

It was pleasant enough to behold the terraces crowned with women, on this occasion. Their keepers were probably abroad, to pay their compliments to the shaik, while the birds flew to the tops of their cages, to taste of the momentary sweets of liberty. I never saw so numerous a shew of females, some of whom, in our neighborhood, proclaimed themselves proficient in the arts of coquetry, by withdrawing their vails to attract our notice, and dropping them again, when our eyes were fixed upon their faces. Many were the salutations we received from these good-natured creatures; whose freedom of behavior to us, I attribute to the rigid confinement in which they are kept. Restraint is the bane of modesty in female bosoms; and I will venture to say, that there are more women of loose inclinations in the Turkish dominions, than in all Europe beside. So just is the advice of our countryman Prior, in regard to our treatment of a fair companion :

“ Be to her faults a little blind,
 Be to her virtues very kind;
 Let all her ways be unconfin'd,
 And clap your padlock on her mind !”

At four o'clock we were summoned to the presence of the shaik, whom we found alone in a lower apartment of his palace. We were much elevated by his arrival, and perhaps, could not have appeared to better advantage before our protector; whose cordial reception of us bespeaks him to be such, in the truest sense of the word. He seated us on the same carpet with himself, and after a few compliments, which were interpreted to us by Ibrahim, he directed coffee and fruit to be placed before us. Here for the first time we saw grapes, which were very fine, and a peculiar date, which surpasses every thing of the kind I ever met with.

with. While we were partaking of this repast, I had leisure to take a full view of the shaik, and cannot resist the inclination of introducing a character to the reader, of which I flatter myself he will have reason to be enamored hereafter.

Ifman Abu Ally, the great shaik of the Arabs—for such we would render the Shaik Ul Arab—is a short fat man, of about five feet two inches high, and turned, as we learn, of seventy-five. His eyes are grey, and his complexion very fair; but what at once gives him a singular and more youthful look, his beard, which is very bushy, is colored of a bright yellow. This exterior may not seem the most promising, and might create distaste, if the benevolence that beams from his countenance, were not foremost to secure the heart of the beholder. Neither can the shrillness of his voice, which is harsh and dissonant, destroy the beauty of the sentiments, which it is insufficiently made use of to convey; as the elegance of the words may sometimes atone for the demerits of a tune. He is still active, for a man of his size and age; and his spirits are so good, that were it not for the ravage which time has made among his teeth, he might pass for a younger man by twenty years at least. Except the viziers of Yambo and Ghinnah, whom we had found to be villains by sad experience, we had hitherto dealt with the dross of the nation. It was reserved for this moment, for us to meet with the polite gentleman and the honest man, comprized in the person where they ought to be found, in the representative of his people. Happy the subject of a virtuous land, who at once possesses and imitates so rare an example! But how sunk in the abyss of infamy are the race, who wholly deviate from the standard of rectitude; and though daily reproached by the lips of their monarch, are not to be reclaimed by the tone of authority; or the elocution of active virtue!

We had quickly cause to find, that we had not given the shaik

too much credit for his integrity. His impatience to acquit himself in our opinion, of any connivance at the conduct of his servants, could scarcely be restrained by the forms of civility, which precluded business during our repast. But no sooner was it ended, than he shifted the conversation, and came directly to the point which we were so much concerned in. He lamented the treatment which we had undergone, and which could only have happened in his absence; and he vehemently reprobated the behavior of his officers, which he was determined to punish in the most exemplary manner. After a few leading questions, which tended to confirm the report that had been made to him touching our story, he professed, that his return to Ghinnah had been hastened on our account. That he had come purposely to do us strict justice on our persecutors, and to dispatch us under a safe conduct to Cairo. As a proof of his sincerity, he ordered Ally, the brother of the deceased Mahomet, to be brought before him. He had been previously taken into custody, and was waiting without, to be examined. With this fellow, came Sauker, one of the rogues who had assisted to plunder us, and who of his own accord, produced the things which had fallen to his share, in the division of the spoils. He laid them at the shaik's feet; and with the greatest effrontery declared, that he had taken them, only to secure them from the thieves of the house: and that his truth might be deduced from his care of our property. Though his offence was palpable, this step was sufficient to screen him from punishment in a country, where retribution is all that is required by the prosecutor, and where justice is generally to be appeased by pecuniary fines. But the ill-advised Ally did not escape in this manner. He boldly denied having robbed us of money or valuables, and was loudly exclaiming at the injustice of the accusation, when the shaik raised his voice, and a dozen Abyssinian slaves suddenly

seized on the culprit, and hurried him out of the room. We were in pain for the fellow, and were meditating on the consequences of his arrest, when he was brought into our presence again, bound hand and foot, with a chain about his neck, by which he was held. He was on the point of receiving the bastinado on his knees, when he confessed the charge, and promised to return all that he had taken from us. The shaik was inclined to inflict the punishment on him; but by the interposition of those about him, in which we joined, he remitted it for the present; and directed Ally to be led home, that he might produce the goods. Our triumph was complete. One of our antient enemies had atoned for his crime, in a manner that outwent the most sanguine idea of revenge. The other was humbled at our feet. He survived indeed: but it was only to abase himself before us, and to depend upon our moderation for his security!

In about half an hour Ally returned, and produced a few of the least valuable articles. He earnestly requested until the morning to deliver up the rest, and to repay us the money that he had cheated us out of. This was granted him at our desire, and the prisoner committed to his own house, under the custody of a strong guard.

Several of the shaik's courtiers had come in during this examination, among whom were his nephew and the *quondam* hakeem. We found the latter was in disgrace, and endeavored to make his peace, by expressing to his master, the many obligations we lay under to his care of our persons. The good old man only shook his head in reply, and waved the subject, by desiring us to attend again at seven o'clock the next morning, when he had summoned a full court of justice to punish our aggressors. He dismissed us, with fresh assurances of his protection; and, as an earnest of what

we might expect, he directed our servants to carry home the recovered goods in triumph before us.

SUNDAY, 31st AUGUST.

We breakfasted betimes, and at seven o'clock went to the shaik's house. The court were already assembled in an open spot before the house, which was shaded by an high wall from the morning sun. Here we found the shaik encompassed by his great men, with a number of soldiers and attendants at some distance in their front. Carpets were spread in the intermediate space for our reception. Here we seated ourselves, after making our obeisance to the shaik, and waited in silence the issue of the trial. Next to the shaik's right hand was placed his nephew, and, as we understand, his declared successor in the government. He is a comely and good-humored looking man, seemingly between thirty and forty years of age; and by his behavior, appeared to be less our enemy than any other of his uncle's counsellors. So unhappy is this upright and humane prince in the lot of his servants.

Just before we came in, the culprit Ally had undergone a severe bastinado, on again proving refractory; and the hakeem was sent to search his house for the stolen goods. This occasioned a pause in the proceedings, which were interrupted by the sudden appearance of the vizier, who, to our great astonishment, took a seat which was vacant next to the shaik's nephew. This confidence was unexpected, and filled us with unfavorable prognostics of the event of our suit. But our doubts were of short continuance. He had entered unregarded by his master, and was talking with great ease to those about him, when the shaik turned about, and in a solemn tone, asked him for the shauls and things, which he had received from the English gentlemen. The whole frame of this gay courtier was evidently discomposed by this question. He had prob-

bably laid his account with our suppressing the part he had taken against us, after the high hand with which he had once stopped the accusation of Abdul Ruffar, and was unprepared with an evasion. His countenance instantly was disrobed of its pleasantry; his limbs trembled, and his tongue faltered in framing a reply, the substance of which was, that he was a stranger to the matter with which he was charged. We were ashamed of the meanness of a man of his rank, but the wrath of the shaik was wound up to the highest pitch at the hearing of this falsehood. He was confirmed of the guilt from the symptoms which the offender displayed; and without calling any fresh evidence to corroborate it, he proceeded to decide. But he could hardly find utterance for his orders, which were to arrest and flog the vizier immediately. A number of slaves started from the croud, to execute the pleasure of their lord. The astonished minister could not believe his ears, and would fain have persuaded himself that the affair was a jest. He was presently convinced of his mistake. The officers of justice laid violent hands upon his person, tumbled him from his proud seat, and in a rude manner hurried him away, in spite of his outcries and fruitless resistance. This behavior served only to exasperate the shaik. His eyes flashed with the honest indignation which lighted his bosom; his strength could scarcely support the agitations of his mind; and after some effort, he raised himself from his carpet, and repeated his commands in a voice, that struck terror into the breasts of all present. He was immediately surrounded by a croud of his courtiers, who kissed his hands, embraced his knees, and interceded with him for the pardon of the vizier. These nobles took no share in the passions of their monarch, and were only attentive to exculpate one of their body, though at the expence of honor and justice.

I must own that I was concerned at the fearful situation of a man, who had never been guilty of any actual violence towards us, and

whose greatest trespass was the receipt of presents, on his assurances of protection, when he permitted of our being plundered by our inhospitable host and his adherents. These, however, were crimes of the deepest dye, in the eyes of the good old shaik. When we directed Ibrahim to plead for the inoffensive conduct of the vizier towards us, he would not hear of any apology for a villain, who had so little the honor of his country at heart, as to injure its character by winking at the maltreatment of strangers. He could the less overlook it in a servant of his own, and added, that it was at our instance only, he would remit the punishment due to his enormity. The mortification nevertheless was reserved for the vizier, that he should be brought before us, disarrayed of his gay apparel, his hands bound behind him, and a chain fastened about his neck. In this miserable plight, he was told of the obligation he was under to our generous application; and led home by a guard, to produce his ill-gotten acquisition, as his only hope of safety. We observed a general murmur among the grandees, at the compliment which was paid us on this occasion. The disgrace of one of their body excited no friendly sentiments towards us; and not a few menacing looks were thrown upon us from the circle. On the other hand, the shaik harangued them in a sensible and pathetic speech, on the honor of their nation. He cast the most just and severe reproaches on the character of the absent minister, and warned them in future, against such inhuman practices towards Christians and strangers. He then turned to us with the kindest aspect, and re-assured us of his protection. He thanked us for the confidence which we had reposed in him, in venturing through a country, so remote and unknown; and lamented anew, that his absence from his capital had given room for our repenting the experiment. He supposed that no society, however enlightened, was free from the class of reptiles by which we had suffered; and the law provided a just retaliation for the offence.

offence. But he attributed the commission of the offence to the neglect of the hakeem of Ghinnah, who had slumbered like an unwary centinel on his duty. For this he had been discharged from his office, and a slave of his own been sent to take care of us until his arrival. All that was now wanting to complete our satisfaction, was the recovery of our losses, which he would see effected; and our journey to Cairo, which he swore should be accomplished without an injury being offered to an hair of our heads.

As virtue as well as vice is magnified by comparison, it will not appear extraordinary, that our encreasing regard for this great man began to border upon enthusiasm. Reader! if thou art of the yielding kind, if thy mould is susceptible of tender impressions—say, when surrounded by a croud of homely females, did thy heart never beat high at the approach of transcendant beauty? So, from the cloud of miscreants that encompassed his throne, shot forth the glories of the Egyptian king! So bright, so peerless did he rise from the contrast. So unworthily stationed, and yet so worthy of the station in which his birth had placed him! Nursed in the lap of ignorance and barbarism, like another Peter, he had triumphed over nature. Nor opinion could warp, nor habit could bind him. He nobly spurned the prejudices of education, and, without any guide, save the impulse of innate goodness, he soared to the superior heights of virtue. She seemed the mistress of his inclinations, rather than of his election or interest; and, beside him, the world may afford but few subjects of such an influence. It is true, that his endeavors were not crowned with the success that distinguished those of Peter the Great. But Peter attended more to the aggrandizement than the morals of his people; and, with all the great qualities of the hero, sunk infinitely below the Egyptian, in the feelings of the man. The latter was fit to have ruled over an enlightened empire.

While

While the former, after all his victories, was, in many respects, an example unworthy of imitation !

Our ignorance of the Arabian language obliged us to have recourse to our interpreter, for an acknowledgment of these favors. But at the same time, it saved us the confusion of appearing at a loss for a suitable reply. We sheltered ourselves under this fortunate circumstance, which, in a great measure, left our patron to conceive a gratitude, which words would have but poorly expressed.

A messenger now arrived with two shauls and my creese, from the vizier. The other shaul, he said, he had parted with ; and the pistols he had given to Ally. Once more, therefore, was the wretched Ally produced before the court ; and on denying the receipt of them, the bastinado was again inflicted on him *. Besides the articles which had been restored, there were still a silver urn, a pair of gold knee-buckles, and a quantity of valuable linen to be accounted for. Not to speak of the money which they had obtained from us, under various pretences. But these were said to have fallen to Mahomet's share in the division ; and his robbery and death were made a plea of by the family, to satisfy us for our loss. The shaik would not hear of this apology, which he termed false and evasive. And sooner than we should suffer by that family, he declared, that he would first order their substance to be disposed of, and if that would not repay us for our losses, Ally and the rest of them should be sold as slaves, to make up the sum. It was now time for us to interfere. The matter was exceeding the bounds to which we meant to push it ; and policy, as

* This is a very novel as well as fearful punishment. The prisoner is placed upright on the ground, with his hands and feet bound together, while the executioner stands before him, and, with a short stick, strikes him with a smart motion on the outside of his knees. The pain which arises from these strokes, is exquisitely severe, and what no constitution could support for any continuance.

well as humanity, prompted us to drop it. Our principal aim was to get from Ghinnah, under a proper protection. Our persecutors had been chastised, and it was preferable for us to put up with some inconvenience, rather than run the risk of being detained here, in the pursuit of full redress. On this account we listened to the mediation of the hakeem, and some of the courtiers, who beseeched us to withdraw our claim to all but eighty dollars of the remaining debt, which Ally might raise from the camels he possessed. Our acquiescence in this proposal gained us credit with all present, and drew a particular compliment from the worthy shaik; who protested, that he could not but admire our generosity, though it was exercised at the expence of their national character. The reader, perhaps, may agree with us, that we ought not to have subscribed to this insinuation, as such a man as was then before us, was enough to redeem his nation from obloquy.

The court now broke up, and we were dismissed, not a little pleased with this mode of administering justice. The punishment inflicted upon robbers in other countries, suppresses the growth of them in the general opinion. But when we reflect on the frequent robberies that are committed in our own, it seems doubtful, whether the severity of the sentence answers the expected end. For a traveller, at least, who has his own interest most at heart, the satisfaction which we received was infinitely more eligible, than any that could have been made us of a sanguinary nature. We had recovered what we had lost all expectation of seeing again; and to our haste and good-will only, is to be attributed our not obtaining the unconditional benefit of the shaik's decree. As a small token of our respect, on our return home, we made up such a present as we judged would be most acceptable to a man of his turn of mind, and sent it to the shaik by Ibrahim. It consisted of a couple of fine shauls, an Indian carpet and palampore, and an handsome

handsome sabre and case of pistols. The sabre and pistols, tho' articles of the greatest value, he returned, and sent us many thanks for our remembrance of him in the rest, which he said he would keep for our sake. He also told Ibrahim, that he had directed a merchant to furnish us with camels for our journey, as the river was too perilous for us to venture on. This last instance of his attention served to rivet in our minds the character of Isman Abu Ally, who is indeed a pearl thrown to the swine of Ghinnah.

MONDAY, 1st SEPTEMBER.

Our whole thoughts now are turned to our departure. The merchant attended us early this morning, in company with the hakeem, to settle the price of our camels. The common price is from eight to ten dollars each, and it is not surprizing that we pay the highest. But the number of camels which they obliged us to take, was what vexed us the most. We want but nine for ourselves and servants, and they insist upon our providing six more for the use of our guard. These are our camel-drivers, who, in our late journey, were wont to ride two upon a camel; but in the longer one we are about to enter upon, are to have a beast apiece. These additional camels will greatly encrease the expence; but were the demand an imposition, we are determined to submit to it with a good grace, rather than trouble the shaik any further upon our score. We wish not to add to the number of enemies we have in this town, and mean to quit it with the utmost dispatch. We desired the hakeem, therefore, to advance the merchant the eighty dollars which he was to levy upon Ally, as an earnest for the hire of his camels.

A thought struck me during our examination yesterday, which I would not have had verified for the treasures of Egypt. The shaik is old and very corpulent, and had it so happened that he

had burst a blood-vessel in the heat of his passion, I was revolving the probable consequences in my mind. There was not a man of rank present, whom we could consider in the light of our friend. Even the nephew was neuter; and there is no certainty of the part he would have taken, had such an accident befallen his uncle. In truth, there is little doubt but we should have paid for his favor with our lives. Such a backwardness had been shewn before his arrival to bring the offenders to justice, and such a forwardness in his presence to screen them from punishment, that the shaik saw through the partiality of his officers, and reprehended them for it. One particular circumstance that betrayed their bent, is worthy of remark, and escaped me in the relation of the business of yesterday. The gold buckles which had been taken by Ally were put down in the list of our losses, at what the Arabs imagined an exorbitant value. They could not slip such an occasion of gratifying their malice, and lowering our interest with the king. They boldly taxed us with exaggerating our losses, and endeavoring to profit by their master's clemency. They demanded that a jeweller might be sent for, to ascertain the truth of their charge. To this the shaik was averse, as, perhaps, conceiving we might have erred through mistake. But at our instance a jeweller attended, whose evidence defeated the malice of our enemies. He weighed them in the presence of the court, and pronounced the gold to be equal to the value affixed, independent of the workmanship, which was so rare and so curious, that he supposed it must have enhanced the price of the buckles more than one half. It must be observed, that this jeweller, like the other mechanics of this country, was a Christian, and knew the shaik too well, to be afraid of speaking the truth, to the great confusion of our accusers, who were completely cross-fallen at this report.

We had a fresh proof in the afternoon of the shaik's concern for our welfare. It seems that the camels which went to Cairo with the company of Turks, luckily returned this forenoon, and as they belong to the shaik, he is determined to accommodate us with them. This intelligence is just brought us by the hakeem, who has sent to the merchant for our money to pay to the shaik's people. We are not a little rejoiced at this change, which will add not only to our security, but ensure us good treatment from the camel-drivers on the road. At five o'clock they came to pay their respects to us; and we have promised the head-man, who we find is the chief of the camel-drivers of Ghinnah, and an officer of no small consequence, a present of a dress on our arrival at Cairo. His camels are to be ready to-morrow evening, when we are to set out on our journey through the wilderness. We shall, in all likelihood, fall into the track of the children of Israel, when they fled from the verdant banks of the Nile, and took refuge on the shores of Arabia. We are to strike into the road to Suez, to shun the parties that hover about the river; and it was not far below that city, that the Israelites were supposed to have crossed the Red-sea. I cannot, however, suppress my regret, at losing this opportunity of going down the Nile. Had I been a man who travelled for his amusement, I should not probably have experienced this disappointment. I would have waited here, agreeably to an offer which the shaik made, or have gone to Jirje, as the little Turk proposed, until the troubles on the river were subsided. No obstacle should have deterred me from exploring the course of so celebrated a stream, but my being charged with business of a public nature, which will not admit of delay. The importance of this charge has been the rule of conduct of, at least, Mr. Hammond and myself. It induced us to commit ourselves to an open boat in the Red-sea, in the hottest and most unfavorable season of the year; and it now prompts us to embark

cheerfully in a journey through a desert, unknown even to the inhabitants of the country ; and which, except in the instances I have recited, has not been traversed for this century past, by any but the outcasts of the human kind !

