most convenient I ever saw. She has two cabins, besides an awning of mats, that extends to her main-mast. The roof is high, and, with the sides, handsomely carved and painted. We were politely received by the nokidah, who said he hoped for our company to Cairo. We should rejoice much to be accommodated in this manner in our voyage down the Nile. It was from this boat that the view of Ghinnah, which is annexed, was taken. At sunset we returned home, and found our good friends the Turks were preparing to decamp. At nine o'clock they mounted their camels to the number of twenty, well armed, and went off with the benefit of a fine moon, which renders travelling at night very delightful in these serene climates. The chief of the Turks rode on a fine dun camel, and was followed on another by the sprightly Georgian, well accoutered with a scimitar and a matchlock.

SUNDAY, 17th AUGUST.

The hakeem has actually fixed his residence at our house, and means, we suppose, to take good care of us and our baggage. When the Turks went away, he took possession himself of their apartment.



A View of Cairo on the Coast of Upper Egypt in Lat. 26° 20' N



apartment, which was before occupied by our servants. We are now reduced to an uncomfortable situation, and cannot enjoy a moment's privacy, but during the hours of meals and repose. But we are determined to suffer no further inconvenience from the vicinity of the hakeem. We have accordingly directed our servants to take up their lodgings at night on the terrace which extends itself over our apartments, and which we often ascend in the evening, to obtain a view of the country.

We were surprized with an early visit from the Turk, whom we had encountered at the caravanfera yesterday, and were much pleased with this mark of his attention. He now gave us the particulars of some transactions at Yambo, which nearly concerned us, and which proved very satisfactory, in respect to the measures which we had taken with Lt. * * *. The reader will remember our separation in the Red-sea, and the melancholy circumstances which reduced us to the necessity of returning him to Yambo, on a boat bound to that port. On his arrival at Yambo, it appears, that his madness broke out with more violence than ever. Instead of waiting for the boat's coming to an anchor, he jumped overboard at the entrance of the harbor, and swam to the beach below the town; and would have made his way into the country, had he not been pursued by some of the mariners, who overtook him, and carried him before the vizier of Yambo. This was the second time he had been brought to this minister in this extraordinary manner, and within the compass of a few days. His misfortune had been more than suspected on the former occasion; but it was now communicated to the minister by the nokidah of the boat, who was charged with our message, to request that Lt. * * * might be sent on the first vessel to Judda. On his coming into the vizier's presence, he gravely demanded to be made a Mussulman, and to be entertained in the service of the xerif. This request luckily could not be complied with by the Mahometan law,

law, which does not admit of converts, who are deprived of the faculty to judge between right and wrong. Neither does it now establish its faith by the means of the sword. So different are the principles of the same sect, when the flame of blind zeal has abated of its ardor. It happens, however, that the unhappy victims of madness meet with an attention in this country, that is not paid to rational beings. They are considered as inspired, because hurried beyond the precincts of reason; and though they still serve as a butt of ridicule to the shafts of the vulgar, they are secured by their situation from the shadow of an injury. On this principle the vizier acted. From his own wardrobe he gave the turban and Arabian dress to our unfortunate companion, to humor his frenzy, and sent him safely to Judda, full of the idea of having become a follower of Mahomet. Poor youth! to what joy and satisfaction wilt thou hereafter awake, should it please God to restore thee to thy senses. What will thy sensations be, to consider the past as no more than a dream; to reflect on the dangerous abyss that thou hast escaped, by the interposition of the Divine hand? It must occur to every human mind, that the news of his safety was the most pleasing music to our ears. Driven by stern necessity to a separation with him, when his condition was truly deplorable, we could not but admire at the happy turn which matters had taken. We had acted for the best in sending Lt. * * * back to Judda; and could not but rejoice at the intelligence which now reached us, of his being gone thither under proper protection. Had he less fortunately remained with us; had he been exposed to a month's sun in an open boat; had he visited the coasts of Egypt; toiled with the caravan over the desert, and experienced the oppression we have met with at Ghinnah, it is impossible that his intellects could have withstood the complicated shock, and a confirmed madness, or perhaps death, would have ensued! Whereas every good consequence is to be expected from the step we

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took;

took; every assistance will be given him by the surgeon of the Swallow sloop, which was luckily at Judda; and we can promise ourselves that he was hospitably received by our friend Captain Bacon, and even accommodated with a passage to Bombay, should the Adventure be bound to that port*. We also learn from this Turk, that the nokidah of our boat was more to blame than the vizier of Yambo, that we did not attempt to get to Suez. He went to the vizier while we were at anchor at the mouth of the harbor, and told him that he could reach no port but Cosfite!

In the evening the major sallied out in an Arabian dress, which he made here, accompanied by Ibrahim and our usual guard. He returned with two Christian merchants, whom he had got acquainted with. They are persons of credit here, and very civilly invited us to repay their visit.

MONDAY, 18th AUGUST.

We were disturbed at midnight by a knocking at the door, which proved to be the hakeem and Ibrahim, whom he had called up to attend him. This was the first visit he had paid us, and was as disagreeable as unexpected. We at once guessed the purport of it. He is a plain man, and did not use much ceremony in introducing what he had so much at heart. But we were at a loss what to offer him, that could be acceptable. Money he pretended to decline taking, and we, with equal artifice, pretended that we had none. There were two sets of silver buttons, and two silver chains, which belonged to the regimentals and swords of the major, and which had escaped pillage. These we produced, as the only remains of our goods which were of value;

* The humane reader will rejoice with us, to know, that our designs respecting our unfortunate companion were fully answered. That he found Captain Bacon at Judda, and returned in the Adventure to Bombay, recovered of his frenzy.

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though we promised to acknowledge his services in a better manner from Cairo, should he procure an order from the shaik for our immediate departure. The weight of these toys attracted his notice, though he did not seem to admire their workmanship, which was none of the best. He however put them into his bosom, and desired to look at some of our cloaths. But so particular was this fellow, that he could not be prevailed upon to peep into our trunks; and so scrupulous, that he would not receive a single thing, until we put it into his hands. A pretty salvo truly, for his conscience, which grasped at all in our possession! Besides the silver articles, he carried away three broad-cloth coats of different colors, and two silk tambour waistcoats—for the purpose, we imagine, of covering his pipes, and the scabbards of his swords—and half a dozen cambric handkerchiefs for his own use. In consideration of this present, he has undertaken to write to his master, for permission to send us away by land, which is the only safe track at present. It is not without extreme compunction that we forego the ease and pleasure of a voyage down the Nile, to encounter the dangers and hardships of the desert. But we foresee no end to our detention here, while we depend upon the river for a conveyance; and readily acquiesced in the hakeem's proposal, who about one o'clock left us to finish our repose.

Before we were up we had a visit from the friendly Christians, who brought us a present of fine milk, and made us an hearty tender of their services during our stay here. There is an honest simplicity in these men, that affords us infinite satisfaction; and we suppose it was the apprehension of immediate danger to themselves, which withheld their good offices, when we stood so much more in need of them.

Behold the justice of divine Providence! which often punishes the iniquities of mankind, by their very accomplices in guilt. A
retribution

retribution the more dreadful, as the villain who breaks through every tie himself which links man to man, is not yet so hardened as to be proof to a breach of confidence in another. The blow which is given by the public executioner, is weak, when compared to that which comes from the hand of a friend. There is intelligence just arrived from Cofire, that the merchant Mahomet, who invited us to his house to plunder us, and who had returned in the last caravan to that place, is so desperately wounded, that his life is despaired of. The quarrel arose between him and some of his confederates, touching the division of our spoils. His brother Ally and his father were this day examined before the hakeem, on the subject of their ill usage of us. The result we have not learnt; but it cannot be very dangerous to them, as we find Ally has obtained leave to attend his dying brother.

In the afternoon the hakeem, and two merchants of the town in the confidence of the shaik, came to our apartment to take a list of the things we have lost. This they advise one of us to carry to the shaik, and to make him a formal tender of the whole. This errand would be readily adopted by us, had we any thing fit to present to him, agreeably to the Eastern custom. These people looked into our trunks for this purpose; but finding us bare of valuables, they gave us hopes of being dispatched without paying this great visit.

TUESDAY, 19th AUGUST.

Some further particulars relative to the misfortune of Mahomet, were communicated to us this morning. We learn, to our surprize, that the young shaik of Cofire, and the soldier who stole the major's sword, were the principals in the assault. They went in company with Mahomet to Cofire, and were constantly soliciting of him a proportion of the money which

he had obtained from us. This he had the imprudence to decline; and on their finding he was deaf to their arguments, they one day took an opportunity to seduce him from the caravan, and attacking him jointly, they cut him desperately with their swords. There is no doubt but he defended himself manfully; but his strength and resolution could not avail him against this cowardly proceeding. The assassins have escaped to Cosire, but the soldier's relations, who live here, have been seized by the order of the government. In case of Mahomet's death, however, we find a pecuniary mulct will preserve the murderers from the punishment due to their crimes.

This story affords a truer picture of the dispositions and manners of the Arabs, than volumes could portray on such a subject. We reflect with horror, on the connection which subsisted between us and the delinquents in question; and consider our escape from them, as altogether unexampled and miraculous. It is now plain that they could meditate the plunder of our baggage; and we might have fallen a sacrifice in the desert, with much less danger to them, than the deceased Mahomet, whose family will exact revenge.