In the afternoon we were visited by three Christian merchants, who live at Dundara, a town about three hours, or twelve miles distance down the river. They are come here to compliment the shaik on his return, and are the most creditable people of the mercantile class whom we have seen. They had turbans of a blue checkered pattern, to distinguish them from Mussulmen ; and no native Christian is allowed to wear them of other colors, though this restriction is not enforced with strangers. These merchants inform us, that there is an Italian gentleman, who has resided at Dundara for these thirty years past, and who is a painter by profession. But we find that he has exercised his art rather for his amusement than profit ; and that his own house alone is adorned with the productions of his pencil. We are curious to know the adventures which brought such a character to settle in this obscure corner, and, did our time permit, we should readily accept of these merchants' offer to bring us together. Notwithstanding the unfavorable disposition of his subjects towards them, every thing conspires to prove the shaik's affection for Christians. All his principal domestics, and particularly his secretaries, who enjoy his unlimited confidence, are of this persuasion. Indeed, all ranks of them join to sound the praises of the present shaik, who stands between them and the oppression of the Arabs. He has been their guardian for forty years and upwards ; and I fear there will be a great change in their situation at his death.

TUESDAY, 28 SEPTEMBER.

We were surrounded this morning by a crowd of servants belonging to the shaik, who expect money from us. Though we might

might have got rid of them, by threatening to complain of their insolence, we chose to avoid the odium of such a measure; and called upon the hakeem to accommodate the matter for us. Those who assisted to punish the offenders, we agreed to gratify with a piece of gold each: and the hakeem dismissed the rest, as not being entitled to our bounty.

At eight o'clock we had a message from the shaik to attend him. We found him, as before, encompassed by his principal courtiers; and he obligingly desired us to seat ourselves upon carpets beside him. He told us, that he had solicited our presence, to give us into the charge of the master of his camels, who is dignified with the title of a shaik. This man was accordingly called before us, and the shaik addressing him by the name of Hadgee Uttalah, informed him, that he was to convey us and our baggage safe to Cairo; and that should we prefer the least complaint against his conduct, his head should answer for it. Nothing could be more satisfactory to us, than a charge like this, so publicly delivered; and of the weight of which, Hadgee Uttalah himself appeared to be so fully sensible. It not only tended to secure us from the danger of treachery on the road, but the warmth with which the shaik espoused our cause, was, in our opinion, the strongest bulwark we could have against the secret malevolence of our enemies. The good old man became very familiar with us, and asked a thousand questions concerning the natural and artificial productions of our country. He admired a china bowl which belonged to the major; but declined taking it, as common earthen-ware was full good enough for him. From this, however, he took occasion to mention an European, who had been long in his service, and had the ingenuity to imitate china very closely. He called for a specimen of this fellow's skill; and we were surprized to see a couple of vases delicately wrought and painted. We were desirous to be-

hold the artist, but were informed by the shaik, that he was left behind at a town up the river. We now heard many droll anecdotes of this Englishman, as he called himself. That he delighted in high-seasoned dishes, and drank such a quantity of spirits, that it was a wonder his inside was not consumed by fire. This intemperance suited but ill with the simplicity and sobriety of the Arabians. But the shaik was polite enough to say, that the report which had been made to him of our mode of living, had effaced the disagreeable impressions which he had received of our countrymen. He would venture to add, however, that one article of luxury, which he observed to be in use at our table, had given rise to the ideas of our wealth, and singled us out as a beneficial prize to his covetous subjects. And this was the silver, of which our cups and spoons were composed. To a people who were accustomed to wooden utensils, that glittering metal was a bait, which had allured them to an unjust though tempting pursuit. Far as it was from exculpating the conduct of the Arabs, we could not but feel the force of this oblique reproof. The modest manners of the antient Romans, when in the meridian of their greatness, recurred to our imaginations. We blushed for our deviating so much from their example, in the presence of a man, who trod in their footsteps without a mark to direct him. And perhaps, for once in our lives, we despised the symbols of ostentation and the effeminacy of fashion!

While we were thus engaged, the relations of the soldier who murdered Mahomet, together with the camel-drivers of the caravan, were brought before the shaik. They were accompanied by the father and brother of the deceased, who appeared as prosecutors. The witnesses for the culprit making little or no defence, the trial was soon concluded; and sentence of death was passed upon him by the shaik. Although the murderer came a prisoner

prisoner yesterday from Cofire, it is remarkable, that he was not present on this occasion, nor allowed to offer any thing in bar to his condemnation. If, however, the salutary laws of our free constitution are wanting here, the loss would not be felt, could this country continue to boast of its present equitable judge. But those laws were provided to guard as much against the encroachments of the crown, as the machinations of the subject. Happy the soil in which they flourish ! Thrice happy the people who bask beneath the sunshine of freedom ; and depend not upon the uncertain character of a chief magistrate ; upon the virtues or vices of a king !

As the name of the young shaik of Cofire has not been mentioned in this trial, we suppose that he was wronged by report, or screened by interest from the charge in which his comrade was involved. It had come to the Shaik Ul Arab's ears, that this young man and his father had extorted money and effects from us. The accusation had been framed by his courtiers, who were perhaps, jealous of the advantages they had derived from us ; and every persuasion was now used to make us acquiesce in it. Had we given scope to our resentment against this treacherous pair, it is likely, that we should have supported the accusation ; which opened a way to redress for their impositions at Cofire, and their inhumanity in betraying us into the hands of such villains at Ghinnah. But one good action which they performed towards us, outweighed the multitude of their misdeeds in our minds. We remembered that our lives and property had been at their mercy, both at Cofire, and in the road to this place. The first had not been attempted by them ; and when the last could not have been withheld from them, we acknowledged a merit in their forbearance, when the principle which excited them to extort a part, could have put them in possession of the whole. Weak as this reasoning may appear to the sticklers for justice, it had
force

force enough with us to operate in favor of the delinquents. We knew the unlicensed tempers of the Arabs, and it was but fair to judge of them by their own rule of action. We declined, therefore, the shaik's kind offer to call these fellows to account; and professed an ignorance of their being any otherwise accessory to our misfortunes, than by their fatal recommendation to the family now before us.

We had no latent meaning in this application, but the venerable shaik did not let it pass unnoticed. He pointed out the certainty of the detection of villainy, either sooner or later. He deduced it from the instance which was now before him; where, without a friend to take our part, the wrongs which we had suffered had accidentally come to his knowledge, and the authors thereof had been punished according to their deserts. He called upon the father of Ally to own, that the hand of Providence was to be seen through the whole of this transaction. That his sons were but the instruments of our safety, though avowedly our enemies; and under the notion of enriching themselves at our expence, had prevented our falling into the lurking perils which awaited us on the river. But that their intentions had been justly rewarded. While we were sheltered under royal patronage, one of his sons had fallen in a contest, about the very property of which he had deprived us; and the other was crippled with blows, and covered with disgrace on the same account. The confusion of Ally and his father was not to be concealed at this incident. They seemed to be sufficiently humbled by the melancholy end of Mahomet, but this pathetic exhortation of the shaik's had an evident effect upon their feelings; and the heart must be corrupt indeed, that was not amended by it. For my own part, I never was so edified by the discourse of a dissent, as I have been, by listening to the sentiments of this unlearned Mahometan. And it is not to be wondered at. His lan-
guage

grace was that of the heart, and his opinions breathed the fragrance of truth. His doctrine was a reflection of his life, and both equally bright and unfulfilled. When he admonished, he directed himself to the consciences of his audience; and he never failed to convince, though it is plain he failed to reform *.

At ten o'clock we took our leave of the shaik, but are to see him again before our departure, which is fixed for ten o'clock at night. On our return home we met a man carrying a red flag, and uttering aloud some proclamation. His head was crowned with a chaplet of bays, and the croud were very attentive to his words. We enquired into the purport of his business, and were told, that he was an herald, who daily gives notice of the rising of the Nile. We understand that it is now near its greatest height; and expect, when we get into the flats of Lower Egypt, to find the country entirely under water.

We

* From a passage which I have lately met with in Dr. Pococke's Travels through Egypt, I am induced to think that he encountered this amiable personage, and was indebted to him for letters, which procured him both civility and protection during his voyage up the Nile. Ismaïl Abu Ally was, from our information, possessed of his present dignity in the year 1737, and, of all the Arabians, was the most likely to extend his humanity to strangers. The passage is this :

“ On the 3d of January, the wind not favoring us, we stopped at a place about three miles from * Fushout. Here resides the great shaik †, who is governor of all the country on the west as far as Assouan. I waited on the shaik's secretary, with a present of five or six pounds of coffee; in return, he sent a live sheep to the convent to entertain me with, and introduced me to the shaik, who was in an Arab dress, sitting in a corner of a room. He rose on my entrance, and my servant brought in my present, which consisted of two boxes of prunellas, two of other sweetmeats, and some glass vessels. He asked where I intended to go? I told him, to the Cataract. He replied, with a good-natured smile, that a boat of Franks ‡ lately went up; and that the people said, they came to discover the way into the country, in order to return and

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* Fushout is in the neighborhood of Chianah.

† The literal meaning of the Shaik Ul Arab.

‡ In this boat was Capt. Norden, well known for his accurate accounts of the antiquities of Egypt.

We have been employed the whole day in preparing for our expedition. Bread, biscuit, and flour were brought us in the afternoon, sufficient to serve us a fortnight; and with the beans provided for our camels, run us up a bill of eighty dollars. But in this account are included a sheep and an half, which are fried down in clarified ghee or butter, and twenty new skins to carry our water. With this stock, we trust at least to keep famine from our heels, in this journey through the inhospitable wild which divides us from Cairo. We had paid the balance of our camel-hire, which amounted in the whole to 150 dollars; and were in readiness to attend the shaik, previous to our departure. But the camel-drivers are either superstitious, or have something to detain them until to-morrow night. They came to us about eight o'clock, and told the hakeem it had just occurred to them, that to-morrow was the new moon; a time above all other the most lucky to commence a journey. He appeared very angry at their having adopted such an idea at so late an hour; and finding that no arguments could conquer their desire to remain here to-night, he referred them to the shaik for an answer. The good old man was vexed at the delay they intended us. But his good-nature inclined him to their side. He sent for Ibrahim, and directed him to tell us, that though the request was absurd in itself, the humoring their prejudices would be the readiest way to ensure the regard of these people. We submitted without a murmur to this irksome detention; and the more so, as the shaik has added to his former kindness, by giving a camel to our conductor Hadgee Ut-talah, to save us that expence.

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take it; and then desired to know what I wanted to see? I told him the ruined cities. He observed, that we had no such ruins in England, and asked, whether, if they should go into our country, we would permit them to see every thing; adding, that he would give me letters, and a man to go with me, so that I might be assured I should travel securely."

Chap. 6. Pococke's Travels.

guage was that of the heart, and his opinions breathed the fragrance of truth. His doctrine was a reflection of his life, and both equally bright and unfulfilled. When he admonished, he directed himself to the consciences of his audience; and he never failed to convince, though it is plain he failed to reform *.

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Chap. 6. Pococke's Travels.

We have just heard that the shaik has changed the sentence of death which was passed on the prisoner this morning, to a long imprisonment. It seems, that an execution has not been known during his reign ; and he means to continue this ill-judged lenity. But this will be but of little avail to the assassin, provided one of his family does not fall a sacrifice in the interim, to the relations of the deceased. This kind of retribution is exercised with impunity in this country ; and one life will glut the vengeance of the prosecutors, though the offender himself escape. But this is only in respect to each other. Should a Christian but accidentally spill the blood of a Mussulman, an hecatomb of his persuasion would scarcely suffice to expiate the offence.

W E D N E S D A Y, 3d SEPTEMBER.

It now appears likely that none of our letters have reached Mr. Baldwin. The camels are returned that carried the company of Turks away ; and we were surprized that no answer was come to the letter, which we entrusted to the Christian domestic. But on discoursing with Hadgee Uttalah, we find that they did not go to Cairo. The Turks were formerly in the service of Ibrahim Beg, and though they purposed to have deserted to the party of Ismaul Beg, their hearts either relented or failed them, and they halted at a town on the river, two days short of the capital. We have, therefore, the greater reason to congratulate ourselves on the generosity of the Shaik Ul Arab ; as no application could have been made to him in our behalf, until our misfortunes reached Mr. Baldwin. By his influence, we are in every respect better provided for a journey, than when we left Cofire. We can depend more upon the goodness of the camels, and the honesty of the drivers. We have provisions in plenty, and are furnished besides with limes, to assist in quenching our thirst. We have

dried dates with us, to vary our meals. This fruit, when dried, is much preferable to that fresh from the tree; and when eaten with bread, is both a pleasant and nourishing food. We expect to be but nine or ten days on the road; and as we go by ourselves, we are in hopes to persuade the Arabs to follow our directions—to travel the greater part of the night, and to lie by during the heat of the day. This mode of action will preserve us much from the sufferings, which we underwent during our late journey. But we must trust to chance for a shelter from the sun at our different halting-places, as there is no such conveniency as a tent to be procured here.

As we are on the point of leaving Ghinnah, it may be expected that I drop some observations on the customs and manners of the inhabitants. But in a narrative of this kind, the reader will gather more information from the conduct of the actors themselves, than from an author's description of them. Their general treatment of us is the best glass from which their pictures can be reflected; while the particular behavior of one or two individuals, is a convincing proof, that virtue is the common inheritance of mankind, and is confined to no enlightened spot. It remains then only for me to say a few words on points, too unimportant to have come into view before. No people are plainer in their dress, which in the lower class is generally of blue linen. Those of the higher rank endeavor to ape the fashion of the Turks. They are arrayed indeed in silks and woollens, but without lace and embroidery. They are universally modest in their behavior, decent in their conversation, and sober in their way of life. Gaming is unknown to them; and strong liquors in such little request, that we found but few Arabians, who broke through the precept of their religion, which forbids the use of them. But the vices they possess, are sufficient to eclipse the lustre of these good qualities. Were it not for the cheapness of provisions, the poverty

verty of the people would bear hard upon them. But for the value of a penny, each man can provide for the day. Beside meat and poultry, which are in great plenty, the river supplies them with fine fish at the lowest rates; and eggs are sold at a penny the dozen. These things we can declare from ocular demonstration; and from our window we can see the menial servants of the shaik receive their daily pay, which, we are assured, does not exceed the value of a penny. Water is their only drink, except it be mixed with coffee; enough of which may be procured for a penny, to treat a company of visitors; a fact of which we had frequent experience. But the simplicity of this race is best to be deduced from the figure which their head makes. The Shaik Ul Arab is very abstemious in his diet, and plain in his equipage. There is nothing magnificent about him; and he generally appears in a black gown, which is very fine, and resembles our bombasin. His turban is of muslin; and the only finery about him, an orange or straw-colored shawl, which is carelessly thrown across his shoulders. He carries no arms about him; which we observed to be the case of all the old men, to proclaim, we suppose, that war is no longer their province.

There is no trust to be reposed in the word of a camel-driver. We sent to the shaik at five o'clock in the evening, to request our final audience; and found to our surprize, that Hadgee Uttalah was with him, to demand our journey to be postponed until the morning. Ibrahim remonstrated in our name against this proceeding, and the shaik was enraged at its insolence. But his anger was of as little consequence as our regret. There was no prejudice now to be removed, but an obstacle more insurmountable. The camels are not ready, and there is no help for the delay.

THURS-

THURSDAY, 4th SEPTEMBER.

It is a matter of the greatest surprize to a rational being, to perceive mankind given to falsehood, without a beneficial end in view. And no where, as I have had occasion elsewhere to observe, is this practice so frequently to be met with, as among the Arabians. By telling one lye, the camel-drivers have reduced themselves to the necessity of adding an hundred to it. On their coming to us this morning, we reproached them with their duplicity in the presence of the hakeem; and demanded to depart immediately, as the only recompence they could make us for our many disappointments. On this the whole mystery was unravelled. We found that some of their camels had been so much fatigued in their late expedition, that they were not able to travel before. But it is their genius to disguise the truth at all times; and they made use of a thousand shifts to evade our departure, rather than disclose the real state of the case. Our displeasure is, therefore, rather directed at their folly, than their villainy; and now we have got to the bottom of the affair, our chagrin is considerably lessened at this unexpected detention. We have even consented, by their advice, to postpone our departure until night; when our movement will be more private, and not interrupted by the croud of mendicants which await our charity. This step was enforced by the hakeem's report, who recommended, by all means, that we should set out after dark.

At nine o'clock we attended the hakeem to the shaik's house, to receive our pass, and to take our leave of our benefactor. We arrived there in the midst of a trial of the camel-people, for a robbery on the deceased Mahomet. After sitting about half an hour in a kind of lobby, we were advised to send in our names. On doing this, we were ushered into the room where the court was

was held, and after the usual salutations, we were seated on a raised place to the right of the shaik. His politeness dictated a few questions to us, after which he proceeded to the trial. We were not sorry to have our curiosity satisfied in this particular; and we attended with great patience to the process. There is no jury in this court of justice, nor any judge but the shaik, whose will is the law of the realm. When the evidences have been given by the witnesses, they are cross-examined by the grandees, who compose the council. The shaik listens attentively to all that passes, forms a judgment of the fact, and at length pronounces the final sentence. At eleven o'clock we made a motion to take our leave, and were dismissed by the good old man with an hearty benediction, and very cordial wishes for the success of our journey. In our hearing he repeated the charge to Hadgee Uttalah, to put us down at the English factory at Cairo; and not to return, without a letter under our hands and seals, to advise him of our safety, at the peril of his life. To secure his fidelity beyond the reach of temptation, the shaik also directed, that the family of Hadgee Uttalah should be placed under a guard, as the surest hostages for the integrity of his conduct. Our hearts were full enough at the idea of parting with this amiable character, but this last proof of his more than paternal care of us, had such an effect upon our feelings, that we were glad to retire, and conceal the ebullitions of our gratitude. The uniform greatness of soul which distinguishes this Mahometan, will encourage strangers to enter his country without fear. And it is not unpleasing to us to reflect, that our misfortunes may contribute to the security of future travellers. They called forth the virtues of this prince from the shade of obscurity; and will be a lesson to his subjects, ever to respect the rights of humanity.

As we returned home we were joined by the little Turk, who
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was so assiduous to engage our company by water. We are concerned to separate from him, but he declines our offer to accommodate him by land. He confesses, however, that he is under no apprehensions for us, though he does not chuse to risk his property in the desert. There is something inexplicable in this; but our confidence in the shaik is too firmly rooted, to be shaken by the suspicions of others. We observed that the Turk was much dejected at our approaching departure; and partly guessing at the cause, when we got home, with the concurrence of my companions, I slipped twelve dollars into his hand, to bear his expences down the Nile. His countenance instantly brightened up at this present; and he resumed his facetious disposition during the day, which he dedicated to us. We had already been indebted to his assistance in preparing for our journey; and the major now gave him the charge of his china bowls, which were to be delivered to Mr. Baldwin at Cairo. We also obliged the Turk with many odd things, which were superfluous to us. But he had some trouble in conveying them out of the house, from the vigilance of the domestics, who were doubtless directed by their master to have an eye to his motions.

Now we have seen our last of the shaik, the hakeem intimates that he cannot part with us, without a further gratification. This Abassee! this slave! who cannot sit down in the presence of his master, though raised by his favor to the government of this city, has the assurance to assume airs of consequence, and to trust to our moderation for putting up with them. Besides our former gifts, he came in for one of the shauls which we recovered from the vizier, who, in our opinion, was as much entitled to it as himself. He is now desirous of my silver hookah, though Ibrahim has informed him of its being packed up. Its value chiefly lies in the workmanship; and it is more curious

than useful to me. To prevent further importunities, I have sent it to this fellow, though it gave me the trouble of unpacking a trunk. I am sensible that he would be degraded from his office, were the shaik acquainted with his behavior. But he too much confides in our former concealment of his meanness, to be afraid of the consequences: and builds upon our generosity to repeat the offence. The shaik has already been put to so much trouble on our account, that we would overlook a great many impositions, sooner than disturb his repose with fresh complaints. We have already caused some changes in his administration; and it would be in us but a bad requital for all his favors, to foment differences between him and his favorite servants, on light occasions.

We quickly experienced the good effects of our compliance with the hakeem's humor. . He sent for the camel-drivers, to remind them of the treatment which they were to give us on the road; and settled the economy of our journey, and other points, which they had disputed with Ibrahim. When the sun sets, the camels are to be brought to the door to take up our baggage, which is now reduced to half of its original bulk. After supper we are to bid our long-wished-for adieu to Ghinnah; which it must be remembered, we owe to the virtue of one man!

At sun-set Madjee Uttalah came hastily to our house, and told us, that as we had paid ten dollars apiece for the other camels, he expected fifteen to be paid him, for the prime beast he was to ride himself. We were congratulating ourselves before we were quit of this griping cast. We knew the shaik had presented him with the price of this very camel, but the fellow had timed his application so well, that we were fain to comply with it. We were about to set off, and neither our haste nor the late hour, would have admitted of our communicating the affair to the shaik. We had no money remaining that the Arabs knew of; but the

the old fox got over this difficulty, by offering to take our note of hand, payable at Cairo. We were the more reconciled to this expedient, as it seemed to interest our conductor in our arrival at that city.

Our baggage was placed upon the camels, and we took our leave of several people who had been civil to us; particularly the *quondam* hakeem, in whose behalf we had ineffectually exerted ourselves with the shaik. At nine o'clock we mounted our beasts, with the same number of attendants as when we left Cosire: an Arab related to Abdul Ruffar, supplying the place of the Indian Fakeer. We directed our way towards the great mosque by which we entered the city, where we are to take up our water; accompanied by the hakeem and a party of horse, who paid us this compliment by the order of the shaik.

When we came to the watering-place a new matter was hatched, more scandalous than any they had yet attempted. We had paid for fifteen camels, and given a promissory note for the hire of another. Now it was that some of the owners of the camels, (of which there are three besides our conductor) applied for three additional beasts, under pretence of lightening our baggage, which they did not conceive would have turned out so heavy. Much altercation now ensued. We were justly nettled at a demand which had all the appearance of an imposition; and loudly called upon the hakeem to take us back to his house. We threatened to acquaint the shaik in the morning with their ill usage. Nay, we even pretended to have changed our minds touching the route; and declared that we would rather hazard ourselves on the river, than among people, who presumed to treat us in this manner. This resolution seemed to alarm them. They prevailed upon the hakeem to vouch for their honesty. They declared that the proposal was meant purely for our interest. To prevent our baggage from being left among the mountains,
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and to secure our lives in case of an attack, it was necessary for us to travel with light camels. That we knew not the arduous undertaking in which we had engaged; or we should scarcely hesitate to consult the only means, to smoothe the difficulties before us. Their application had indeed been too late. But to demonstrate their sincerity, they were content to be at half of the expence, rather than be in want of the camels; and to take our note for the fifteen dollars, payable at Cairo. The candor of this offer reconciled us to the expence; and we had experienced too many delays to contend any further about it. One of the owners returned to the city to collect the additional camels, and bring them after us. At eleven o'clock we moved on, and were still accompanied by the hakeem, whom we strongly suspected to be concerned in the last manœuvre of the camels. He preceded us for about a quarter of a mile on the road; when the troop faced suddenly round, and, after paying us a complimentary salute, went off at a full gallop towards the town. We continued our march in a chearful mood, and going to the north, soon left the trees and the river behind us. Our way lay through a stony and uneven soil; and the moon is too young to assist our camels to pick out their road by night. At two o'clock we halted, and spread our carpets upon a very rugged and uncomfortable place. We were three hours in motion, but find that our distance from Ghantah does not exceed five miles. I have here affixed a map of Upper Egypt, where the reader is presented with the course of the Nile. and may pursue our route through the desarts of Thebais.

FRIDAY, 5TH SEPTEMBER.

I awoke at day-break with my eyes much inflamed and disordered. I have felt a weakness in them for some time, which

proceeded from a cold in my head : and after sleeping under cover for this month past, it is natural that the night air should have a bad effect upon my eyes. I dread the journey a little on this account, and shall not be surpris'd to have a confirmed humour in them before our arrival at Cairo. We are prevented going forward, by the additional camels not being come up. At eight o'clock Hadgee Uttalah set off for Ghinnah in search of them, and was accompanied by his son. As this movement presented us with a prospect of remaining here the greater part of the day, we erected a kind of tent with a cloth stretched over our baggage, beneath which we made a shift to creep, to shelter us from the sun. But we had but a disagreeable time of it. What with the suspense, the heat of the weather, and some suspicions which were propagated among us, of the honesty of our camel-drivers, the hours passed very heavily. It was whispered to us by Ibrahim, that these fellows were not prepared for our expedition; and had only brought us out here to deceive the shaik, who was enraged at their delay. As a proof of this, he told us at ten o'clock that the camels were about to leave us. We sallied out of our nest on this alarm, and found on enquiry, that the camels were only going to the Nile, to fill up the skins with water. But the folly of Ibrahim and the rest of our servants, was very near being productive of serious consequences. They were of opinion that we ought to return with the camels to Ghinnah, and to apply to the shaik for a more trusty conductor. Never, until this moment, had the notions of Ibrahim deviated so much from propriety. But the honesty of his intentions gave them a weight, which I am convinced they would not otherwise have had; and it was actually debated amongst us, whether we should return or not! So precipitate and ill-advised a step, would not only have betrayed our unconquerable jealousy of the Arabs, but in all likelihood, have sunk us in the esteem of the shaik.

It was happily over-ruled; and the camels were permitted to go quietly on their necessary errand.

At two o'clock the camels returned; and on numbering the water-skins, we found them to amount to thirty. This is a great store; but, from our former experience, may prove little enough for our wants, before we reach the next watering-place. We would not break upon our provision, as our journey was not commenced; and made a shift therefore to dine upon dates and bread. At four o'clock we were agreeably struck with the appearance of Hadgee Uttalah, and the Arab who went last night in quest of the camels. They brought but two, and Hadgee came without his son. On enquiring into the reason of this diminution of our guard, we learn that the shaik has detained the son, as a pledge for the sincerity of the father. We infer from this, that the shaik was not pleased with our delay here; and has therefore exacted this new hostage from our conductor, to express his dissatisfaction.

Our baggage was now replaced upon the camels; but a full hour was lost in disputes among the owners, touching the burdens to be assigned to their several beasts. These were, however, at length adjusted; and at five o'clock in the evening, we left the ground with eighteen camels in company. Our way still lay through a stony plain; and about sun-set we mounted a craggy hill, from whence we were agreeably surprized with a sudden view of the river below. The land continues barren until within a mile of the banks; on which, buried in a romantic wood, we discerned the buildings of Dundarah, a town of which I have before spoken*. The want of population can

* According to the learned Dr. Pococke, there is a temple of Isis in good preservation at Dundarah, but no remains of that of Venus, so much celebrated of old. The peculiarity of their situation, prevented the author and his companions from indulging their curiosity at that, or any other place in the neighborhood.

be the only reason, that a desert should extend itself to the vicinity of the finest river in the world. And to the genius of a Mahometan government, must that want be alone attributed. As we descended the hill, we lost sight of the wood and water; and must bid adieu for some time, to such a regalement to our senses. At seven o'clock we halted for the night. The Arabs tell us, that the roads are too rugged and dangerous to travel over in the dark. This is a mortification to us; but we must put up with having come but ten miles in two days, which is our present distance from Ghinnah. Our course has, however, been northerly, and we are so far in our route to Cairo.

S A T U R D A Y, 6th SEPTEMBER.

At half past five this morning we resumed our march. My eyes are still bad, and I have suffered great anguish from them on the road. The heat particularly affects them, though I defend them as well as I can from the sun. As we went along we started several deer; but they are too wild to admit of our getting a shot at them. The road still continues rugged, and we ascended several hills, but could not procure another peep at the river. It is not likely that we are far from it by the course we keep, though it will behove us shortly to maintain a respectable distance, to avoid the parties of Ibrahim Beg, which are said to hover about its neighborhood. At half past eleven we halted to the eastward of a projecting hill, under whose friendly shade we ate an hearty meal of bread and meat. Our last stage was six hours, or fifteen miles. As we came up to this place, we disturbed a poor deer, that had sheltered itself here from the sun. These animals abound in this desert; and as we have not met with, or even heard of, any wild beasts, or venomous creatures in our peregrinations, I conclude Egypt to be free of them, notwithstanding the fables of antiquity.

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In India we consider it as a thing almost certain, to find tygers near an herd of deer, which they are always observed to follow as their usual prey. When our dinner was ended, we laid down to take a nap. The hour was inviting thereto, and the stay we were to make here, admitting of the sweets of repose.

When I awoke in the afternoon, Hadgee Uttalah perceived my eyes to be much inflamed, and very kindly proffered me some relief. The Arabs generally carry a medicine about them, for the cure of a disorder to which they are so subject, from the dust and heat which incommode their country. Experience must have proved the efficacy of the medicine; and I was so remote from any hopes of assistance, that I even ventured to submit my eyes to the hands of this quack. The medicine is of a black thick consistence, and, on his introducing it with an instrument into my eyes, occasioned a momentary smart. At four o'clock we pursued our journey, and keeping the same direction, without varying the scene, at seven o'clock we reached the foot of a prodigious high mountain, which we cannot ascend in the dark. Here, therefore, we took up our abode for the night. The last stage was three hours, or seven miles, so that we compute ourselves to be thirty-three miles from Ghinnah. Our course to-day has been N. N. E.

SUNDAY, 7th SEPTEMBER.

The Arabs have a very good custom of drinking coffee, before they leave their ground in a morning. This we have adopted, and find it much more efficacious in taking the chill off the stomach, than the old English prescription of a dram, with which we are, perhaps, luckily unprovided. By six o'clock we had accoutered our camels, and, leading them in our hands, began to ascend the mountain on foot. As we mounted the steep, we frequently blest ourselves that we were not riding, as the path was

so narrow, the least false step must have sent the beast down the bordering precipice. But it must be confessed, that the camel is the most sure-footed of all beasts of burden; nor do I recollect in this fatiguing march from steep to steep, that my camel stumbled once. We were upwards of an hour climbing this mountain, and on the top found an extensive plain. But the prospect from hence was obstructed by the adjacent heights, which in some places overlooked the ground we were upon. We travelled about two hours on this mountain, where we found a sensible difference in the sharpness of the atmosphere, and at nine o'clock began to descend. We once more dismounted our camels, which we had rode over the level surface, and hastened down the declivity, in a third of the time which we took to go up. The path winded round the side of the mountain, and to our left an horrid chasm, some hundred fathoms deep, presented itself to our view. It is surprizing no accident befel the loaded camels, whose harness is so bad, that they were frequently stopped in the middle of a descent, to adjust the baggage which had been discomposed by the violent motion of the animal. When we gained the bottom, two of the camel-drivers pushed forward to see if they could shoot a deer. We have but little dependence upon their matchlocks, which must be rested to take a good aim: and though my companions have muskets, they will not risk their reputation by trying their skill, as they have not balls that fit their pieces. We winded through the valley, where we met with numerous thorn-trees in full blossom and fragrance; and after a long march, halted at half past one o'clock to the eastward of an high hill. Just before we reached this place, a ludicrous circumstance enough happened to me. I had loitered about two hundred yards behind, in company with three of the Arabs, who suddenly stopped my camel, and, by signs, forbade me to proceed. This abrupt behavior roused me from a reverie in which I was plunged; and, on my attempting to go on, they

they still detained me, and frequently cried out, "Huffal, huffal." I looked immediately for my companions, who, I perceived, were treated in the same manner; and I was about to have recourse to my arms, in order to force a passage to them, when, behold! a fine buck ran across the road in front of us, which was followed by the report of a piece. The mystery was now unravelled, and I was in a moment delivered from the greatest perplexity I had ever experienced. This had arisen from my imperfect acquaintance with the language. The word "Huffal," which had appeared to me like a term of command, I now found to be a deer in Arabic. I quickly rejoined the troop, and laughed heartily with them at the adventure. I need not add, that we did not dine upon venison to-day. We had recourse, however, to our potted mutton, of which we must be sparing, as our conductor and the camel-owners expect to partake of it. We did not lay our account with this partition, but will submit to it, rather than put these people out of humour. The last stage was seven hours and an half, or nineteen miles.

At half past three o'clock we were mounted again, and going through the same valley, in about an hour, reached the bottom of another steep mountain. We were obliged to lead our camels up, and in about half an hour gained the summit, where we found a plain near two miles in length, over which we rode. At six o'clock we came to the extremity of the mountain, when our advanced guard alarmed us with the news of a party of camels being in the vale. As it was a suspicious place to encounter any of our own species, we all took to our arms, and assembled on the descent, which was so craggy, and so perpendicular, that, small as our numbers were, we were enabled, by our situation, to have coped with a multitude of enemies. The strangers had observed our motions, and drew up in a body below to wait the result. We counted no less than thirty camels, and deduced therefrom, that

we should have two to one against us, in case of hostilities. To gain intelligence, however, of the disposition of the strangers, Hadgee Uttalah himself descended into the valley. He ventured himself unarmed, as a token of peace; and we were not a little impatient to behold the interview which was about to take place. We were deeply interested in its event; and, circumstanced as we were, it is not surprizing that we should doubt of its success. But we were happily deceived in our ideas. No sooner had Hadgee Uttalah approached the new party, than he was recognized by one among them, who ran with open arms to receive him. He was presently encompassed by the rest; and we could discern that he was served with coffee and bread. This staggered us in our opinion of these people's profession; and we began to conceive that they might be travellers like ourselves, who, in these critical times, had explored the desert, in preference to the river. And we were now confirmed in this conceit, by the signs which Hadgee made to us to descend. These signs were interpreted to us by our Arabs, who told us there was nothing to fear. We obeyed, therefore, and went down the hill in as good order as the path would admit of: We were met at the foot of it by Hadgee, who conveyed us and our baggage to a spot at some distance from the strangers, and then returned to them. Many were the embraces and congratulations that were exchanged between the Arabs on both sides. The first thing we learned was, that water is to be procured in this valley, which has induced our gentry to halt here and replenish our skins. We arrived here at half past six o'clock, so that our last stage was three hours, or seven miles.

While Hadgee Uttalah was engaged in an earnest conversation with the leader of the other party, Ibrahim and Abdul Ruffar came to us with looks of surprize, and informed us, that they had discovered the strangers to be what we at first apprehended—a band of robbers. That they had overheard one of them boast, that this

band took the forty camels near Cofire during our stay in that town—an anecdote which I before mentioned—and that on the banks of the Nile, they had plundered a caravan but a few days ago, with the spoils of which they were now returning to their own country ! It may be imagined that we were not a little startled at this intelligence. The novelty of the circumstance did not diminish its unpleasantness ; and our situation was as alarming as uncommon. We were turned adrift in a wide desert, and, in case of opposition, were to depend upon our arms, and the fidelity of our Arabs. Even conquest would not avail us, were we obliged to fight against our guides. In the desert only could we look for safety in this hostile land ; and we had no clue to unravel its mazes, should we be abandoned by our people. These were the first reflections which suggested themselves ; but our minds were presently relieved by the assurances of Hadgee Uttalah, who now joined us. He made no scruple to acquaint us with the profession of the robbers ; but added, that they had as much regard for their word as other people. They happily knew him, which was indeed the saving of an effusion of blood. For, on the score of friendship, they had pledged their word to him, that they would not meditate the least wrong against us. We might trust them implicitly, for the wild Arabs had never been known to break their faith on such occasions. After this prelude, we were the less surprised at a proposition which they had made him, to accompany us to Cairo. Hadgee himself recommended to us to accept of it. Our interest, he said, was every way concerned in it. They would serve us both as guides and protectors, in this unfrequented waste : and where they once adopted a cause, it was their character to promote it at the expence of their blood. Had we distrusted this panegyric, it was not for us to dissent against the opinion of our conductor, who was actually the master of our persons and effects. The pledges he has left at Ghinnah will pre-

cent his risking his charge wantonly , and on this we rely at this juncture. We have fallen into precious company ! and it behoves us to be on our guard as much as possible. Never did heroes in romance plunge into greater perplexities ; and were not this narrative well attested, it might seem here to breathe the air of fiction. But the good genius which presided over every adventure we have achieved, will, we trust, conduct us safely through the present.

At seven o'clock the camels belonging to the robbers went on for water, and left their captain and a guard only with their baggage. This was a proof of confidence ; but we betook ourselves to bed, with our arms by us as usual, and got as much sleep as the cold would admit of. I was so unfortunate as to be stripped of my night-cloak at Ghinnah, and have no defence but a chintz coverlid against the sharpness of the wind, which is due north, and as cutting as I ever felt it out of Europe. When we begin to travel at night, the motion will make us less sensible of the cold. This valley is, by our reckoning, fifty-nine miles from Ghinnah. Our course to-day has been N. W.

M O N D A Y, 8th SEPTEMBER.

I awoke at four o'clock this morning, and found that the camels belonging to the robbers were not returned from the spring. Their baggage lay within view of us, among which I learn there is coffee, sugar, and sail-cloth, which they have lately taken, and are carrying for sale into the neighborhood of Cairo. At day-break our camels were also dispatched for water, and left only Hadgee Uttalah and the owners of the camels with us. As there was no hope of our decamping before noon, to amuse myself after breakfast I sat down to transcribe an ode, in the composition of which I was disturbed yesterday by the adventure of the deer. My camel

is the laziest of the set, and affords me frequent opportunities for musing, by lagging behind the rest. A pretty place for inspiration, truly! methinks some critic cries. But as gay scenes give birth to gay ideas, so the verse portrayed in a desert, cannot fail to partake of its strong and gloomy coloring. Those readers who are of a disposition to relish such a picture, may look to the Appendix; where, to avoid breaking the thread of my subject, I have placed this ode. Conceived among the objects it describes, it is chiefly calculated for the pensive, melancholy heart; to which I beg leave to address it.

It seems that robbery is no dishonorable profession among the Arabs, while they confine their attacks to the people of other districts. Their friends and acquaintances may encounter these banditti without violation; and it is seldom known, that they lay their own countrymen under contribution. Our Arabs have fallen under the former description, and it is to this extraordinary observance of faith, that we shall be indebted for our escape. Their custom is to make excursions into distant provinces, and to return to their own, with all the plunder they can collect. They consider it rather as carrying on a petty war, than as an infringement of the rights of mankind; and in this respect, perhaps, have as much reason and justice on their side, as most of those heroes who have desolated the earth, and whose crimes only want to be divested of the vain *eclat* of uncommon actions. The government itself winks at these proceedings, which enrich its subjects; and while the delinquents keep beyond the immediate cognizance of justice, they have nothing to apprehend from its resentment. And if it be considered, that many of their associates are men who have been guilty of no offence, but have been obliged by the crimes of some of their family, to take refuge in the desert, to shun the vengeance of individuals, we should be the less surprized at meeting with an instance of
humanity

humanity and forbearance among them. The cruel policy of their laws has peopled the waste ; and driven men of fair character to mingle with the vile, and to prey on the unwary traveller !