We had another visit from our Turkish acquaintance at the caravanfera. From him we have obtained a very extraordinary and alarming piece of intelligence. Since our arrival here, we had received confused accounts of Ibrahim Beg's absence from Cairo; but we could never get to the bottom of the story. It now appears, that for this month past, Egypt has been the seat of a bloody and obstinate civil war. Ismaul Beg took on him to assume the government of Cairo, by the connivance of the Porte; but the late Bey Ibrahim disputed the usurpation, and appeared in arms to maintain his own title. The matter was contested in a desperate battle without the walls of Cairo, and ended in the defeat of Ibrahim Beg, who retired up the Nile, and is
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now in a province not three days march from this place. Instead of pirates infesting the river, we understand, that the danger arises from the soldiers of Ibrahim Beg, who are raising contributions upon it. The Turk tells us, that the gallies which fell down hence some days ago, were commanded by Mustapha Beg, who is in the interest of the deposed Ibrahim, and is gone to join him. But it is not possible, that the fugitive chiefs can long withstand their successful opponent; whose army is already strengthened by a large detachment of the Grand Signior's forces. We understand too, that the Shaik Ul Arab has acknowledged Ismaul Beg, which accounts for the bad character that was given us here of the Banute people, who are of the other party. It also strikes us forcibly, that the letters which we produced for Ibrahim Beg, were one cause of the ill treatment we experienced from the vizier and his associates. The shaik was out of reach of our complaints, and Ibrahim Beg, our only friend beside, not in a situation to redress them. We had a contrary idea when we boasted of these letters; and must acknowledge the uncertainty of human conjecture, which errs in matters apparently the most obvious.

This sudden revolution creates no surprize in a country unsettled in its government, and divided by the jarring interests of a number of petty princes. But to us it is a matter of serious reflection. We hear, indeed, that the European factories are undisturbed at Cairo. But how far the influence of Mr. Baldwin will prevail with the new bey, or how we shall reach the capital, through the disorders of a country, agitated by opposing factions, and laid waste by the sword of rebellion, we are at a loss to determine. Danger besets us on every side. Public commotions are united to private persecutions, to compleat our distress; and the most alarming circumstance of our affairs seems to be, that we are at the mercy of two simple though honest Mussulmen,

our domestics. They have hitherto preserved their fidelity to us ; but such is the frailty of human nature, that a long residence here may have a bad effect on their morals ; exposed as they are to the artifices, and obliged as they are to mingle in the society of this fraudulent tribe.

W E D N E S D A Y, 20th AUGUST.

We had an early visit from the hakeem this morning, who brought us a plate of raisins of the sun, which are produced in Lower Egypt. He came, seemingly full of the scheme of one of us going to the shaik, and proposed sending a boat up to-day on this service. We readily fell into this measure, which, notwithstanding the objections that were made to it yesterday, I have long considered as absolutely necessary to our immediate release. Little can be done with the ministers of Eastern princes, whose hands are tied by the awe which they stand in of their masters, or whose minds are so habituated to the receipt of presents, that nothing short of the whole substance of the petitioner, can satisfy their avarice. I made a tender of my services on this occasion ; not more from a principle of curiosity, than a desire of hastening our departure ; and was happy to find that they were accepted of by my companions.

In the afternoon we had a visit from the *quondam* hakeem, whose advice we have constantly solicited since his disgrace. As he can now have no selfish interest in our concerns, we are inclined to place more confidence in him, than when we were at his discretion. He has business with the shaik, and has kindly promised to accompany me on this embassy. He is well acquainted with our story, and if he is as much our friend as we take him to be, he may quicken the dispatch of our business, by a candid representation of facts. He tells us, that the place of

the shaik's present residence, called Ghose, is but seven or eight hours journey by water, and that we shall be absent but two days from hence.

The day passed away without another message from the hakeem, or any preparation for my journey.

THURSDAY, 21st AUGUST.

There is no end to the prevarication of these people. The more earnest we are to go in person to the shaik, the less willing they are to admit of it; and it is likely, after all, that we shall be just where we were before the new hakeem arrived. He told Ibrahim this morning, that he was looking out for a boat to convey me to the shaik, but it was uncertain when he should procure one. This excuse, from a man who can certainly command every boat belonging to Ghinnah, is next to waving the visit altogether.

A funeral procession passed our house about noon, which was very solemn and numerous. The corpse was preceded by troops of women, who went veiled, and at certain intervals, uttered a choral cry, which was accompanied by expressive action. The coffin was borne by some of the friends of the deceased, and several little flags of different colors were carried around it. A body of priests closed the procession, who recited aloud passages from the Alcoran, as they walked along. Mussulmen never neglect to shew their sense of these sights; and perhaps it would prove of no detriment to Christians, to imbibe some of their customs on these occasions. There was an Arabian merchant on a visit to us, when the funeral went by; and though in company with strangers, he was not ashamed to run to the window, and to join audibly in the devotions of the train. It is true, that the observance of these forms, makes not the Arabs better members
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of society ; that it neither checks their propensity to fraud, nor instils one benevolent idea into their breasts, towards the votaries of a different persuasion. But still it throws a decency into their discourse, a sobriety into their manners, which is very persuasive. They possess, what may be called, the graces of religion, which would better adorn a good Christian, whose temper is charitable, and whose heart unknowing of deceit !

Just as we sat down to dinner, the hakeem sent for Ibrahim, and told him, that he expected an answer from the shaik to-day or to-morrow, which, perhaps, would save me the trouble of waiting on him. This is what we dreaded ; but I fear, there is no rebelling against this man's will ; and we must endeavor some way or other to fix him in our interest. In the evening Mr. Hammond and I went to the caravansera, to pay our compliments to our Turkish acquaintance. He received us with his usual civility. The chance of proceeding to Cairo by the Nile, seems to be much against us, on account of the disturbances. We should, therefore, be very happy in the Turk's company in our journey by land, as his knowledge of the language and customs of the country, would be a great defence to us against the inconveniences of the road. His circumstances, however, will by no means afford the expence of five camels, which the coffee he has would require ; and he is content to wait the issue of the disputes upon the river. We could not converse on so delicate a subject in a public place, and have therefore desired the favor of his company in the morning, when we shall propose to pay for his camel-hire, should he consent to make one of our party. This is to be kept a profound secret. Though fifty dollars can be no object to us, when compared to the services we are likely to reap from his presence, we must, at all events, conceal a circumstance from the hakeem, which would sufficiently denote the strength of our resources.

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As we were going to bed, we had a visit from the hakeem, who is very mysterious in his hours of communicating with us. To our great joy, he did not touch on the usual string of presents ; but came, as he said, to satisfy our minds of his intentions to send us under a safe conduct to Cairo, when he received the shaik's sanction for such a step.

FRIDAY, 22d AUGUST.

The hakeem sent for Ibrahim at day-break, and founded him respecting the valuables in our possession, which might be worth his acceptance. We have already promised to send him a remnant of broad-cloth, and some India goods, on our arrival at Cairo, by the return of the guard which he is to give us for our protection. But the native disposition of these people renders them suspicious of the professions of others. He, who does not hold himself bound by a promise, will not give another credit for the performance of one, which may be broken with impunity. The hakeem, therefore, wants to absolve us of this distant obligation, provided we come down immediately with something of equal value. Generous man ! how he consults the interests of persons immediately under his protection ! What humane endeavours he daily exerts to render justice to distressed strangers, whom he came here professedly to console and to relieve ! Two of the gang who were leagued against us, have been twice brought before him. The vizier has been as often summoned to his tribunal. Examinations have been taken of the facts ; but as the accusers and the culprits have never been brought together, nothing is likely to ensue from this extraordinary mode of trial, that can tend to the recovery of our property, or the punishment of the offenders. Smaller crimes, however, are corrected with severity, when they are offered to Mussulmen ;

an instance of which occurred to-day before our door. A Christian and an Arabian were convicted before the hakeem, of stealing a small quantity of silver plate from a caravan^{serai}. This act of delinquency was punished by a severe bastinado on the soles of the feet, which we understand is the general method of correction.

This being the Mahometan sabbath, the hakeem went in great state to the mosque. But the furniture of his horse was not of a piece with the display he meant to make. It was very antique, and considerably the worse for wear. Neither did his beast do much credit to his keeping. The horses in Upper Egypt seem to labour in common under this neglect. They are very sprightly animals, though of a small size; and yet they cut no figure, where corn and sugar-canes are in great plenty; which must be attributed either to the unskilfulness of the groom, or the penury of the owner. Indeed, provisions of all kinds are so cheap in this country, that the natives live well, for little or nothing. We, who necessarily pay for things at double rates, provide for a family of ten or twelve people, at the moderate expence of one dollar and a half, or seven shillings *per diem*. In this are included fruits of various kinds, of which we eat so heartily, that they often constitute a quarter part of the cost. Bread is at least thrice as cheap as in England, and fine mutton sells usually at two pence *per* pound. But what avails the plenty that reigns here, when freedom has fled the land, and taken up her abode in northern climes? Insecure in the enjoyment of their property, which is the sport of every intestine commotion, the natives rather draw out a life of uncertain tenure, than exist with the spirit of human creatures.

A servant belonging to our house brought me a piece of copper money, which I immediately knew to be Roman. On my giving him a silver dewanny for it, value a halfpenny, he produced

produced three others, all Roman coins, and found, as he tells me, among some ruins here. To spur his activity in procuring me more, I gave him two dewannies apiece for the rest, with which he seemed much delighted. I can only regret the critical situation we are in, which prevents our beating up an ample field, that undoubtedly abounds in every species of antique rubbish.

S A T U R D A Y, 23^d AUGUST.

The *quondam* hakeem sent for Ibrahim early this morning, and proposed my accompanying him to the shaik this evening. We very readily closed with this scheme, and sent our compliments to the hakeem, desiring his permission to go. This was a request which he could not flatly refuse; but Ibrahim says he appeared much chagrined that we would not trust to the letter he had sent, and to which he daily expected a favorable answer. We are so tired out with evasions, that any state seems preferable to that we are in; and I have accordingly prepared myself to embark with the *quondam* hakeem and Ibrahim for the shaik's court at sun-set.