The captain of the gang was introduced to us by Hadgee Uttalah at breakfast, and took a cup of coffee with us. He is a bold, laughing villain, of a middle size, but large limbed : and would be well-featured, were not his mouth disfigured by a deep scar, which contracts his upper lip, and betrays the loss of several of his fore-teeth : the effects we suppose of one of his rencounters ! There is a freedom in his behavior, which gains him our confidence. Far from being ashamed of his way of life, he talked of his late exploit, and produced two pair of morocco slippers, a Turkish vest, and other articles of dress, for sale. These we readily purchased, to conciliate his good opinion ; and necessity must excuse our receiving stolen goods, knowing them to be stolen. Abdul Ruffar bought an Alcoran, and other religious books, the plunder perhaps of some poor priest ; and Ibrahim a French horse-pistol, which will be of more show than use to him. These things we have procured for at least a third of their value : and Hadgee Uttalah has satisfied the robber, for which we are to account with the former at Cairo. We have been careful to instil into our own people the belief of our being destitute of money ; or God knows, what mischief the discovery of our real treasures might produce against us. Our fortune is very peculiar. We might have gone this road a thousand times, without encountering these freebooters. Had we arrived at this pass but half an hour later, we should have missed of them, as they were hastening through the valley to get water, and dreamed as little as ourselves, of stumbling upon human creatures in this unfrequented waste. But the event only can decide, whether the meeting be propitious or not. We have often,
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during our journey, had occasion to applaud Pope's celebrated maxim, that "whatever is, is right." And though so flattering to our interests, may we not hope that even this will prove a fresh testimony of it? The dealings which we have had with their captain, shew that he means to act upon the square with us; and we are still encreasing our debt with our Arabs, of which they are to look for payment at Cairo.

At eleven o'clock their camels returned from the spring, and had their intentions been hostile, they could not have found a better opportunity to execute them, than in the absence of a great part of our force. But their ideas were of an opposite nature. In the afternoon they killed a young camel, in compliment to Hadgee Uttalah; and nothing went forward but preparations for an entertainment. This flesh the Arabs esteem beyond all other; and as they presented us with a piece, our stomachs were not pampered enough to refuse tasting of it. Though we had eaten our humble repast, we had sufficient appetite to find the meat tender and well-flavored. It is coarse enough, however, and might be mistaken for bull-beef.

At three o'clock our camels returned, with the skins filled with good water. There is a feast however among the Arabs, which cuts off our expectations of getting away before the evening. Were it not for the delay, we have not spent a disagreeable day in this valley. It is so deep and so narrow, that there is ever a shade to the east or west side of it, and a draft of wind drawing through, which alleviates the noon-tide fervor.

We find, to our great regret, that we do not move to-night. Hadgee Uttalah now tells us, that as the camel was killed on our account, we cannot in decency but stay, until the strangers have dressed and prepared it for the journey. This will take up until dark, and we have another craggy mountain to pass over.

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As the troubles probably subsist at Cairo, the old man proposed to us a plan, to carry us to the place of these robbers' residence. This is situated near the river, and but a few hours distant from that city, where he will accompany us in a boat. And the reason he gives for this manœuvre, is plausible enough. His camels run a risk of being pressed for the war, should he venture them to Cairo. Notwithstanding it was the Shaik Ul Arab's positive direction, that the camels should set us down at the English factory, and the scheme itself is not wholly to our mind, we must have that consideration for these poor creatures' property, as not to hazard it wantonly at the capital, if we can be conveyed there, though at a little more expence, in a boat. We have, therefore, given our conductor the latitude to act for the best. But not to forget our interest while he promotes his own.

The crackling of fires was now heard on all sides, and the menial Arabs were busy in turning the large joints upon the glowing embers. Some were dealing out their scanty allowance to the camels; while others unsheathed their glittering blades, to portion out the night's repast. Meanwhile the chiefs were assembled apart, stretched upon the hides of some ferocious animal, once roving and lawless like themselves. Their arms were thrown peaceably by them; while from each mouth, a long protended tube dispensed the fragrant fumes of Persia's weed. Deeds of bold hardiment are now retold: and each vain-glorious boaster is hero of the frequent tale. His province, war! and man, his spoil! Thus fleet the hours, 'till languor creeps upon the band, and quick resigns them to the arms of sleep.

TUESDAY, 9th SEPTEMBER.

The night was sharp as usual, which occasioned us to lie longer this morning to comfort ourselves. We did not move off our ground

ground until half past six o'clock, and the robbers then were not ready to accompany us. They desired us however to proceed, and promised to follow soon after. For three hours we wended through the valley we slept in, and about ten o'clock, began to gain the high ground by a regular ascent. The rest of this day's journey was continued over a succession of hills and dales; where the road was so intricate and broken, that nothing but a camel could get over it. The appearance of the road is so frightful in many places, that we do not wonder, why our people have hitherto laid by in the night. The air is so piercing on the hills, that we feel not the least inconvenience from the meridian ray. The sun, indeed, is far to the southward in this month, and we daily hasten, to our great comfort, from each other: add to this, we have turned our backs upon him. We can already pronounce this journey to be of a different complexion from our last. The roads, it is true, are more difficult and dangerous; but the season is so much changed for the better, that we scarce know what it is to thirst, or to suffer any but a partial heat. At one o'clock we entered another valley, which we traversed until half past two, and for want of a breeze, found it comfortably hot. Here we halted, and were not lucky enough to gain the least shelter from the sun. The change was disagreeable enough from our late situation in the high ground. We passed suddenly from the extreme of cold to that of heat. "Extremes by change more fierce." This valley we found to be the proper watering-place: the spring we met with yesterday, being only known to the robbers who haunt the waste. Our camels were accordingly dispatched to replenish the few empty skins, and to drink themselves, against the long thirst they are to experience. We sprang a brace of partridge and several quail in this valley, which has good cover of fragrant shrubs. The last stage was no less than eight hours, or twenty miles, and by our reckoning, we are but seventy-nine miles from Ghinnah. Our course

to-day has been N. N. W. We now see that yesterday was absolutely a lost day, and if we travel at this rate, our provisions, as well as patience, will soon fail us.

It was whispered about that the robbers had taken a different route. We had been here near two hours, and there were no signs of them. This made us suspect, that they had amused us with the idea of joining us, and we were rather doubtful, whether the separation would be to our advantage or not, when a little after four o'clock, I saw the captain of the robbers with two attendants, advancing towards us with a quick pace. Shortly after the whole band appeared in sight, according their steps to the tune of a song, and seemingly careless of the sun-beams and of the world beside. They make a formidable figure, and are trebly armed to what our party are. How different is the fact from what was reported of their discipline and arms! Besides his matchlock, which is slung behind his back, each man has pistols in his girdle, a sabre on his left side, and a hanger on his right, while in his right hand he brandishes a spear. They are also in general better mounted than we; and our having out-marched them to-day, must be attributed to the additional load they have carried in the flesh of the camel. The principal part of our force was absent, and they had another fair opportunity of attacking us to advantage. But very amicable was their salutation; and they only thought of sending their camels to the spring, which met our's returning thence. This we find will detain us here until the morning, and is the second delay which these people have occasioned us. We learn that we are to march for three days on the mountains, before we descend towards the Nile, where we are to water next; which argues the necessity of going from hence with full skins.

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WEDNESDAY, 10th SEPTEMBER.

We were late as usual in decamping this morning. The Arabs seem not to relish the morning air, and make up for the delay, by marching an hour or two longer during the heat of the day: a circumstance not over and above agreeable to us. But, perhaps, I speak chiefly for myself, whose eyes are still weak, though on the mending hand, and much incommoded by the rays of the sun. Our satisfactions are seldom without their alloys. In a conversation we had with one of the owners of our camels, as we drank our coffee, he let us know how much we were in the power of his countrymen. He had the assurance to laugh at the idea of the Shaik Ul Arab, who he said was nobody here; and added, that were it not for himself and his companions, we should have been stripped by the robbers, and now been wandering about the desert, destitute of food and raiment*. There was something in this picture that did not flatter our imaginations. Our pride was alarmed; and we quickly retorted, that we never would be reduced to such a condition, while we had a hand remaining to wield a weapon. But in spite of this fellow's arrogance, we thought it prudent to retain him in our interest. We commended his fidelity, and appeared thankful for his friendship, which we promised to shew a proper sense of on our arrival at Cairo. His behavior, indeed, is quite the reverse to that of Hadgee Uttalah, who is not only a quiet, civil body, but one, who speaks of his sovereign with deference and respect.

At half past six o'clock we began to ascend a mountain nearly perpendicular. The way was rugged, and one of my camels be-

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* This very situation has since been the lot of a company of Europeans, between Suez and Cairo. The miserable end of those who perished in this horrid manner, should redouble our sense of our providential escape.

ing skittish, or perhaps uneasily laden, suddenly threw his burden from his back, and disordered the whole body. My trunks pitched from rock to rock, until they got to the bottom; and I am indebted to good luck, that they were not broken to pieces. The contents which such an accident would have published to the robbers, might have awakened the spirit of rapine which lay dormant within them; and tended to disturb the present harmony which subsists between us. Ibrahim was sent down to replace the baggage, and found one of the robbers very kindly assisting the driver in that office. We were near an hour leading our camels from one ascent to another, before we conquered the summit; and for three hours rode over a plain, where neither shrub nor bush was to be seen. At ten o'clock we descended into a valley, where we halted to breakfast. In this valley, we found plenty of provender for our cattle: Rosemary bushes, and other shrubs of uncommon fragrance, which, being natives of the desert, are still, perhaps, without a name. Though these scented plants are the usual food of the camel, it is remarkable, that his breath is insufferably nauseous. But when he is pushed by hunger, he devours thistles and prickles indiscriminately, without the least damage to his mouth, which seems proof to the sharpest thorns. The last stage was four hours, or ten miles.

At half past eleven we mounted again, and traversed the valley for an hour and upwards, when we climbed the mountains once more, by as narrow and craggy paths as human feet ever trod. As we overlooked the precipices beside us, I discovered several channels apparently worn with water, and am convinced in my own mind, from these and other signs, that either the Nile formerly branched into this desert, or rivers ran here whose springs are now choaked up. "Dumb are their channels and their fountains dry." The very neighborhood of the Nile has undergone one of the unaccountable vicissitudes of sublu-
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nary things : and the population of Upper Egypt has shrunk to the narrow compass of the river, which waters her extensive domain !

The band of robbers keep in our rear, and have hitherto halted at an agreeable distance from us. This conduct we approve of much, as their mixing with our simple servants might be productive of discoveries, not to our advantage. At half past four, we entered a valley, where we dined luxuriously in the shade. We are much surprized to find that our biscuit runs short. This will soon oblige us to mess with the Arabs, and to eat of their flour cakes baked in the ashes. But while we keep our healths, we shall scarcely complain of our food, whatever it may be. The Arab we hired at Ghinnah, is the person on whom we must depend for the manufacturing these cakes. He is a droll, who plays a thousand antic tricks to divert the company. But I am of opinion, that he has more of the knave than fool about him. Ibrahim was always too indolent, to administer to our wants of this kind. And as to Abdul Ruffar, he has been of little or no service to us, since the leap he made for his life at the house of Mahomet. He has been long recovered of his bruises, but they seem to have cooled his zeal for our interests. The last stage was five hours, or twelve miles and an half. At eight o'clock we moved on with the benefit of a fine moon, and kept winding through the valley until half past eleven, when we stopped, at the foot of an high hill for the remainder of the night. The last stage was three hours and an half, or nine miles ; and we are by computation one hundred and ten miles from Ghinnah. Our course to-day has been to the eastward of north.

THURSDAY.

THURSDAY, 11th SEPTEMBER.

We decamped in such haste this morning, that we were disappointed of our coffee, and marched away with empty stomachs. We led the camels up the hill before us, and for two hours passed over such a variety of hills and dales, that we could not pretend to mount our beasts. At eight o'clock, we began to descend into a deep valley, by one of the most dangerous roads we had yet beheld. On each side of us were perpendicular steeps, some hundred fathoms deep. But the traveller's attention seems to be purposely diverted from the danger, by the magnificent objects which surround him. Here he sees pointed heaps of the brightest crystal, that dazzle the eye with their glittering lustre: while ever and anon above his head, tremendous to behold! columns of the finest granite, rent from the mountain, seem ready to bury him beneath their tottering weight. On every part is such a wild confusion of hanging precipices, disjointed rocks, and hideous chasms, that we might well cry out with the poet "Chaos is come again." Whoever can tread these rude retreats, without being struck with the sublimest ideas of that Almighty Providence, who presides as well amid the gloom and silence of the desert, as in the noise and gaiety of the city, must be as dead to the emotions of fancy as to a sense of devotion. Yes, omnipotent Father! to thee we trust for our deliverance from the perils that surround us. It was through this wilderness thou didst lead thy chosen people. It was here thou didst manifest thy signal protection, in snatching them from the jaws of destruction which opened upon every side. Though less deserving of thy regard, we despair not of a prosperous issue to our wanderings: and in the hope of thy support, we look with indifference on what may befall us!

At nine o'clock we ascended a gentle acclivity, where we mounted our camels, and rode over level ground until half past ten, when we halted among some shrubs, to feed our beasts and to breakfast. The last stage was four hours and an half, or eleven miles.

At half past eleven we resumed our journey, which still lay upon a plain. As we went along, we started two or three deer, which were the first living creatures we had met upon these heights. At two o'clock we came suddenly upon a dreadful chasm in the road, which appears to have been the effect of an earthquake. It is about three hundred yards long, one hundred yards wide, and as many deep; and what is the curiosity, in the middle of the gulph a single column of stone raises its head to the surface of the earth. The rudeness of the work, and the astonishing length of the stone, announce it to be a '*lusus naturæ*,' though the robbers declared to us, that beneath the column there lies a prodigious sum of money; and added, with a grave face, they have a tradition, that none but a Christian's hand can remove the stone to come at it. We could hardly keep our countenance at this tale, and without attempting a labor, which would have been worthy of the fabled Hercules, we rounded this gulph, which is called Somah; and leaving it behind us, we entered a valley where we found a very craggy road. We continued our course through this valley until half past five o'clock, when we halted under the shade of an hill to dine. The last stage was six hours, or fifteen miles; and a very fatiguing one it proved, during the hottest part of the day. The robbers kept nearer to us than usual, and encamped on the same ground. Here our Arabs diverted themselves with shooting at a mark, at which they are very dextrous. It is necessary for them, however, to rest their pieces, which leaves them infinitely beneath our marksmen in fair shooting. The example of our people
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animated those in the other quarter: and there was nothing heard but the report of fire-arms, during our stay here. The robbers were much delighted with a musketoon belonging to us, whose execution upon the rocks was more terrible, and whose report more loud, than they had any conception of. They remarked too with wonder, that a matchlock misses fire more frequently than a fusée, although the former has a match in lieu of a flint.

At eight o'clock we mounted again, and resumed our course through the valley by moon-light, until half past ten, when we stopped to take our repose. The last stage was two hours and an half, or six miles; and by our reckoning, we are one hundred and forty-two miles from Ghinnah. Our course to-day has been N. by E. and N. by W.

FRIDAY, 12th SEPTEMBER.

We did not begin our march before half past six o'clock this morning, by which time we had broken our fast with a dish of coffee. We directed our course to the westward, to gain on the river; as this is the fourth day since we filled our water-skins, which make but a light appearance at present. We soon entered upon a very extensive plain, scattered over with a variety of odoriferous shrubs, and bounded on all sides by lofty mountains, whose tops were lost in the clouds. After the heights we have passed, it is no pleasing prospect to behold new difficulties to conquer. But alas! fatigues seem daily to multiply upon us. "Hills peep o'er hills, and Alps on Alps arise." — As we went along we perceived the fresh tracks of numbers of deer, which we suppose had taken to the hills on our approach. The nearer we go to the Nile, the less sterile is the face of the country. The soil in many places is mixed with clay, and seems
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capable of cultivation. At half past eight o'clock we halted in a spacious opening between the mountains, which leads due west to the river. Here the Arabs tell us we must remain, while the camels fetch water from the Nile, which is about twenty miles distant. As the war still rages there, they do not think it prudent for us to approach any nearer. The robbers have encamped by us, and dispatched their camels on the same errand. This delay will prolong our journey a day at least, and consequently the time we are to spend with these honest fellows. They are, however, on their good behavior with us; and as long as they keep their word with our conductor, we are bound to speak well of them, whatever may be their general character and profession. We should have spent a disagreeable day here, had we not fixed up such a tent as we contrived at our first stage from Ghinnah, to shelter us from the sun. But there was no standing within it, nor any mode of entrance but upon our knees. This inconvenience, however, is not to be mentioned, among others which we have long sustained. Chairs and tables we have been utter strangers to for some months; and it is no longer awkward to us to feed ourselves with our fingers.

While we waited for the return of our camels, we were alarmed about noon by the report of two cannon. It came from the river, and we began to apprehend that there might be troubles in our neighborhood. Remote, as we were from the scene of the dispute, the sight of our camels might occasion an enquiry from either party, which might end in the discovery of our retreat. These reflections were not of a very consolatory nature; nor did our situation call for foreign evils, to render it less enviable. But we were not otherwise disturbed, than in our imaginations. Every thing remained quiet during the day; and though the Arabs, as well as our servants, repeatedly declared, that they heard the firing of more cannon, we imputed it to fancy or fear, and attended very
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patiently

patiently to the issue. We were indeed engaged in another matter, which at first had a serious countenance. We found that our coffee and sugar was expended, and that the camel-drivers were in want of more ghee, notwithstanding the large stock which we laid in of these articles. Now it was that we became sensible of some of the good effects of the company of the robbers. What we should have sought for in vain in their absence, their captain has supplied us with, at half the prices which such articles bear at Ghinnah. Hadgee Uttalah has settled with him for the amount, which we are to repay at Cairo. In truth, the conscience of this robber is no less wonderful than his manners. He is easy of access, and yet carries a proper command over his party; and by his own example teaches them to be civil, and even obliging to us. We would willingly make him a suitable acknowledgment for this behavior, but do not think it safe to produce money, or to depart in the least from our professions of poverty. It was with the greatest pleasure imaginable, that I could oblige him in a trifling point: with a couple of razors, which he saw in my servant's hands, and expressed a desire for.

As the night advanced, our anxiety for the fate of our camels increased. They did not return before eleven o'clock, and were absent upwards of fourteen hours. They went to an unfrequented inlet of the river, but saw a countryman, who informed the drivers, that Ismaul Beg had repulsed the gallies of Ibrahim Beg, and dispersed his forces upon the banks of the Nile. We are probably indebted to the horrors of the desert, that we have not encountered any of the fugitives, who, to shun famine here, have chosen a route more formidable in point of human persecutions. This place, we understand, is nearly opposite to the town of Suadi, on the Nile; and as our stage to-day was but two hours, or five miles, we are, by our calculation, 149 miles from Ghinnah.

S A T U R D A Y, 13th SEPTEMBER.

At half past six this morning we left our ground, and travelled over a plain until nine o'clock, when we entered a broad valley, and at ten halted among some bushes to breakfast. We now began to be in the same mess with the Arabs. Our own biscuit was out; but it was with no indifferent stomachs that we partook of their unleavened bread. This is made of flour to be sure, but flour in the coarsest state: and what with the making and baking, the reader may conceive that the bread is of a tolerable blackness, before it comes to our hands. We moisten this food with ghee, and crown the repast with a dish of coffee, and a draught of water. I declare, for my own part, that I never enjoyed one, at any period of my life, with a better relish. So beneficial are exercise and sobriety to the health! and so successful is necessity in overcoming the force of habit! I may speak confidently on the former heads, in regard to myself; as my constitution is none of the strongest, and I have been ever subject to head-achs, and nervous complaints. But none of our company bear the fatigues of the journey better than myself; or have been blest with a greater share of health during our residence in these parts. The humour in my eyes was but an external disorder; and, thanks to our conductor, did not much trouble me after the application he made to them. The last stage was three hours and an half, or nine miles.

At eleven o'clock we mounted again, and pursued our route through the valley, which is pretty thickly covered with shrubs. Nothing is so disagreeable as to go for any length of way through a place of this kind. The poor camels will stop at every bush to satisfy their hunger; and, did humanity admit of depriving them of this scanty satisfaction, neither words nor blows could induce them to mend their pace. At one o'clock we gained, by a gentle

ascent, upon a plain, stony and bare of verdure. We left the hill in our rear, and toiled onwards over the barren flat in an hot sun until four o'clock, when we entered a valley stored with rosemary and other scented bushes. We winded through it until half past four, when we halted to refresh ourselves and cattle. It must be observed, that we found no shelter from the sun at either of our halting-places to-day, which has rendered it the most irksome one during this journey. The last stage was five hours and an half, or fourteen miles.

At eight o'clock we moved on with a fine moon. The night was very sharp and cold, though I faced it without putting on any additional covering. The Arabs wrapped themselves up in their cloaks; and, with the assistance of their pipes, contrived to baffle the piercing wind, which is by no means agreeable to their feelings. Each man is provided with a flint and piece of steel. To the steel a bit of leather is affixed, which takes fire on the first stroke, and is ready to light his matchlock or pipe. An unlucky accident had like to have befallen Mr. Hammond, from the use of these flints. A spark of fire fell unknowingly upon the leather-bag which contained his ammunition; and had he not by chance perceived the smoke issuing from it, in a few minutes it is probable he would have felt the severe effects of the explosion. This alarm occasioned us to change our position, and we kept to the windward of the Arabs during the rest of the march. Our road, after leaving the valley, lay over level ground. As it would be next to an impossibility to find the way over these stony flats, where the heavy foot of a camel leaves no impression, the different bands of robbers have heaped up stones at unequal distances, for their direction through this desert. We have derived great assistance from the robbers in this respect, who are our guides when the marks either fail, or are unintelligible to us. If it be considered, that this road to Cairo is seldom or never trodden, it is no wonder

that our Arabs are frequently at a loss for the course. We are but the third, and, perhaps, may be the last company of travellers, who have ventured to go by this route, since the disturbances have arisen upon the Nile. Our little Turk at Ghinnah was particularly averse to it; and though both his person and merchandize would in all probability have enjoyed the same protection as ourselves, we are well enough pleased that he did not encounter the trial. The truth of it is, the Turks are very tyrannical masters, and the Arabs seize every opportunity to repay their obligations in kind. At twelve o'clock we halted to take our repose in the open plain; and fenced ourselves from the cold wind as well as we could, with our baggage. The last stage was four hours, or ten miles; and, by our reckoning, we are 180 miles from Ghinnah. Our course to-day has been N. E. and during the latter part due N.

SUNDAY, 14th SEPTEMBER.

We decamped at half past six o'clock this morning, and pursued our course over a level country. The river, we are told, runs within ten or twelve miles of us; but we dare not approach it, whatever attractions it may possess. On the road we passed the skeleton of a camel, which now and then happens in the desert. These are poor creatures that have perished with fatigue; for those which are killed for the sustenance of the Arabs, are carried away, bones and all together. Of the hides are made the soles of the slippers which are worn in Egypt, without any dressing, but what the sun can give them. The circumstances of this animal's death, when his strength fails him on the road, have something in them affecting to humanity. Such are his patience and perseverance, that he pursues his journey without flagging, as long as he has power to support its weight; and such are his
fortitude

fortitude and spirit, that he will never give out, until nature sinks beneath the complicated ills which press upon him. Then, and then only, will he resign his burden and his body to the ground. Nor stripes, nor caresses, nor food, nor rest, will make him rise again! His vigor is exhausted, and life ebbs out apace!—This the Arabs are very sensible of, and kindly plunge a sword into the breast of the dying beast, to shorten his pangs. Even the Arab feels remorse when he commits this deed: his hardened heart is moved at the loss of a faithful servant!—Peace then to thy remains, unhappy son of want and woe! May no rude wind disturb thy bones, no impious hand remove them from the reach of passing eyes! At sight of them the traveller shall drop a pitying tear. Thy force! thy gentleness! thy giant form! thy toiling days! thy hapless end! shall rush upon his mind, and loudly claim this transient tribute! So may he hope to pass secure the horrors of the waste—so may the beast which he bestrides, escape thy fate!

At ten o'clock we halted in the sun to breakfast, among some thistles, which is all that the plain affords our poor camels. The soil here is gravel, intermixed with chalk and stone. The last stage was three hours and an half, or nine miles. At eleven we resumed our march, over one of the most extensive plains in the universe. Not a hill, not a tree appears; and the eye, as on the ocean, is only bounded by the horizon. The sun here was very powerful; and the wind blowing over the chalky soil, proved more troublesome and disagreeable, than we have found it on the journey. We travelled the whole day without resting, though we were obliged to pull in our camels once or twice among some bushes, to refresh them with a mouthful of food. At five o'clock we approached a range of high mountains, which run westward to the Nile. We stopped within a league of them, until the captain of the robbers and some of the Arabs pushed on to survey the pass,

pass, which is sometimes frequented by their fraternity. We moved slowly after them, and at seven o'clock overtook them under the hills at the entrance of the valley, and were happy to find there was no appearance of danger. We sheltered ourselves behind a thick spreading bush to sleep, as the north wind blew peculiarly cold. Here my servant discovered a snake under his bed, which the Arabs tell us is poisonous. But it had no tokens of being so, if I may be allowed to judge from the variety of snakes which I have seen in India. This laborious stage took us up eight hours and an half, or twenty-two miles, so that we are by our reckoning 212 miles from Ghinnah. Our courie to-day has been to the westward of N.

M O N D A Y, 15th SEPTEMBER.

We were in motion by six o'clock this morning, and advanced towards the hills, to which we judged we were so near by the light of the moon. But it was a full hour before we entered the valley that divides them. Here we found plenty of provender for our camels, who get but a measure of beans *per diem* each, besides the food which they pick up in the way. A slender allowance indeed, for so large an animal! On all sides we observed the fresh shot of deer, and of another creature, which I take to be an elk from the size of the hoof, but which the Arabs call a mountain sheep. These mountains are composed of alabaster, porphyry, and granite; large fragments of which are scattered about the road, either by the force of a whirlwind, or their fall from an immense height. It was doubtless from this quarter, that the ancient kings of Egypt furnished themselves with the materials of those splendid edifices, whose remains are yet visible in the principal cities of this kingdom. Those lofty columns which have astonished mankind at Alexandria and elsewhere, and which have

been transported to Italy at a prodigious expence, were probably cut from these quarries; as the vicinity of the Nile afforded such an eligible conveyance to the sea. This is, in fact, but a conjecture; but such as a traveller may be allowed to indulge himself in, were it only to rectify the mistakes of some very ingenious writers, who have supposed all this profusion of marble to have been brought from above the cataracts of the Nile, and thence deduce the insignificance of those celebrated falls *. But to me the premises appear so ill-founded, that I cannot admit of the inference; though it must be acknowledged, that accident alone could have led a stranger to the discovery of a quarry, which is unknown or unattended to, by the natives of the country. We winded through this valley 'till ten o'clock, when we halted among some thorn-trees to drink coffee. This stage was four hours, or ten miles.

At eleven o'clock we resumed our course through the valley, which is well stocked with thorn trees that are large enough to throw a shade. Our nostrils were saluted with a fine odour, as we passed by the snowy blossoms that whiten the vale. On the road we started an hare, and saw many earths, which this poor creature burrows in to defend her from the heat. The wind was so bleak, that the sun had little or no effect until towards noon, when the weather turned very sultry. We journeyed the whole day in this valley, which in some places extends itself near a mile in breadth. In the afternoon we were alarmed with the fresh tracks of a camel's feet, which make a strong impression in a soft soil. The Arabs do not take them to be more than a day old, and pronounce a party of freebooters to be at hand. No travellers left Ghinnah later than a week before us; and what business can bring any but freebooters into this waste, is incomprehensible to us. Danger seemed to be near us, and scouts were sent forward to advertise us of it.

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* By the testimonies of Captain Norden and Dr. Pococke, these falls are really insignificant; but neither of them penetrated to the second or third cataract.

The robbers were employed in this office, and by the facility with which they traced the suspicious ~~fact~~ it appeared how difficult it would be to avoid such an expert pack. No hound could run truer upon a scent, nor do I suppose, any hound would be stauncher to the chase. We travelled on, however, without any interruption, and at six o'clock halted to dine. We were in need of refreshment, as the last stage was seven hours, or seventeen miles and an half. But our meat is quite expended, and we were obliged to put up with flour, which also begins to run short, for want, we fear, of economy being observed among our servants. By Hadgee Uttalah's first account, we were to have reached Cairo last night, and now he talks of two or three days more! This mistake must have arisen, not more from the delays we have met with, than from his ignorance of the country. It behoves us, however, to be careful of the little provision which remains.

At eight o'clock we resumed our march by the light of the moon, and still found ourselves in the valley. At half past ten we halted to take our repose. The last stage was two hours and an half, or six miles, and by our reckoning we are 246 miles from Ghinnah. Our course to day, has been directed by the windings of the valley, generally to the eastward of N.

TUESDAY, 16th SEPTEMBER.

We decamped at six o'clock this morning, and presently quitting the valley, which is above thirty miles long, we entered upon a plain, over which we travelled for some time. At nine o'clock we came suddenly upon a well, which is situated among some broken ground. The sight of a spring of water was inexpressibly agreeable to our eyes, which had so long been strangers to so refreshing an object. We halted behind the shade of some bushes;

at a little distance from it, while we breakfasted, and replenished our skins with that precious article. The last stage was three hours, or seven miles and an half.

The morning was very cool and pleasant, and we beheld an hazy sky, for the first time, I believe, since we have been in Egypt. The heavens are usually clear and serene in this upper province, where I cannot learn the plague has ever extended, during the periods of its greatest rage in Lower Egypt; to which land we are now approaching. Hadgee Uttalah tells us, that he will certainly put us into a boat on Thursday morning. We cannot be any considerable distance from the latitude of Cairo, and have therefore the greater dependence on this promise. While we were at breakfast we received a visit from the captain of the robbers, who expressed a desire to see a double-barrelled piece, which he heard was in my possession. After the honorable treatment which we had received from him, I could not do less than produce it. I went further, to please him, and discharged it, to shew him the nature of its construction. He was much taken with the novelty of the invention; and after surveying it with particular marks of satisfaction and astonishment, he returned it to my hands. I mention this circumstance, to evince the excessive forbearance of this man; whose profession is thieving, and to whom a fire-arm of this kind must have been a very desirable acquisition. He had not left us many minutes, when one of his followers brought as a present of a bag of flour, with his master's compliments. He had learnt from our conductor, that we were in want of it; and though we did not chuse to be under an obligation to him of this nature, we could not prevail on him to accept of any pecuniary consideration for it. All we could do, was to divide some rice we had left, and send the half to the captain; which we had the pleasure to understand proved a new and acceptable food to him. This is, surprising, considering the neighborhood of the Delta, which produces such quantities

quantities of rice. But we must remember, that this robber has detached himself from the society of cities, and is not likely to meet with any but the common grain, in his progress through the waste.

.We lost the greatest part of the day at this spring. Though our skins were presently filled, the camels were yet to drink, and we had not bargained for the time which this necessary business would take up. As the camels could not go to the well, an hole was sunk in the earth below the surface of the spring, over which a skin was spread, to retain the water which flowed into it. At this but two camels could drink at a time, and it was six hours before our camels, which amounted to forty-eight in all, were watered. Each camel, therefore, by this calculation, takes a quarter of an hour to quench his enormous thirst; and to water a common caravan of 400 camels at such a place as this, would require two days and two nights. A most unforeseen and inconceivable delay to an uninformed traveller!

At three o'clock we resumed our journey, and soon entered a dale, the most fertile we had yet beheld. Here grass, and a kind of wild grain, were intermixed with the fragrant shrubs, and afforded a very agreeable change to our cattle, who devoured the fresh blade with unusual greediness. The banks on each side of us, were green and sloping, and the soil black and soft. From these circumstances, and the course of the dale, which winds N. W. towards the Nile, I take it to have been formerly a branch of that river, but which has been long choked up, except in uncommon inundations. As we went along, we started several hares, and sprang a brace or two of quail; but we were not provided with shot to bring them down. At three quarters past seven we halted under the bank of the dale, to take our repose. The last stage was four hours and three quarters.

or twelve miles; so that by our reckoning we are 266 miles from Ghinnah. Our course to-day was N. by W. and N. W.

WEDNESDAY, 17th SEPTEMBER.

We were mounted before five o'clock this morning, and missing one of our camels, which had strayed, we were obliged to divide his burden among the rest, and to leave a man behind us to look for him. We soon quitted the dale, and ascended the high ground by the side of a mountain, that overlooks it in this part. The path was narrow and perpendicular, and much resembled a ladder. To make it worse, we preceded the robbers; and an ignorant guide among our own people led us astray. Here we found ourselves in a pretty situation! We had kept the lower road on the side of the hill, instead of that towards the summit, until we could proceed no further. We were now obliged to gain the heights, in order to recover the road; in performing which, we drove our poor camels up such steep, as we had the greatest difficulty to climb after them. We were under the necessity of leaving them to themselves; as the danger of leading them through places, where the least false step would have precipitated both man and beast to the unfathomable abyss below, was too critical to hazard. We hit at length upon the proper path, and were glad to find ourselves in the rear of our uncaring guides, the robbers, after having won every foot of the ground with real peril and fatigue. In the valley beneath us, we passed by a fountain of fine water. It gushed from a rock, and threw itself with some violence into a basin, which it had hollowed for itself below. We had no occasion for a fresh supply; but could not help lingering a few minutes to admire a sight, so pretty in itself, and so bewitching to our eyes, which

had

had of late been strangers to bubbling founts and limpid streams. At seven o'clock we reached the summit of the mountain, and travelled until half past ten, over a continued region of hills and dales. This astonishing jumble! this continued ascent! recalls to the traveller's mind the fabled battle of the giants, who, in warring with the gods, heaped hills on hills to scale the canopy of heaven. They are rude, craggy, and barren, and the tracks over them hardly passable. In the bottoms the soil is generally clay, and so moist, as to denote our vicinity to the Nile, which at this season floods the country around! At some openings to our left we once more beheld this noble river—beheld him after a long absence, sweeping his majestic course between the towering mountains. We plainly discerned the tops of those to the westward of his stream; and it seemed as if he had here scooped a channel for his rapid waters out of the solid rock. We gradually regained the low lands, and at eleven o'clock halted among some shrubs, to refresh ourselves and cattle. Here our Arab overtook us with the missing camel. The circumstance of his wandering is very uncommon. The camel is the most staid of all creatures, and remains by the baggage during the night without being picketed. The last stage was six hours, or fifteen miles.

At half past eleven we resumed our march, and soon came to the foot of a prodigious hill, which we unexpectedly found we were to ascend. It was perpendicular, like the one which we had passed some hours before; but what rendered the access more difficult, the path which we were to tread, was nearly right up and down. The captain of the robbers, seeing the obstacles we had to overcome, wisely sent all his camels round the mountain, where he knew there was a defile, and only accompanied us with the beast he rode. We luckily met with no accident in climbing this height, which our people tell us, is the last we shall encounter.

counter. We journeyed over the top until one o'clock, when we descended into a valley by a passage easy enough. Here we were surprised with the sight of a man and a camel, who were half-concealed by a spreading bush. Our servants were first, and gave the alarm; upon which the captain of the robbers pushed on his camel at its utmost speed, regardless of danger, and meditating, perhaps, the seizure of some booty. Our Arabs followed him, and presently surrounded the man. My companions and myself hastened after. Our situation was difficult on such an occasion; but we had already determined on the part we were to take, should the distress of a fellow-creature claim our protection. We were bound by the ties of honor, to observe a strict neutrality towards the robbers, except when they infringed the rights of human nature in our presence. Happily for us all, the man in question was no subject for their depredations. We soon came up to him, and found he was a courier, who left Cairo but yesterday, and is proceeding with letters to some town on the river. He is known to the robber, or it seems that he would not have ventured through the desert. He tells us that all is quiet again at Cairo. This news, and the certain vicinity of the city, have put us all into good spirits. The arduous enterprise is nearly accomplished, and the palm of success is at hand!

We left the principal Arabs to entertain the stranger with coffee, and toiled through the valley until half past five o'clock, when we halted to dine. We were now joined by those Arabs, and presently after by the rest of the robbers, who had made an astonishing march to overtake us. This stage was six hours, or fifteen miles. After a light refreshment of bread, we moved on at seven with the moon, which was now at full, and afforded us a clear light to march over an hilly region until twelve o'clock, when we spread our beds under a bank, to snatch a short repose. The Arabs tell us we must be stirring before day-break, which,
added

added to our march to-day, pronounces them to be anxious to finish our toilsome journey. This place is but a short distance from the river. The last stage was five hours, or twelve miles, and by our reckoning, we are now 308 miles from Ghinnah. Our course to-day has been N. W. and W.

THURSDAY, 18th SEPTEMBER.

We were roused before four o'clock this morning, that we might get early to the town where we are to take boat. Without our usual allowance of coffee, we marched off directly for the river, to water our camels. The camel is as ready to drink often as any other animal, notwithstanding the large quantity of liquid which his stomach can contain. He is the only animal, who ruminates—if I may so term it—his drink as he journeys along; and is no more oppressed by it, than is the ox with his cud, which he chews at his leisure. We did not lose much time at the river, which we were overjoyed to review. Hence we directed our march to the northward, along the banks of the most delightful river in the world. By the late floods it is, in some parts, double its original breadth, and rushes with a noisy rapidity to the main. The desert here stretches itself to the very banks, which appear infinitely more verdant by the comparison. In our way we passed by a village to our left, called Vel Hadie, and at seven o'clock halted at the town of Iscour, where we expected to find a boat. But our expectations were vain; although Hadgee Uttalah went himself to the house of the principal officer, to obtain an order for one. While we remained here, I ascended an eminence without the town, and was presented with the most romantic prospect that imagination can portray. The Nile had now surrounded a long slip of land, which appeared to be in the midst of his stream, and displayed a bed of diversified green.

green. A large wood towered its head on this island, and altogether formed a striking contrast to the russet mountains, which overlook his western shores. About a mile from this charming retreat, buried in the desert from common observation, the robbers have their residence. They attended us thus far, and then returned to their tents, which they had pointed out to us on the road, as the dwellings of their families. Their departure was secret, or as we call it, was a French leave. Hadgee Uttalah insinuates, that their captain took this step, in order to shew his disinterestedness, and to save us the pain of being obliged to dismiss him, without a present. If this insinuation be just—and we have no reason to doubt it—there was a modesty in this procedure, which would have done credit to a man of the most liberal education. Indeed, the whole behavior of these robbers has been so extraordinary, and the adventure itself is of so novel a cast, that the reader would scarcely excuse me for parting with them, without making some observations on the subject.