While we were at breakfast, we had a visit from the Turk, who was accompanied by a friend that is likewise going to Cairo. He opened to us a design which we much approved of, and doubt not to bring it to bear, in case of the shaik's permission. He tells us there is a boat ready to sail for Cairo, on which we may embark at my return, provided we are willing to give their passage to some camel-drivers, who are waiting for a conveyance to Cairo. He is acquainted with a company of these people, who want to transport their coffee thither. They will save us the expence of a guard, as every man carries a matchlock, and, in defence of his property, will form the best protection we can desire for our boat. We esteem ourselves very lucky in having found an adviser, whose

interest will prompt him to be sincere, and whose journey depends upon our success.

I had a message about eleven o'clock, to prepare for my voyage immediately after dinner. This meal is served up at noon in this country, and we were in the height of it, when Ibrahim was sent for by the hakeem. We did not like this summons, and were the less surprized, when we learnt that the hakeem dissuaded us from going to the shaik. This he did, under the pretence of the trouble it would give me, and the little consequence a visit would be of, unfurnished as we were, with a present to smooth the introduction of our suit. To this we replied, that nothing could be accounted a trouble which would effect our departure; and in respect to the want of a present, the gentleman who went, proposed to lay the paper, which contained our losses here, at the shaik's feet; and to request him to recover the whole for his own use. And that this could not be considered as a trifling gift, which amounted at least to 1,200 dollars. But he was deaf to these arguments; and at length told us he would write again by his predecessor in office, urging an order for our safe conduct to Cairo. But that he could not admit of my visiting the shaik, and falling into a thousand difficulties, from an inability to satisfy the demands of the shaik's secretaries and domestics. There was some shew of reason in this remonstrance. We were well acquainted with their craving disposition; and though we had money enough to have scattered among them, our situation is so precarious, that we dare not pretend to it. The fact is, we are in his power, and cannot act contrary to his inclination. We therefore submitted with a good grace, and sent Ibrahim to the *quondam* hakeem, to remind him of our story, and to bespeak his influence with the shaik in our behalf. Ibrahim attended him to the boat, and brought us back assurances of his utmost services, which the poor man delivered with tears in his eyes. This is too uncommon an expression

expression of sincerity among the Arabs, to make us suspicious of its not coming from the heart*.

We walked to the caravansera in the evening, to acquaint the Turk of our disappointment, and to tender him camels for the conveyance of his coffee, should the shaik think it safer for us to go by land. He received the offer with gratitude; but still gives us hopes of hearing better news concerning the troubles on the river.

SUNDAY, 24th AUGUST.

The Turk came to us this morning, with a face full of something important. After the first cup of coffee, he delivered himself of his burthen, which was at all events to dissuade us from going by land. He told us, that he proposed setting off in a few days for Jirje, to wait till the river was clear, and pressed us much to accompany him. We were rather startled at this proposition, after what had passed between us the night before; and, willing to know his sentiments fully on the matter, we repeated our intention to proceed by land, in case the passage by the Nile should remain still perilous. Now it was that we learnt the desperate situation we were reduced to. The dangers which encompassed us appeared in their proper colors, and required not the touches of art to give them a formidable appearance. Armies of contending parties obstructed our progress by water; and a band of robbers threatened to pursue our footsteps by land. In short, we discovered that this Turk was tender of the characters of Mussulmen, until he began to suspect we should suffer by their treachery. He therefore informed us in confidence, that we should be mad-

* Thus were all my hopes of viewing the antiquities of Luxor and Thebes, dashed in a moment, by the caprice of a slave, who is become our master, and detains me from accompanying this Arab to the shaik, who is in that neighborhood.

men to trust ourselves over the deserts of Thebais, when our departure could not be kept a secret. That, allowing the hakeem to be sincere, and that he dispatched us agreeably to the shaik's order, there would not be wanting rogues in this town, who, confident of our carrying away money and jewels with us, would secretly collect thirty or forty light camels, and although we had got two days start of them, might easily overtake, plunder, and murder our whole body. To illustrate this observation, he related to us a story of a Turkish gentleman of his acquaintance, who was treated in this manner about two years ago, in a journey from Cosire to Ghinnah. A report universally prevailed, as in our case, that he was possessed of great wealth, and he was followed by a select band into the desert, and surprized while he was taking some refreshment beneath a thorn-tree. His party was too weak to resist the robbers; and the Turk was shot through the head at the first onset. This anecdote naturally led him to reflect on our late situation, which had been so similar to the unfortunate traveller's, and to congratulate us on the issue, which had been so different. He was ascertained that the same fate had been intended us, from which we had escaped by a signal intervention of Providence. On the other hand, our friend pointed out the probability of our shunning the dangers of the river, by the taking refuge in any town we might be near, on an alarm of enemies; not to add the chance of steering clear of them by night, and our ability, in a stout boat, to make a manful resistance against an hostile attack. We were quickly convinced of the propriety of this advice; and it is resolved that we wait for the shaik's answer respecting our departure. Should it so happen that he direct our being sent by land, we are to inform the hakeem that we are content to run all risks by water, rather than encounter the fatigues of another camel-journey: And, moreover, that our purses will not afford the expence of it. In the mean time, the Turk is to secure

cure a boat, and to hold it in readiness for us. This is a plan which has been reared on the most plausible foundation, but, like the rest of our airy schemes, may be demolished by the changes of the morrow.