Of all the different tribes of Arabians, which we have met with, these tenants of the desert alone, have afforded us unquestionable proofs of generosity and honor. We had sought for these virtues in the courts of princes, and found them in the uncultivated waste. Here no prejudices are harbored, no vain distinctions of religion give rise to despicable persecutions. If the sword be drawn, it is never wanton in its execution, and still respects the laws of friendship and faith. Like the savage inmates of the wild, these robbers rove through habit, and are only rapacious when urged by strong necessity. Man is their foe, more than they are the foe of man. But to these robbers alone this reflection will, perhaps, hold. Banished without cause from society, by the remissness of the laws, and influenced by education to think lightly of their trespasses, why should we marvel to hear of people in this profession, whose morals and

manners would not disgrace a city? This position is at least evident.—By the strict connection between them, and the frequent trial to which their fidelity is put, they have formed a character among themselves, which is unknown to the rest of their countrymen. A character, which has excited this involuntary tribute of praise from a stranger; and which is, indeed, worthy of a better fate!

The last stage was three hours, or seven miles. At ten o'clock we left Iscour, and prosecuted our journey along the banks of the Nile. We met with no villages for some miles. At one o'clock we saw the pyramids very distinctly, lying to the westward of the river. These we had observed from Iscour, though forty miles distant from them; but from their magnitude, conceived them to have been hills of stone. We now were ascertained of our approach to Cairo; and on my asking our conductor the use of those structures, he told us so many fables of their origin and riches, as afforded us ample entertainment on the road. Not that the dreams of superstition withdrew our attention, from the reality of the vision which delighted our eyes. We were struck with awe, in contemplating these amazing monuments of antiquity. Every thing conspired to touch the traveller's mind with the sublimest ideas. The rude grandeur of the stupendous mountains behind the pyramids; the astonishing height of the pyramids themselves, which appear to rival the works of nature; the breadth and rapidity of the river which runs beneath them, so renowned in song, and so fertile of uncommon productions, united to raise a picture worthy of a Brooke's * pencil to describe. Nor did I consider an herd of camels, that were browsing on our side of the river, as a small addition to the magnificence of the prospect, which was composed of the most gigantic objects in nature! In this march

* An eminent painter of Ireland, whose talents in his profession promise to illumine the rising glory of his country.

two of our camels were so far jaded, as to reduce us to distribute what little burdens remained to them among the rest, and to leave them at a village on the road. It was now, that we acknowledged the prudence of bringing the additional camels. We no longer ascribed the measure to any selfish views; and wholly acquitted the Arabs of a design to deceive us; as the difficulties in this mountainous journey were sufficient to break the heart of a camel itself. At five in the evening, we arrived at Tinnah, a town almost opposite the pyramids, where we presently procured a boat to carry us to Cairo, which is but twelve miles distant. The last stage was seven hours, or eighteen miles; so that our journey over the desert, from Ghinnah to this place, has been, by our reckoning, 333 miles.

Tinnah is a small but pleasant town, and stands upon the reputed site of antient Babylon. There are no vestiges, however, of that splendid city; nor any ruins here save those of modern edifices. The houses are prettily shaded with trees, and the environs laid out in fields of grain. It is easy to account for the extinction of antient ruins in a peopled place; but how are we to explain this extinction in a desert, except we recur to the hurricanes of sand in which they may be buried, or rather doubt their existence at once? We met with many spots in the desert, fit enough for cultivation; but not a ruin of any kind, to denote the habitations of men. It is probable, therefore, that the geographers of old wrote without adequate information on the subject; and have given cities and tribes to a waste, which has been desolate since the creation of the world*.

While we supped upon our remaining rice, we were surrounded with crowds of people, who beheld us with curiosity, and learnt our adventures from the Arabs with surprize. At
nine

* They have even exceeded those whom Swift ridicules—

“ Who o’er uninhabitable downs,
Place elephants for want of towns.”

nine o'clock we joyfully embarked for Cairo. Besides ourselves and our domestics, Hadgee Uttalah and the camel-owners accompanied us in the boat. By them we promised to gratify the drivers, who were sorry enough to leave us. The moon was just risen, and without fail or oar, we fell down briskly with the current. Every thing wore a placid aspect, and seemed ominous of the state of the capital. We passed by many villages, which appeared very picturesque by the pale light of the moon, and at midnight anchored on the western bank opposite Cairo, to take a short repose.

FRIDAY, 19th SEPTEMBER.

About two this morning we weighed, and stood into the khalis or channel, which runs from the river into the city. This channel is of a considerable breadth, and was lined on each side with trading vessels and pleasure-boats; which displayed convincing tokens of the commerce and wealth of the capital of Egypt. The strength of the current is here increased, and the boatmen exerted no little skill in steering through the grove of masts, which rose like a wood around us. The shores on either hand of us, were adorned with gardens and summer-houses; the dews which fell thickly upon our heads, were impregnated with the fragrance of the passing gale, which "whispered whence it stole the balmy spoil." Our minds were now divested of the perturbation which had so long possessed them, and were fitted to admit the charming scene. It seemed to be the effect of such enchantment, as Atmida is said to have exhibited to regain the affections of her lover. Erewhile we wandered, like Rinaldo, through gloomy vales and dreary wastes: And now, are suddenly transported to the elysium he found—to stately palaces and vernal lands. We went under the stern of a Turkish frigate, which was galley-built and carried about twenty

brass guns. She was probably stationed here, to protect the channel during the late troubles ; but from the bad look-out which the Turkish sailors keep, it would be no difficult matter for an enemy to have surprized her in the night.

At three o'clock we arrived at Old Cairo, and after dressing ourselves in our best Turkish cloaths, we landed our baggage on the wharf, and discharged our boat. We were to remain here until day-break, and my companions and I diverted ourselves in examining the place. In straying about, I came to a garden surrounded by a lofty wall. On one side of it there was a latticed window, which appeared to give light to a bower, as the lattices were entwined with a spreading vine, whose grapes hung in clusters without. As I was admiring the fruit by the doubtful light of the moon, the sound of a guittar suddenly struck my ears. It issued from the window, and was at times accompanied by a female voice. I was too far removed from the performer, to reap the excellence of her skill ; but the novelty of the adventure, and the plaintiveness of the tune, kept me fixed, as it were, to the spot. The window was infinitely too high to be scaled without a ladder, or my curiosity to behold a damsel, whom my imagination had pictured out in all the glaces of beauty and youth, might have led me into a scrape. I was now called away by the Arabs to depart. They pressed us much to send for asses, a stand of which was in the neighborhood, as we should find ourselves much tired by the walk to the English factory. Our pride was startled at this proposition ; and we persisted in our resolution to go on foot, to the great astonishment of the Arabs, who made no allowance for our ignorance of the customs here. We set out accordingly at dawn of day, and left all our servants but Ibrahim, to stay by the baggage, until we sent camels for it. We found the road none of the best, and after going for near a mile, along a dead wall that skirts the channel we had come up, we entered the new city at a little

little past six o'clock. The streets began now to be filled with people, and the shops displayed their various commodities for sale. The savor of the hot bread had such an effect upon our nostrils, that shame alone deterred us from stopping in the street, to break our fasts with such a new and delicious morsel. In spite of our disguise, we were immediately known to be foreigners; and the croud repeatedly expressed tokens of surprize, which our Arabs told us, arose from seeing us on foot. To obviate this impertinence, we enquired if we could not proceed by water. A canal was near us, and the Arabs called to the rowers of a gay-looking barge, which took us on board. We were now sheltered from the sun, which was waxing warm, and were shoved along at an easy rate, between the rows of lofty buildings that face the canal. Behind the lattices on either side we discovered women, in the Greek and Turkish habits; and one in particular, of uncommon beauty, who came to the window to taste of the morning air. Before seven o'clock we landed in a line with a quarter, called the *Fils Moosky*, where the several European factories are situated, and in a few minutes reached Mr. Baldwin's house, of whom such frequent mention has been made in this work. Though a perfect stranger to our persons, we were received with great cordiality by this gentleman. Notwithstanding the many letters which we had addressed to him, our story was only communicated to him yesterday, and that by the Indian Fakeer, who delivered our letter safely, after a thousand difficulties. He was forty-five days on his passage; had been taken prisoner repeatedly, by each of the contending parties; and escaped detention, on account of his poverty and vocation. We were glad to find this faithful fellow had received his promised reward, and wished to repeat our thanks to him.

Mr. Baldwin now congratulated us on our arrival, which he utterly despaired of, as soon as he learnt our condition. He was so considerate as to apply last night to the bey of Cairo, for a letter to

the Shaik Ul Arab for our release; and to order one of his servants to get ready to carry the letter. He had taken these preliminary steps; but owned that he was doubtful of their success, when he considered our remote situation, and the troubles which agitated the country. He was equally charmed with ourselves, with the behavior of Isman Abu Ally; and proposes to acknowledge it, in the name of the king and the people of Great Britain. This he signified to Hadgee Uttalah and his companions in the Arabian language, which he speaks very fluently; and desired them to call for our letters and presents, when they had finished their business in this city.

Now we bade adieu to all anxiety and care. Our troubles appeared to be at an end, and we were only studious to console ourselves for the loss of society, which we had so long endured. Peace was restored to Cairo; and the operations of war removed to the parts we had come from; whither Ibrahim Beg and the fugitive Beys were fled. To recover ourselves from the fatigues of our journey, to inspect the curiosities of this city, and to prepare for our progress to Alexandria, are the points to which our attention is turned. We obtained from the public papers, the most satisfactory accounts of our concerns in England; and nothing occurred to damp the happiness of this day, which I may venture to say, was the sincerest we had ever experienced. We dispatched camels for our baggage, and in the evening accompanied Mr. Baldwin to a French merchant's house; where we found a great deal of company assembled to play at cards. Among them was a very agreeable girl, of Greek extraction by the mother's side. Her father is a Frenchman, and now at Marseilles; which has enabled the young lady to obtain a perfect knowledge of the French tongue, and to render herself very entertaining to travellers who pass this way. Though her dress is consonant to the Turkish mode, it by no means dis-
figures

figures her person ; but has rather something pleasing in its novelty, to the eyes of an European. One of my companions appears to be but too sensible of the charms of the fair Cecilia ; and I am told, that this is not the first conquest she has made over the affections of English passengers. The Europeans who reside here, all conform to the Turkish habit ; but this is not expected from sojourners like us. As our Eastern cloaths therefore are much the worse for wear, we intend to-morrow to resume our own dress, except at such times as we visit places where it may give offence. The English nation alone, take this liberty with impunity. And I was let into an anecdote of a friend and countryman of mine, who went to the house of the bey here in a shawl turban. This is strictly prohibited to Christians of all denominations ; but was nevertheless overlooked in him, because he was an Englishman.

SATURDAY, 20th SEPTEMBER.

We staid within doors to-day, to amuse ourselves with the new publications from England, and to settle our voyage to France. There is a French ship at Alexandria, which is to sail the beginning of next month for Marseilles ; and Mr. Baldwin has applied to her agent here for a passage for us. He intends sending dispatches for the *Company* in this vessel, and will be better ascertained of the precise time of her departure.

Misir Ul Kaira, or the City of Anguish, so called from the frequent visits which it has received from the plague, but commonly termed Grand Cairo by us, is situated in the latitude of 30° 3' N. on an artificial branch of the Nile. Old Cairo nearly faces the river ; but the New city is removed above a mile from it, and approaches to the range of mountains which runs through Upper Egypt, and abruptly breaks off here. It is undoubtedly one of the

the finest cities in the East; which, from the present stile of architecture that reigns among the Orientals, is but a faint commendation. The houses are in general built of stone, and, being elevated to several stories, would make a grand appearance, notwithstanding the inelegance of their structure, were not the effect destroyed by the excessive narrowness of the streets. This is one of the causes to which the ingenious Dr. Mead ascribes the birth of the plague in this capital; but experience evinces, that it arises from foreign and adventitious causes. There has not been a plague here for these seven years; which is rendered more remarkable, by the commencement of the Russian war at the date of its cessation. No one can account for this; though a year seldom passed by before, without a visit from it. I do not recollect if any writer has taken notice of a circumstance, that divests this fell destroyer, of a considerable portion of his terrors in this quarter of the world, and opens an ample field for philosophical speculation. The melancholy consequences of the plague are well known to us. The laws have been alarmed at its very name; and our ports have been so regulated, as wholly to exclude it. The gay metropolis of London was formerly depopulated by it; and, in our own age, we have seen the flourishing city of Marseilles rendered a desert by its ravages. From scenes within the sphere of his knowledge, an elegant and sentimental poet of our nation thus feelingly describes its baleful influence :

“ The fullen door,
Yet uninfected, on its cautious hinge
Fearing to turn, abhors society :
Dependants, friends, relations, Love himself,
Savaged by Woe, forget the tender tie,
The sweet engagement of the feeling heart.”

This

This picture is just, so far as it relates to this malady in Europe. But in Turkey the case is altered; and we look in vain for these strokes of the pathetic. The Mahometans are confirmed Predestinarians; and are not to be deterred by the fear of contagion, from attending their brethren in distress. The mistakes of the head here expand the heart with the tide of humanity. The dying have their exit smoothed by the tender offices of friendship; and thousands are snatched from an untimely grave, by the force of an happy prejudice. It is true, that many are plunged into this distemper, who might otherwise have avoided it; but the evil is far outweighed by the good which results from it. For the distemper is by no means fatal. With care and attention, the greater part of the infected generally recover. I have myself seen a man here, who has had the plague no less than five times; each of which is distinguished by blotches upon different parts of his body, which he will carry with him to his tomb.

One of the most noted things here, is an aqueduct which conveys water from the Nile to the castle, that stands on an hill in the east quarter of the city. This aqueduct runs a very considerable length. We saw it as we came from Old Cairo, and were told that its course is two miles. It is built of stone, and lined on each side with lofty gothic arches, which give it a very noble appearance. It is however a modern work; and cannot be classed among the antiquities of Egypt. These we are to begin upon, as soon as our bodies are restored to their former vigor. But the pyramids and the catacombs are too distant for our minute inspection; and we can only regret, that our time admits of our taking but a passing view of them. Travellers like us, who fall by accident into a country replete with the monuments of past ages, and whose time is not at their own disposal, to gratify the desire of investigating the remains of decayed art, can only skim

the surface of the stream they would willingly dive into; and have but the merit of an inclination to extend information.

The late changes which happened here, are considered of little or no moment among the inhabitants. The deposing of a bey is attended with no tumult or bloodshed within the walls; where not only the natives but the European factors, are protected from violence by remaining within doors. Though no greater revolution could have taken place in any government, the whole contest subsisted without the gates: and during an obstinate battle at Bulac for the sovereignty, nothing but order and tranquillity reigned in Cairo. This idea is carried further here than in any other empire. And so sacred do the Turks hold the privilege of a man's house, that scarce an instance can be produced among them, of private property being plundered in any revolution in the state. A proof of this was recently displayed. The fugitive beys were, for several days, in possession of the castle which commands the city. When they found it expedient to quit their post, they retired with their troops through the streets, and enforced a discipline, that preserved the city from the least outrage. Nor disappointed ambition, nor grievous necessity, could influence them to injure a people, who were devoted to a successful rival, or replenish their finances, by a mode so repugnant to their customs. Be it known to the Christian leaders of war, that these infidels were banished their capital—yet voluntarily left it in the enjoyment of that prosperity, to which they were lost!

In the evening we went to the hammam, to refresh ourselves after our journey. We found it an handsome stone fabric, crowned with a large dome, through which the light is admitted to a square apartment below. In this apartment the company assemble, to undress themselves for the bath; and here they return, to smook and drink coffee after the operation; for which purpose the hall is surrounded with alcoves. There are small recesses

on every side of the hall, which contain cocks or fountains of hot and cold water, to temperate the bath, agreeably to the inclinations of every one. The floor is paved with a diversity of colored marbles, and adds much to the elegance of these receptacles of luxury. The ceremony is pretty nearly the same as in other parts of Turkey; and having been often described, there is no need of a repetition here. I will just add, that the custom is not only cleanly, but healthy to the last degree; and it is merely the immoderate use of it that prevails here, which can occasion its being condemned by the practitioners of physic.

SUNDAY, 21st SEPTEMBER.

We were introduced to an * English gentleman this morning, who is in the service of the bey. He commands the artillery, and was on the expedition to Syria, in the year 1774, when Mahomet Beg took the cities of Acra and Joppa. During the late disputes he was stationed in Cairo, and retired with the deposed beys into the castle. But this was only to save appearances with the beys, in whose power he was. His heart inclined to Ismauf Beg; whom he joined on the retreat of his adversaries. From this officer, as well as Mr. Baldwin, I gained the particulars of the late revolution. It was quickly conceived, and as quickly executed; and appears to have been the result of no great intrigues or difficulties. Simple and uninteresting as the event may be held by the subjects of more stable governments, the relation of it may give rise to reflections not unuseful, to comparisons not unfavorable to the reader.

At the death of Mahomet Beg the reins of power devolved to
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* This is more than suspected to be an unfortunate character, who was obliged to quit his native country some years ago, on the imputation of a crime of a dark hue.

the hands of four principal beys. Ibrahim Beg, Morad Beg, Mustapha Beg, and Ismaul Beg, were copartners in the empire of Egypt. The bashaw, who is sent here by the Porté, has no real influence in the councils. He has not even a voice in affairs of state; which he is content to leave to the management of the beys, on condition of being paid the tribute which the Porte exacts. Nay, the beys have sometimes carried matters to so high a pitch, that there is an instance of Mahomet Beg's refusing to submit to this tax, and denying the superiority of the Porte. The fluctuating state of the Turkish government, and the war in which it was then involved, prevented its resenting the insult. But weak as its arms may be, there is no doubt of the strength of its politics in this quarter. This revolution was certainly countenanced by the bashaw; and to him Ismaul Beg is partly indebted for his success, in expelling his brethren from an administration, in which they had practised every species of fraud and oppression.

The contest suddenly commenced about the end of last July. Ismaul Beg marched a body of troops which he had secretly collected, without the gates of Cairo; and sent a formal challenge to his brother beys, to go out, and decide their differences in a pitched battle. There was something so gallant and open in this proceeding of Ismaul Beg, and his character was so far preferable to that of his competitors, that he soon found himself at the head of a greater number of partizans, than the allied beys could bring into the field. They met him, however, with apparent resolution, at the appointed place; and the two armies approached near enough together, for the commanders to revile each other for their conduct, in the most opprobrious terms. Ismaul Beg first gave the order for the charge, which was executed sword in hand, though there were boats full of artillery, belonging to each party, at hand, and the troops themselves were furnished

nished with fire-arms. But a thirst of revenge, and an eagerness for blood, which mark the aspect of a civil war, hurried them beyond reflection; and tempted the combatants to trust, as they did of old, to the strength of their limbs. The conflict was sharp and bloody; but was determined in about a quarter of an hour, in favor of Ismaul Beg, who drove his opponents back into the city. Mustapha Beg fled immediately to Upper Egypt; but Ibrahim Beg, and Morad Beg, took refuge in the castle, which they declared they would defend to the last extremity.

Their situation was strong, and matters for some days had a promising appearance. They maintained a correspondence in the city, and flattered themselves with speedy relief from Mustapha Beg. But this dawn of hope was quickly overcast. Their misconduct completed what their misfortune began. Jealousies arose between the chiefs, and entailed a sudden defection among their adherents. In short, they found their numbers so decreased, that they judged themselves unsafe in their post, and contrived the means of escape. They retreated at midnight to the Nile, where they embarked unmolested for Jirje, on boats that had been prepared for them.

This escape was accomplished, as some think, by the connivance of Ismaul Beg himself, who was glad, at any rate, to be rid of the presence of his rivals. But he had soon reason to repent of this step. In the course of a week, he found the fugitive beys were at the head of a considerable body of men, which they had raised upon the river. This force was strengthened by a fleet of galleys, under the command of Mustapha Beg. To crush this danger in its infancy, Ismaul Beg sent up a large armament to engage them; and had the mortification to see it return, vanquished and dispersed. The tide was now turned, and success seemed to desert the banners of the victor. Flushed with this critical advantage, Ibrahim Beg hotly pursued the troops of his adversary; and
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In the evening we accompanied Mr. Baldwin to the house of a Greek lady, who is married to a Frenchman. She is a native of Scio, and, though the mother of several children, still does credit to the accounts of the beauties of that island. She has a daughter about seventeen, in whom are renewed the charms of the parent. Indeed there is no doubt but the Turks possess the finest women in the world, whom their vicinity to Greece gives them an opportunity of procuring. The brother of this damsel is likely to go in the same ship with us to Marseilles, where they have a sister married: in which case, the fair Victoria has given him an unfailing recommendation to our notice.

MONDAY, 22d SEPTEMBER.

We sallied forth this morning in company with the commandant of the artillery, who is kind enough to be our guide in visiting the curiosities of Cairo. As no Christian, without the sanction of the bey, is allowed to ride an horse here, we were content to mount that humble animal, the ass, in order to be conveyed to the places which we proposed to examine. To obtain that sanction, the son of a nobleman of the first rank and family in England, is supposed to have made considerable presents to the bey, when he passed through this city some years ago. But the consequence was, to protect him from the insults of the populace, there was a guard obliged to be placed about his horse, when he stirred abroad. The distinction, therefore, was dearly purchased, on every account. Every thing grows familiar by habit; and Europeans think no more of bestriding an ass here, than they would of popping into an hackney-coach in Paris or London. It is the common mode of conveyance, and asses are to be found in every street, for the accommodation of gentlemen who are ashamed to be seen on foot. We were not in this secret
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on the morning of our arrival here, or we would not have shunned a seeming indignity to incur a professed one.

We pushed on our beasts through a number of extensive streets, in our way to the castle, which stands upon a solid rock nearly in the center of the city. The streets are universally narrow, and so crowded with people, that we experienced no little difficulty in getting along. But this difficulty was balanced by the coolness which reigns in them. The narrow passage draws a constant supply of air; and the height of the houses affords a shade at noon to the passengers below. We were immediately sensible of our approach to the castle. The ground rises pretty gradually, until we got towards the top of the hill. Here it breaks off into an abrupt steep, and we dismounted and left our asses with their owners, before we entered one of the posterns of the castle. The fortifications of this place are in a dismantled state, though the elevation of the hill is a sufficient strength to people determined to defend themselves. We passed through many streets, which are inhabited by the domestics and dependants of the bashaw, who usually takes up his quarters in this fortress. We directed our steps to a building, which is reputed to be the hall where Joseph gave audience to his brethren, when they came to purchase corn in Egypt. This hall is the only remaining part of a large and magnificent edifice; the ruins of which bespeak the wealth and grandeur of its founder. The hall is a square of about sixty feet, the roof of which was a dome, that was supported by a double row of granite pillars. The dome is fallen in; but the pillars pronounce its former loftiness and magnitude. They are each of a single stone, thirty feet high, and about twenty-six inches diameter. There is a cornice of stone above them, which is inscribed with letters of gold, in so obsolete a language, that we are told no one is able to read them.

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We went from hence to the council-chamber, where the bashaw and the beys meet, to deliberate on public affairs. The apartment is of a vast length, and ornamented with relics of mosaic work, and pillars of porphyry. At the upper end there is a secluded seat for the bashaw, surrounded with green lattices. Here he takes his post in all the vanity of state, and has the mortification of being privy to councils, in which he not only has no share, but which frequently operate against his interest. There is a rope still depending from a beam in this apartment, on which, it is said, a bey was once hung, during some tumultuous disputes at the council-board. There is nothing improbable in this story. But it is not so easy to account, for their permitting this disgraceful instrument of violence to remain in so conspicuous a place. In an adjacent building they shewed us some arms of great antiquity. Among those most worthy of note, are some Roman battle-axes, and a bow of such thickness and length, as would require the strength of a Patagonian to draw.

We were now conducted to Joseph's well. This is another work which bears the name of that Patriarch, and is, indeed, an astonishing monument of labor. It is so deep, that a number of oxen are constantly employed, in raising water for the accommodation of the garrison. There is a team above to raise the water from a chamber below, sixty feet from the surface of the earth. To this chamber you descend, by a flight of steps cut out of the solid rock; and here you find a second team of oxen to draw the water to that level. The authenticity, however, of these works, which boast of so early an origin, has been much doubted by late travellers. It would be presumption in us to give a decision from a cursory view, on a matter which would require a dispassionate investigation. Before we quitted the castle, we ascended a mount of earth, from whence we had an uninterrupted view of the city. It appears from hence not half so large as London

does from the top of St. Paul's; but the extent of the Nile, which has spread itself into a lake, as far as the eye can reach; the cluster of islands which crown the silver expanse; and the majesty of the mountains which bound the smiling scene, give a noble variety to the prospect, which London, with all its opulence and grandeur, cannot afford. We went out of the castle through the principal gate, which faces the great market-place. As we descended to it, we passed between the houses, where the fugitive beys remained, when they shut themselves up in the castle.

We found our asses at the gate, where they had been brought by the direction of our conductor. On our return home we made a circuit of the city, and had an opportunity of being apprized of our want of consequence in this place. We met with one of the messengers of death, who delivers the fatal mandate to the subject, who has become obnoxious to the bey. He is an officer of the first rank, and is distinguished by a cap like a sugar-loaf, at the sight of which every Christian is obliged to dismount his ass*. We followed the example of our conductor; and as we alighted near the palace of Morad Beg, he took us in to see it. We entered a spacious court-yard, and found a square building with four handsome faces; but could not get in to see it, on account of the female side being inhabited. The women of the bey still reside here, although he will probably be in exile all his life. But such respect do the Turks pay to the characters of women, that there is no danger of their being molested either in person or property, however active the part their relations, or even husbands, may take in a time of trouble. We had a testimony of this respect as we left the bey's palace. No less than thirty women were returning to it, mounted on mules, and attended by a guard of eunuchs. They were veiled from head

* The chiaux of the Janisaries likewise exact this compliment from Christians.

to foot, and we are told, that no less a punishment than death would be the portion of any one, who would presume to remove that curtain. We arrived at Mr. Baldwin's about noon, very well pleased with our morning's excursion, and not at all dissatisfied with the spirit and paces of our asses.

In the evening we walked with Mr. Baldwin in a garden belonging to some Franciscan friars. It is neatly laid out in walks, and is an evening rendezvous for the Europeans of this city. We were here joined by a French nobleman, who is said to be under a temporary banishment from the court of France. He is a man of polite address, and passes for a proficient in the polite arts. We had a very agreeable specimen of his skill in music, as we adjourned to the French factory, to be present at a concert in which he led the first violin, with uncommon taste and execution. Mr. Baldwin bears a part at these little meetings, which are an admirable relief to a mind engaged in business.

S A T U R D A Y, 23d SEPTEMBER.

Our departure is fixed for to-morrow evening; so that our stay in this capital will be but short. We would willingly have dedicated another week to so celebrated a scene; but our business interferes with our pleasures. It is with double regret that we now look back to the time which we lost at Ghinnah, and which might have been so profitably spent in the city and environs of Cairo.

Our Arabs came this day to take leave of us. As soon as we could obtain money for our bills on London, we had discharged our notes of hand to Hadgee Uttalah, and given him the promised dress, besides a gratuity to himself and to all the camel-people according to their rank, for their care and honesty in bringing us safely here. We should not have omitted the cap-

tain of the robbers, among the number of those who demanded our acknowledgments, could we have promised ourselves the certainty of any token of ours reaching his hand. But our principal concern was to shew our gratitude to the Shaik Ul Arab, to whose friendship we owed more than we could possibly repay. We could not err in supposing, that a proof of our remembrance would make a greater impression at such a distance, however trivial it might be, than a valuable consideration would have done at Ghinnah. He there had it in his power to reject our offerings; but ere this came to his possession we should have quitted the country. We could only consult the genius of the people, to render a slight present acceptable; though we did our venerable friend the justice to believe, that the intention of the present would be its chief recommendation in his eyes. A Turkey carpet for the use of his seraglio, and a piece of purple broad cloth with fatten facings, for a vest for himself, were what we put up on this occasion. To these Mr. Baldwin added some jars of French fruits and Italian sweetmeats, and other rarities of this kind, which he judged would be agreeable to the ladies of the seraglio. We delivered these things into the charge of Hadgee Uttalah, with a complimentary letter from Mr. Baldwin, and another from ourselves. Mr. Baldwin's letter was conceived in general terms. He spoke of the generosity, with which the shaik had behaved towards some of the subjects of the king of Great Britain, and he extolled the merit of the action. He thanked him, in the king's name, for this instance of his goodwill, and begged leave to cultivate the correspondence which had so accidentally arisen between them. A correspondence, he added, which had commenced in a manner so much to the honour of the shaik, and which could not fail to extend his reputation to the remotest corners of the British dominions. Our letter, perhaps, was less courtly, though not less sincere. We recapitulated the

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the favors which we had received from the shaik. We hinted at the desperate situation in which his vigilance had discovered us, and compared it with our present happy circumstances. The change we ascribed entirely to his humanity. We lamented our inability to transmit him a more liberal token of our gratitude, and entreated him to consider the tender which we had presumed to make, with his wonted candor and benevolence. Finally, we acknowledged the fidelity of the camel-drivers, who had enabled us to comply with his last injunctions, and to call the world to witness, that our high sense of his favors would only cease to exist with our lives.

These letters were rendered into Arabic by Mr. Baldwin's interpreter. Sufficient praise cannot be given to that gentleman for the interest which he took in this affair. Our tribute, such as it was, has already been paid him. It remains only for his employers to do justice to the spirit with which he supported their credit, and that of the English nation. At parting he presented Hadgee Uttalah with a pipe of some value; and we had the pleasure to see him and his companions depart, not less satisfied with our bounty towards themselves, than surprized at our remembrance of their absent master.

It may not, perhaps, be thought impertinent to remark, that the report of these Arabs will be of no disservice to the *Company*, should they adopt the idea of having their packets forwarded from India, by the way of Cofire and Ghinnah. The port of Cofire is open at all seasons of the year, while that of Suez is shut up by the northerly winds no less than eight months out of twelve. A fact which I have endeavoured to establish in a former part of this work.

Amid these agreeable transactions, we encountered one of a different nature. After the repeated instances which Abdul Ruffar had afforded us of his honesty, it appeared that there were moments in which he was not proof to temptation. Ibrahim, ever

indolent and simple, had from time to time lent this fellow money, and since our arrival at Cairo the sum was considerably increased. It was but yesterday noon that we paid up Abdul Rufsar's wages, at his own request; and at night he decamped in Ibrahim's debt. This intelligence was just now communicated to us, and, from some circumstances, it is probable that he is returned to his native country. To dissipate Ibrahim's chagrin, in some measure, we took this opportunity to discharge our obligations to him. We had advanced some money to the captain on his account, on our leaving the Adventure; and we now presented him with such a gratuity as our finances would admit of. His services were beyond the common class, and were not to be rewarded by any limited wages. Our good-will was only to be bounded by our ability; and he obtained from us a purse containing an hundred venetians. We could have wished, indeed, the sum had been doubled for his sake. But when it is considered, that he will work his passage to India on the ships of next season, and that Mr. Baldwin has generously offered him his table while he remains here, the sum may be carried to his family free of all deductions, and will be no trivial addition to the fortune of an Indian. Notwithstanding this discharge, Ibrahim means to accompany us to Alexandria, and to see us embark for Europe.

Among our other recreations here, we make a daily practice of offering incense to a fair idol, who lives opposite our house. She is a mixture of the Greek and French, as well in her origin as her composition, being as remarkable for vivacity and good-humour in her temper, as for symmetry and elegance in her person. This young damsel quickly found out our arrival, and, like other singing-birds shut up in a cage, began to display her attractions the moment she had caught our observation. She appears at her window every morning and evening, and either awakes our attention with her guitar, or condescends to reply to
our

our addressees, which are breathed to her across a narrow street. She has an old mother, who seems to encourage the innocent damsel in her coquetry; and I fear would prove but a treacherous portress to the castle, were some lover, like Jupiter, daring enough to descend to this Danae in a shower of gold. There are numbers of captive nymphs in this city, who sigh for liberty, and would throw themselves into the arms of any European who made honourable addressees to them. Bred up in the circle of French society, and denied the freedom which they hear the females enjoy in France, they repine at their destiny, and would cheerfully leave the manners, customs, and country of Turkey behind them.

As we returned from the gardens of the convent this evening, we met a gentleman near the French factory, who is to be our fellow-passenger to Marseilles. It seems, that he is a man of erudition and taste; was formerly secretary to the embassy at Rome; and is now on his return to France from a tour of Greece and Egypt. He was introduced to us by the name of Meillon, and promises to turn out no inconsiderable acquisition to our society during the voyage, and the term of our quarantine at Marseilles.

W E D N E S D A Y, 24th SEPTEMBER.

We have been preparing ourselves this morning to take leave of this great city. Our stay has not been equal to our curiosity, but perfectly suitable to our designs, which are to get to England with all possible expedition. The packets with which we are charged have doubtless reached London before us by duplicates; but we have private as well as public concerns; and it is time for us to undeceive our friends, and to remove their apprehensions for our safety.

Until the arrival of Mr. Baldwin, about two years ago, the English carried on no commerce in this city. He is still the only

only merchant of our nation here, and is agent to the company for forwarding their packets to and from India. And, considered in itself, this is a point of no little importance to that political body. The advantage of quick intelligence is no secret to a wise government. The passage home is, indeed, as yet precarious, by the difficult navigation of the gulph of Suez; but the passage out is sure and expeditious. There is an instance, not two months ago, of a Mr. Whitehill coming from London to Cairo in a month. He was charged with the restoration of Lord Pigot to the government of Fort St. George; and it is supposed will get to that place in the same period. A voyage, which seldom is effected by the Cape of Good Hope in double the time!

The decay of the English trade in any quarter, is naturally supposed to give vigor to the exertions of the French. They are avowed rivals in wealth as well as power, and mutually rise on the ruins of each other. But this rule will not hold in respect to the commerce of Egypt. However flourishing the French traffic may be in other parts of the Levant, it is apparently here in a consumptive state. No other symptom of this is necessary to be produced, than the reduction of their establishments. The consularship of Cairo has been struck off as a fruitless expence, by a recent order from France; and it is observed, that a spirit of dissipation and gaming has crept in among the merchants, which was unknown in busy times, and is wholly incompatible with their situation. A decline of this nature will give scope to the industry of the Venetians and other states of Italy, who have factories here, and cut no inconsiderable figures in the commercial scale.

At noon we sent down our baggage to the boat, which we had agreed for to take us as far as Rosetto. We paid but sixteen dollars for the hire of this boat, and, with the assistance of Mr. Baldwin's servants, laid up some cold provision for the passage. The
markets

markets of Cairo are plentifully supplied with a variety of articles, at reasonable rates. Flesh, fowl, and fish, are daily exposed for sale; and are served up in great perfection at Mr. Baldwin's table, which amply supports the character of English hospitality.

At five o'clock we were joined by Monsieur Meillon, and having once more arrayed ourselves in our Turkish habits, we mounted our asses and proceeded to Bulac. Bulac is the port of Cairo, where every one is obliged to embark, in order to have his goods passed at the custom-house. Mr. Baldwin was so obliging as to accompany us thither, to see us on board the boat. We had two miles to go, and in the way, obtained the sight of a part of the city which was new to us; and which every where displays a face of magnificence, we little expected to find in Egypt. We went through a square that is one of the finest I ever beheld, both in respect to its extent, and the loftiness of the buildings which surround it. I speak within bounds when I pronounce it to be nearly two miles in circumference; and at this time the area exhibits a beautiful sheet of water, covered with gay boats of all denominations. When the Nile retires within his banks again, the beauty of this square will not be lost; as the bed of the present canal will wear a dress of the liveliest verdure, during the other months of the year. We reached Bulac about six o'clock, and getting our baggage passed without any delay, we went on board the boat, which we found to be very large and convenient. We are now, for the first time in our progress through Egypt, to be sheltered from the sun, and to travel at our ease, and in full security from danger. From the spaciousness and convenience of our vehicle, and the charms of this celebrated river, we look for nothing but pleasure in this voyage. Mr. Baldwin has been so obliging as to secure us a reception at Rosetta and Alexandria, by furnishing us with letters to his agents there; and in every respect, has answered the expectations which we had formed from his character and

station*. We parted with him at seven o'clock, when our boat weighed and fell down with the tide. We have the cabbins wholly to ourselves; but she has several passengers on board, besides us and our servants, and a valuable cargo of coffee. The wind is right against us, notwithstanding which we drop down at the rate of three miles an hour. Just before sun-set we opened the pyramids, which were in a direct line behind us. The mountainous stature of these pyramids was increased by the setting ray, which had fallen behind them, and exhibited a spectacle at once sublime and picturesque. The night now spread her curtains round the world, and disposed us to rest. At midnight we passed the village of Daranie, on the Delta, where the Nile divides himself into two branches, which fall into the Mediterranean at Rosetto and Damiat, near 100 miles asunder, and form the Delta, one of the most fertile islands in the world. We took the branch that runs to Rosetto, and continued the whole night to drop down with the current. The wind abated towards morning, and our course was consequently quickened. The reader is here presented with the course of the greater branches of the Nile from Cairo to the Mediterranean, as a supplement to the chart of its course through Upper Egypt.

* I have learnt, with no little concern, that the situation of this gentleman has been some time past very critical. On the plundering of the caravan, in the summer of 1779, between Suez and Cairo, the government bound Mr. Baldwin to prevent a retaliation on the part of the English, and he was no more than a prisoner at large, until very lately that he effected his escape. In this manner has the treaty of commerce between the English and the government of Cairo, been preserved! Thus have the fortunes of many gentlemen, who built their hopes on the faith of nations, and remitted their property from India through this channel, fallen a sacrifice to the inconstancy and avarice of a faithless race! Indeed, a revolution has happened in Cairo since that described in this work, so the wonder would be, that any treaty was respected by such a fluctuating government.

with lofty mosques and the ruins of magnificent structures, they cut a very elegant appearance from the water. We were provided with some roasted fowls, an excellent pie, and some bottles of wine, to which we paid our respects with great appetite. It is with difficulty that we can tear ourselves from the deck on any occasion, as the objects around us are of a fascinating nature. The towns now began to thicken on us again. We ran by the villages of Nedsgili, Berim, and Feristah, besides a number of others which we passed in mid-stream, and which are to be found in a map that Mr. Neiburh has given of the great branches of the Nile. At five in the evening we went under the town of Schahur, on the western bank, and opened a point of the river with a fine breeze. Innumerable are the small and large craft which we have met in our run from Cairo, and which convey to the traveller some idea of the extensive commerce of Egypt. The exports, however, are chiefly confined to the articles of life, and her corn is distributed to the different ports of the Mediterranean and the Red-sea. This is the coin in which she pays for the coffee of Arabia, and the cotton and silk of Persia: and, instead of laying illegal imposts on the merchant, had she but wisdom enough to trade upon her own bottoms, without suffering foreign nations to engross the freight of her commodities, there is no doubt that her gains would exceed those of every other country.