I know not whether I should lament or rejoice at my not being possessed of the true spirit of *virtù*, which, overlooking all obstacles and perils, leads the possessor to hazard every thing for the acquisition of an antique medal or seal. Were I one of the number whom Pope says, “ Sighs for an Otho, and neglects his bride,” I might indeed add to the list of the curiosities which I have picked up, but at the same time endanger our very liberties, by a shew of enquiry into the smallest matters. To procure these reliques, money must be produced, the mere rumour of which might awaken the avarice of the people, at whose disposal we lie. These reflections were suggested by a present, which I received this evening from one of the Christians, of seals taken up both here and at antient Thebes. The impressions, it must be confessed, discover no great elegance in the engraving. But their antiquity is not to be doubted, from the remoteness of the quarter in which they were found.

MONDAY, 25th AUGUST.

News is at length arrived of the death of the merchant Mahomet at Cofire. The persons who communicated it to us, had the confidence to warn us of going abroad immediately, lest the relations of the deceased should revenge themselves upon us, whose money they consider to have been the cause of his murder. A pretty inference, truly! worthy of the subtle intellects of this diabolical tribe! But whether the danger exists or not, we intend to make a plea of it to the hakeem, to hasten our departure, as we do of the murder itself, to excuse our going by land. Indeed, when

when we are ascertained of the villainy of the Arabs, who are lawless enough to take away a Mussulman's life in the middle of a caravan, what security can be given to Christians, for their safety with a small body? Our Turk paid us a morning visit amid these determinations, and again confirmed us in them. He proposes our getting away to Jirje as soon as possible, and remaining there, until an opportunity offers to convey ourselves to Cairo. He describes Jirje to be a large and well-regulated city; where we may keep ourselves private in a caravanfera, and be two days nearer the capital, to obtain intelligence. We are too tired of the oppression and deceit of the people of Ghinnah, not to wish earnestly for a change of the scene; which, at any rate, cannot prove less agreeable and eligible to us.

The fall of villainy occasions as great lamentations in this town, as would the demise of integrity in an honest land. The tragedy which was lately acted near Cosire, gave birth to a mournful procession of females, which passed through the different streets of Ghinnah this morning, and uttered dismal cries for the death of Mahomet. In the center was a female of his family, who carried a naked sword in her hand, to intimate the weapon by which the deceased fell. At sundry places the procession stopped, and danced around the sword, to the music of timbrels and tabors. They paused a long time before our house, and some of the women made threatening signs to one of our servants; which agree with the caution we received to keep within doors. It would be dangerous enough to face this frantic company; whose constant clamor and extravagant gestures give them all the appearance of the female Bacchanals of Thrace, recorded of old.

As our Turk came up stairs this evening, he was stopped by some of the hakeem's servants, and we were obliged to send Ibrahim to obtain him admittance. The little man was much nettled at this usage, nor could we account for it. The bustle
below

below stairs had occasioned an enquiry into the cause, and Ibrahim was summoned by the great man, to explain it. The Turk insisted upon accompanying him, and returned to us very well satisfied. He told the hakeem that he was an acquaintance of long standing; was known to our consul at Cairo, and purposed to attend us to that city. We are very well pleased that this matter is broken to the hakeem; who politely apologized for the affront, which had been offered to a friend of ours, through the ignorance of his servants.

The meanness of this Abassée is shocking to a liberal mind, which must be reduced indeed to accept of the trifles which he greedily solicits. He suspects us to be bare of money, and is willing to ease us of our remaining cloaths. He even takes apparel which can be turned to no use; and the very sheets from our beds have not escaped his rapacious hands. Daily are the inroads which he makes into our baggage; and we are content to have it reduced to a small compass. Among all the bad qualities this fellow possesses, pride cannot be included in the number.

TUESDAY, 26th AUGUST.

The times of Yambo seem to be once more revived, and our patience fated to be put to the severest proof. Three days are elapsed since the last letter went to the shaik, and no answer is yet arrived. It is a mystery to all, that no notice has been taken of the various accounts, which have been transmitted to the shaik, relative to us. He doubtless knows of our detention; but we greatly apprehend, that he is still a stranger to the principal circumstances of our story. Were it not for the confidence we repose in the former hakeem, we should not expect any orders in our favor, until the shaik's return, which every one says is near

at hand. This morning we saw his nephew pass towards the river, where he embarks in a boat to meet the shaik. Four or five hours of a fair wind, will carry him to the place to which his uncle has lately moved.

We had a long visit from the hakeem this forenoon. He tells us that advices came yesterday from Cairo, which afford hopes that a strong force will soon be sent up the river, to clear it of Ibrahim Beg's parties. A large detachment of Ismaul Beg's army has secured an important post about fifty miles below Jijee; so that the communication is open from thence to Cairo; and Mustapha Beg's gallies are thereby detained at Jirje. A very short interval may occasion a revolution in matters; and the rebels who obstruct our progress, may be driven back to the upper parts of the Nile. We also find that Ismaul Beg, by these advices, has invested the Shaik Ul Arab with the sovereignty of four more provinces of Upper Egypt. A refined stroke of policy in the Bey, to confirm him in the interest of the government; and to oblige him to defend these very provinces against the fugitive chiefs, who might acquire a supply of men and money from the conquest of them.

In the course of our conversation with the hakeem, we discovered his predilection to our going by land. On our pointing out the obstacles which might deter us from such an undertaking, he endeavoured to obviate them, by the strongest assurances of his care and protection. He went so far as to declare, that on our setting out for Cairo, he would seize upon Ally and the fellows who had robbed us, and detain them in custody until our safety was known. That he would also affix chops or seals, upon the warehouse-doors of the camel-drivers, until they returned with the intelligence of our arrival at Cairo. These promises are encouraging enough, and might induce us to venture at last upon camels, if an example were made of the rogues who plundered us,

to deter others from attempting the like. The camel-drivers who went with the company of Turks to Cairo, are expected back in four or five days. They will, perhaps, bring us an answer from Mr. Baldwin, and we have the good fortune to be furnished, by his means, with a recommendation to the shaik from Ifinaul Beg. But there is little chance of our being obliged to determine on this point, during the absence of the shaik. The government is likely to reap no little advantage from our coming here. The murder of Mahomet has given it a pretence, to secure the property of the camel-drivers belonging to that caravan. We saw a secretary pass by with a party of soldiers this afternoon, and were told, that he had been affixing chops to the different warehouses of their caravanera, which contained coffee to a considerable amount. This would partly go towards satisfying the family of the deceased, but the most considerable portion be confiscated to government.

I went up to the top of our house in the evening, to observe the progress of the inundations of the Nile. The freshes now are at the greatest height ; and there appeared a prodigious alteration in the scene since my last view of it. The waters are spread to the very extremities of the town. The stream is greatly agitated and discolored, and runs down with the force of an headlong torrent.

W E D N E S D A Y, 27th AUGUST.

I was awakened before day-break by the same troop of women, which passed our house the other day in honor to the memory of Mahomet. Their dismal cries suited well with the lonely hour of the night : and I understand that this relic of the Grecian custom lasts for the space of seven days ; during which interval the female relations of the deceased make a tour through the town, morning

and night, beating their breasts, throwing ashes on their heads, and displaying every artificial token of sorrow.

The general rumor of the town is, that the shaik will be here to-morrow. Some of his domestics are arrived, which in a manner confirms it. It is time for us to be relieved from the restraint we are under, as every hour seems with the danger of discoveries. From the frequent inspection of our baggage, we still hold it expedient to carry our money and valuables about us. Besides the irksomeness of such a charge, accidental occurrences have often brought us to the brink of betraying it : and more than once, to my great confusion, has the hakeem himself sat down so close to the place where my watch has been concealed, that he must infallibly have heard it going, had we not strained all our invention to engage his attention. God grant that the shaik was once come among us ! when the worst which can happen will be, that we shall know the utmost malice of our fate.

We took a walk this evening along the banks of the Nile, to see the revolution of things in that quarter. The deluge extends itself daily on every side ; and we remarked many places where the river has formerly made inroads into the town itself. A face of business diffuses itself around the country. The husbandmen have prepared their grounds for the reception of the manure, which the floods will leave upon them. Nature assists them in a point, the most laborious and expensive to the farmer in other * countries ; and to this account, the cheapness of grain may be imputed in Upper Egypt, more than to the quantity which the land produces, which is only cultivated on the banks of the Nile. When the waters retire, the seed is immediately sown, and a

* The author must except the kingdom of Bengal, which is watered by that noble river the Ganges ; whose operations and effects bear an intimate resemblance to those of the Nile.

crop is reaped within the short space of four months. The most astonishing instance of the quickness of vegetation that the world can afford. As we had encountered some intelligent fellows on the road, I enquired into some of the natural curiosities, which have so long distinguished this region. I learn that the ostrich is too common, to be much regarded by the natives. That the crocodile is a most formidable tenant of the Nile, and held in great dread by the fishermen; one of whom told us, that he was present at the death of a crocodile a short time ago, in whose belly were found the gold rings and ornaments of a dancing-girl, who was devoured by the monster, as she was bathing in the river. The hippopotamus, or river-horse, is likewise yet, though rarely, met with, between this place and Jirje. I have an exact resemblance of him in an antique seal which came from the ruins of Thebes; but I must add, that he is often found to be twelve feet and upwards in length. His skin is so hard as to resist a musket-ball; and he is so cunning, as seldom or never to be seen ashore, by day-light. Among the various reasons that induce my preferring to travel by water, the desire of beholding this rare production of nature, is not the least cogent: and I cannot but anticipate the gratifications which are in store for us, whenever I meditate on a voyage down the Nile, disturbed as it is by the commotions of war.

THURSDAY, 28th August.

The morning was ushered in by the arrival of a great man, who came immediately to our house, accompanied by the ha-keem, who went to the river-side to receive him. He is a Turk, and was lately governor of Ghose, a town some hours distant up the Nile, from whence he was removed on the revolution at Cairo. He is going by land to that city, and on hearing of our

situation, very politely sent a message to request the favor of our company. A better opportunity could not have offered itself for our proceeding by this route; and we must undoubtedly avail ourselves of it, if no good intelligence reach us touching the passage by water, before the shaik's return, which this Turk assures us will be to-morrow evening, or the next morning at furthest. It will be with the utmost regret, that we forego the verdant prospects, the romantic scenes, which the banks of the Nile abound with, to traverse stony vallies and a dreary waste. We cannot with any degree of patience, compare the ease and convenience of a boat, to the labor, fatigue, and heat we shall experience, in journeying upon camels. But so hearty is our aversion to the people we are among, so wearied out are we with the delays we have met with, that we are ready to encounter the horrors of the desert, provided we encounter them under a safe conduct, rather than remain here a week longer, to wait the issue of the disputes upon the river.—But our resolutions are the sport of fortune, and catch their hue from the aspect of the day. It is with some concern, that we shall separate ourselves from our little Turkish acquaintance, whose good-humour and attention have greatly preferred him in our esteem. But it would be folly to reject the protection of this great man, who travels with a strong guard, for the uncertain and dangerous prospect of getting down by water.

We were warmly solicited by the hakeem to-day, for various articles, which he had overlooked before. This is a strong intimation that his master is at hand, to deliver us at least from his importunities.

FRIDAY,

FRIDAY, 29th AUGUST.

A woman came to our door to-day, who used to ask charity of us at Cofire. She is just arrived with the caravan, and brings some shocking accounts touching the death of Mahomet. It appears, that he was left in the desert by the villains who assaulted him, and remained there three days without any assistance whatever, when he was accidentally taken up by a party of a few camels, and carried to Cofire. There he lingered three days more, ere death relieved him from the pains he endured. The tortures which were reserved for this poor wretch, from the rankling of his many wounds, are really affecting to humanity; but the horrors which must have haunted his conscience in this dreadful interval, are too formidable to conceive. The deceit which he had practised towards strangers, the breach of hospitality beneath his own roof, and the perjuries that he had committed in the presence of a just God, must in those moments have recurred with double force to his imagination, and struck him with a full conviction of his guilt. Even the Arabs themselves, who are seldom restrained from evil from the contemplation of a future state, acknowledge the interposition of the divine hand in the fate of this man. Unhappy victim of prejudice and passion! may thy sins have been expiated by the anguish of thy exit! And may the eternal pardon which is promised to repentance, meet thee as fully, as what I bestow upon thy offence!

Our hopes of going in company with the Turkish officer, are cut off as soon as formed. He purposes setting out this night, and we are immoveably fixed here, until the presence of the shah breaks the spell. We cannot but secretly reproach the hakeem for this disappointment. Had he permitted of my embassy to the shah, there is little doubt but we should have obtained

tained permission to accompany this Turk to Cairo. But we have not been wanting to effect the utmost. We have written a fourth letter to Mr. Baldwin, stating our uncomfortable situation ; which we have committed to the care of one of the Turk's domestics, through the means of Ibrahim.

The Turk and his party departed at midnight, which we observed from our windows, that almost face his lodgings. He had given out that he should not go until the morning. These precautions were taken by the former travellers who went by land ; to deceive, we presume, the thieves who lurk in this neighborhood.

SATURDAY, 30th AUGUST.

We had scarcely breakfasted this morning, when advice came of the long-expected approach of the Shaik Ul Arab. We immediately went to the top of our house, to see the ceremony of his landing. We had hitherto restrained our joy at an event, which was too desirable to be credited, without the evidence of our senses. The reader may therefore judge of our emotions, when we beheld a large fleet of boats, falling down with the stream. We found the shaik to be in the headmost, from the pendant and ensign which were displayed on board ; and he soon entered the creek, which is a shelter for boats from the violence of the freshes, both sides of which were lined with people to receive him. But by the strength of the current his boat was forced upon a bank, mid-way in the creek, and not without great difficulty, disengaged. The watermen on the Nile do not seem to understand their business, like their fraternity on the Thames ; or they would not have left their monarch so long in perplexity. Several ropes gave way in drawing the boat from the bank ; and two hours elapsed before she was brought to the landing-place, though assisted by some hundreds of people.

It