The wind died away towards sun-set, which induced our crew to man a pinnace, which has been hitherto a-stern, to tow us down the stream. This is of great assistance to us, and we hope will ensure our arrival at Rosetto in the morning. We have put some passengers ashore at several places which we have passed, but shall carry the principal part of them to Rosetto. These passengers are lodged under an awning, which extends from the cabin to the mainmast, and is capable of containing twenty people.

people. Among them is a poor boy, who lost his father in the late troubles at Cairo. He has a good appearance, and told his tragic story so pathetically, that we were moved to compassion, and made a collection among us, to enable him to return to his family, who are at Constantinople.

The night is serene and unclouded, but we have no light save what the stars afford. It is a lucky circumstance, perhaps, for our bodies, that our minds are disengaged from the prospects around, and that there is no moon to tempt us to waste those hours upon deck, which should be dedicated to sleep. We continued to fall down slowly during the night.

FRIDAY, 26th SEPTEMBER.

We had the pleasure, at day-break, to find ourselves near the city of Fue, on the Delta. This city is in the latitude of $31^{\circ} 10'$ north, and within thirty miles of Rosetto. It is still of a considerable extent, and affords an infinity of lofty minarets to the passenger's view, whose tops were now gilded with the morning ray. Considering the want of wind, our progress has not been tardy. The country on each side of us is still a garden, and exhibits an agreeable variety of fruit-trees and corn-fields, opulent towns and sequestered villages. Now and then we meet with small islands, more verdant than the infant buds of spring. At seven o'clock we passed between the towns of Deirut and Disjedie, in the former of which there is one of the most beautiful mosques in Egypt. We have found no increase in the breadth of the Nile since we left Cairo; nor is this so much to be wondered at, if we consider the great depth of the channel, and the multitude of canals which every where divert his waters. We passed in the night the grand canal which supplies Alexandria with water, and is said to be the work of Alexander. It begins

gins nearly opposite the town of Mehallet Malik, on the Delta; and while it was open for boats, shortened the distance one third, in the voyage we are engaged in. But it would have been a pity to have robbed us of any of the charms of this river. We were still feasting luxuriously on the prospect before us, when we came within sight of the city of Rosetto, which is known at a distance, by the ruins of an antient tower on an hill to the southward of the place. We ran under a mosque situated on an island; and at one o'clock, anchored before the city. We went ashore immediately, and waited on Monsieur Tessier, a French merchant of this place, to whom Mr. Baldwin was so kind as to furnish us with a letter. We were received very politely by this gentleman, who made us a tender of his house during our short stay. Monsieur Meillon, our fellow-traveller, took up his quarters with the French consul, who is but newly arrived here.

Rosetto, or Raschid, is situated in $31^{\circ} 23'$ north latitude, on the western bank of the Nile, and is reckoned one of the prettiest and compactest cities in Egypt. It is the next to Cairo for commerce, if we except Alexandria, and exceeds them both in the salubrity of its air, and the beauty of its situation. The Nile runs in its front, and the sea lies within ten miles of its rear, from whence it is constantly refreshed with cooling breezes. The country about it is a continued plantation of lemon, citron, and orange-trees. We walked out in the evening to survey the city and its environs. The streets are regular, and the buildings in general neat and lofty. We presently quitted the town, and were, in a manner, buried among fragrant groves, where the sun's burning rays never intrude themselves. The walks were strewed with the blossoms of the trees, whose boughs were at the same time loaded with golden fruit. In this happy clime the seasons are joyously blended together; and the traveller,

traveller, in these retreats, might think himself transported to the regions of fancy *. Here peace and plenty reign. The noise and hurry of a city are not perceivable in this peninsula, which was not the least disturbed by the late revolution in the state, though at so short a distance from the capital. But this may be partly owing to the nature of the Turkish customs. The changes in the government do not affect the subject; nor the evils of public disputes extend beyond those who choose to take a part in them.

On our return home we passed the French factory, which is a spacious edifice, and displays a very handsome front to the river. There is a wharf before it of near a mile in length, which affords a pleasant walk to the inhabitants. On the north side of this wharf stands the house of the late Mr. Wortley Montague, who was so celebrated for his wit and curiosity, and his extraordinary attachment to Mahometan countries; but, perhaps, not less remarkable for being the son of the ingenious lady Mary of the same name. He resided here more than three years; and his loss is still regretted by Monsieur Tessier, and the gentlemen of Rosetto.

We supped and slept at the French merchant's, whose complaisance extended to the procuring us places in a passage-boat, that sails before day-break for Alexandria. We have been obliged to prefer this mode to the usual route by land, which we are assured has been infested by wild Arabs, ever since the commencement of the late troubles. We shall be no losers by the change, as the country between Rosetto and Alexandria, is little better than a desert; and we shall now have an opportunity of examining one of the mouths of the Nile. This mouth, it seems, is so choaked up with a bar of sand, as to render it impassable to any vessel that draws more than nine feet water. The mouth of the eastern

* Well did they deserve to be the favorite residence of the beautiful Cleopatra !
branch

branch is more easy of access. Foreign vessels come up almost to Damiat; and we understand the Turkish frigate passed that way to Cairo. But she was obliged to be lightened for that purpose; and it is only during the inundation of the Nile, that vessels of such a construction can enter this river, which is navigable for near a thousand miles, and, were this defect cured, might exhibit ships of various nations in the heart of Egypt.

SATURDAY, 27th SEPTEMBER.

We embarked at four o'clock this morning on the boat, to which our baggage and servants had been shifted the preceding evening. It was a vessel of a different built and conveniency, to the one we had left. It was not very unlike the bark in which we were so long tossed about the Red-sea, save that we were now provided with a good awning to shelter us from the sun, in consideration of a piece of gold which each of us gave for himself and servants. There were no passengers besides us; and her cargo was not very considerable. We weighed anchor, in company with thirty sail of the same craft, and fell down gently with the tide. About sun-rise we found ourselves opposite an old castle on the peninsula, which appears to have been originally built for the defence of the river. We crossed the stream here, and anchored at the village of Arbut on the Delta, where we were obliged to wait for a wind, to run us over the bar. Here we found the remains of a battery, which had been raised to answer the castle on the opposite shore; and it seems almost impracticable for any hostile vessels that can enter this river, to have passed between them. We found several brass cannon scattered up and down the beach, of very antient construction; but the bore of them is too narrow to engage with the artillery of the present times. Arbut is the last town on the Nile, and the country about it affords little else than
date-

date-trees, under the shade of which we rambled about during our stay here.

At ten o'clock a breeze of wind springing up, we repaired aboard, hoisted our sails, and stood for the bar. The river increased all at once in its breadth; the stream began to be considerably agitated; and we had approached within a mile of the bar, when the wind perversely came ahead, and obliged the whole fleet to run under the shore of Delta. The land here has quite lost its fertile appearance. No more the earth smiles with the plenteous harvest; no more the embowering shades half conceal the rustic hamlet. The ground is thinly covered with brush-wood, while the shore of the peninsula is interrupted with frequent hillocks of sand. While we were kept here, our servants dressed us some pigeons, which we had procured at Arbut; and the eating of our dinner helped us to pass away the vexatious moments of delay.

More vessels now joined us from Rosetto. This was the part in which the difficulty of our voyage wholly lay. If the wind continued as it was, we might remain here for a day; and, for our consolation, we were told of boats that had experienced worse luck. The prospect was not the most flattering, and we were about to wish ourselves on the road over the desert to Alexandria, notwithstanding the perils which awaited it, when the wind luckily veered to the eastward of north, and permitted us to lay up well to our point. We immediately availed ourselves of it, and thirty-five sail of us stood for the *bogage* or bar, which we reached about one o'clock. There is a boat constantly at anchor in mid-channel, to direct others through this hazardous place. The waves ran pretty high, and it was our fortune to strike the bank three or four times successively, in performing this passage. The shocks were very smart; but as our boat was light, and the wind fair, we were threatened with no absolute danger. Though the gale began to freshen, and we were obliged to tack twice to fetch the

channel, we got clear of the *bogage* in about ten minutes. This was no trifling piece of good luck, if it be considered, that vessels are sometimes six or seven hours beating over this bar, and obliged to unlade their cargoes into the pilot-boat, in order to lighten themselves. Had we been coming into the river at this time, the accident would, in all probability, have been of a serious nature. The contest between the wind and the current, which set us out so fast, must be always very violent, and occasion a sea, which would inevitably flave any vessel, that is unfortunate enough to strike the bottom.

The Mediterranean-sea was now before us. The goal to which our earnest looks had been so long turned, was now happily attained, and we hoped soon to respire freely after a course, run with peril, and won with labor. Like the steed who approaches his forsaken pastures, we snuffed in imagination our native air, and every pulse beat quicker with the thoughts of home. The Nile throws himself with such an impetuosity into this sea, that Neptune seems to shrink before his might at this season. For a league and more from the bar, the water retains its chrystal hue and fresh quality, of which we convinced ourselves by an experiment. We now stood to the south-west, in company with the whole fleet. The sea was smooth, and the light barks glibly skimmed the surface. At two o'clock we began to open a bay to our left, which forms the peninsula where Canopus once stood, and behind which we faintly discerned the groves of Rosetto. The waves now were considerably raised, and our vessel's motion encreased. But the wind continued fair, and we ran briskly by a sandy, but not a desert coast. Date-trees rear their heads behind the steepy beach, and many of the eminences are crowned with the august ruins of ancient castles. At five in the evening we found ourselves opposite to the town of Vickerie, where there is a large castle in good repair, and a light-house for the direction of mariners.

mariners. Here a garrison is constantly maintained for the defence of the coast, which is sometimes insulted by Greek corsairs, and the galleys of Malta. This is a considerable head-land, and there are several small islands lying off it. We once more got in with the land, and smoothed our water very effectually. We despatched several sail to the northward, and made the hull of a large three-masted vessel. We were the best sailor in the fleet, and got so much ahead, that at sun-set, our people could distinguish the point behind which Alexandria stands. The coast here is very low, and offers nothing pleasing to the eye. At eight o'clock we could see the lights in the harbor. The night was dark, and we lost the opportunity of beholding the city from this point of view. At nine we anchored within fifty yards of the shore, and sent Ibrahim ashore with Monsieur Meillon, to find out the gentleman to whom we are recommended by Mr. Baldwin. We were preparing to take up our lodging in the boat for the night, when, just before ten o'clock, Ibrahim returned with Signior Brandi himself, who politely came for us at that late hour. We left our servants on board with our baggage, and accompanied that gentleman to an *hotel*, which has been lately set up for the reception of strangers. Here we supped comfortably, and enjoyed a sound repose after our tedious passage from Rosetto.

SUNDAY, 28th SEPTEMBER.

We rose betimes this morning, and sent for our baggage, and servants. The house we are in is roomy and convenient; and was originally the English factory, when we had a consul here. Our host is a master tailor, and seems to be an inoffensive Italian. His wife is a Greek woman from Smyrna, talks French and Italian, and promises to render our situation easy during our stay here. We are to pay two dollars *per diem* each, for our bed and board; a price, indeed, rather extravagant, but settled in the best manner

by Mr. Baldwin's agent, for the convenience of English travellers.

We walked out after breakfast, to take a view of the antient port and city of Alexandria. We were attended by a Janizary in the English pay, whom it is necessary to have, both as a guide and a protector from the insults of the vulgar. Agreeably to the customs of this place, we had resumed the European dress, discarded our whiskers, and once more looked and moved with freedom and ease. We went directly to the sea-side, to examine the Turkish haven, which lies to the westward of the pharos, and is perfectly secure for shipping when it blows a gale of wind. But this haven is sacred to the Turks, who are unfeeling enough to forbid Christian vessels taking refuge in it, even when it is impossible for them to remain in safety in the common harbor. The melancholy consequences of this restriction have appeared more than once. Particularly in the year 1767, when forty vessels of different nations foundered, or ran ashore in the common harbor, during a violent storm from the north-east quarter. But in spite of this ordinance, Christian vessels will presume at times to peep into this port; and it is not a fortnight since a Maltese privateer chased a Turkish ship of much superior force under the very battery of the pharos, and gave her a parting broadside as she ran into the road. A Turkish man of war of sixty guns was then at anchor here, and, either through want of alertness or resolution, did not attempt to revenge the insult. This man of war is still here, and there are several frigates on this station for the protection of the trade.

We now went into the dock-yard, to see a very bad specimen of their skill in ship-building. Here we perceived a party of females standing on the beach, ready to be embarked in a boat for Cairo. They proved to be Greek slaves, just brought from the Archipelago, and going as a present to the bey of Cairo. This information

tion we obtained from our Janizary, who, at our request, entered into conversation with their guard. The poor creatures seemed insensible of their situation, which, in some measure, suppressed the emotions we underwent at the first knowledge of their destiny. They turned towards us as we approached them ; and in spite of their vails we could perceive, by their fine eyes, and their admirable forms, that they were objects unfit to be secluded from the sight of the world. This sudden motion, and the involuntary surprise which they betrayed at the novelty of our habit, awakened the jealousy of their keepers, who immediately hurried them into the boat that was waiting for them. The price of such girls is from four hundred to a thousand zechins ; and their value is enhanced, as much in proportion to their qualifications, as the beauties they possess. To what a state of degeneracy is the world fallen, when wit, accomplishments, and beauty, are put up to sale among the female tribe, in the same manner as strength and mechanic skill in the negroes of Africa ! The latter branch of commerce is indeed an impeachment on humanity ; but the former is a disgrace to the nature and tendency of the finer passions.

Alexandria, or Scanderie as the Turks call it, lies in the latitude of 31° 11' north, on a rising ground, which descends with an easy slope towards the sea, and describes a semicircle, with the castle on the eastern, and the pharos on the western point. In this bay the foreign shipping lay, and range themselves abreast of the pier which joins the pharos to the continent, according to their arrival. This station they chuse on account of its greater security, as the pier breaks the force of the sea, which tumbles in from the eastward. The sea washes the walls of the houses, and the refreshing breezes which come from it, contribute much to the healthiness of the place. The present city seems to stand in one quarter of the old, and does not take up one eighth part of the ground, which may be ascertained by the antient walls that still remain.

remain. It is reckoned to contain thirty thousand inhabitants of all nations ; and a greater medley were never yet assembled together. Gain is the lure which draws them to this mart, the masters of which are the only people who derive no solid advantage from the connection.

I could dwell with pleasure on the minute antiquities of this well-known spot, were they not already described with such precision and elegance, in a work lately published, as to leave a future traveller little to say that can be new, and less that he can hope will equal the manner of so agreeable an author. This work was originally printed in German, and has since been translated into French, and is the production of Mr. Niebuhr, who made the tour of Lower Egypt and Arabia, by the command of his Danish Majesty. I mean to touch, however, on the most remarkable objects of our research ; as to observe a profound silence on so curious a theme, would be an insult on the taste and learning of the reader.

We dined in company with a genteel young Swiss, who is on his way to India. He is to embark on the first boat for Cairo, where he means to take his passage on our shipping. It was with no small satisfaction that we replied to his queries of a journey so new to him, and of a country in which we had spent so many years. He was rather mortified, however, when he understood there were none of our vessels at Suez, nor after their arrival, that would sail for India before the next summer.

M O N D A Y, 29th SEPTEMBER.

We were introduced to-day by Signior Brandi to the French consul. He appears to be a well-bred sensible man, and is well spoken of by our companion Monsieur Meillon, who takes up his lodgings at the French factory. He is but lately arrived here,
and

and has his curiosity to satisfy as much as we. We accompanied him in a walk to some of the adjacent ruins. We passed by the Venetian factory, which stands next to the French. This is a very handsome building, and makes a much greater show than any of the foreign factories. Our road lay over a sandy plain, where several granite pillars of a prodigious length, are scattered up and down. They seem to have been brought here with an intention of being used, which has been afterwards given up. When we had crossed this plain, we went under an arched gateway, which, perhaps, marked one of the divisions of the antient city. To the south of it lies a lofty tower in a ruinous condition. It is surrounded by an high wall, and within, there is a grove of date-trees. Here the antiquities commence.

With what concern must the informed spectator view the remains of so celebrated a place ! With what regret must he look back on its former beauty and pride, and draw a comparison with its present poverty and decline ! I hope it will not be considered as a piece of affectation in any one to declare, that he cannot behold such sights as these with an even mind. The destruction of renowned cities is a baneful prospect to the eye ; and the susceptible breast is filled with the same sensations in contemplating their decay, as touch it at the appearance of a venerable character in distress, whom it is beyond the ability of man to relieve. We soon came to an antient temple, a part of which is still habitable, and has been long appropriated to the service of Mahomet. On this account, we found some difficulty to obtain admittance. But the key was at length procured by our Janizary, and we were shewn into the neglected quarter. This is a square of very large diameter, which is surrounded with triple rows of granite pillars of the Corinthian order. These pillars are lofty, and support a roof which is still in a good state of preservation.

The inside of the walls of this temple is inlaid with tables of
marble

marble of various colors, which, for their richness and novelty, cannot but engage the admiration of a stranger. In the area of the square is a stone cistern of very antique mould. It is inscribed on all sides with hieroglyphics, and from a rail which enclosed it, appears to have served for some religious purpose.

From hence we walked through a field of antiquities to a convent, which maintains four Franciscan friars. The building is simple, and suited to the character of its founders. Here we found about an acre of ground, very neatly disposed of. The soil was naturally sterile, but by the industry of these holy fathers, produces vegetables in great abundance. They have a vineyard in some forwardness; and with no small labor and perseverance, have sunk a reservoir to supply the garden with water, which is conveyed thither from a neighboring aqueduct. These innocent creatures were diverting themselves at nine-pins, and carried a content in their looks, which seemed to set the cares and the vanities of the world equally at defiance. The evening was advanced, and we returned towards the city. In the way we were overtaken by a shower of rain. This was such a novelty to us, who had not seen rain for six months past, that we enjoyed it in the highest degree; and were the only persons in company, who would not have dispensed with getting wet to the skin.

The shower was slight, however, and we arrived at the French factory without any damage. The consul now introduced us to his lady, who is a pretty sprightly woman. We readily complied with an invitation from her to play at cards, and spend the evening in her company. It was many months since we had seen a female, whose dress and manners resembled those of our own countrywomen. She appears not to have any great relish for her situation, which, to one of her vivacity, must be dull enough. Indeed, the disposition of the people she is among,
may

may have occasioned her disgust to this country. The French consul lost his life here from a barbarous principle of revenge, about eighteen months ago; and her husband was appointed to succeed him. This would be a sufficient motive for a woman's fears. The particulars of this tragical story I will relate hereafter.

TUESDAY, 30th SEPTEMBER.

We breakfasted this morning on board the French ship, which Mr. Baldwin had recommended to us for a passage to France. She is called the *Cleopatra*, and is a new, pretty, and commodious vessel. We have agreed with the Captain, Monsieur Calvi, to give him 133 crowns each for our passage, which is indeed a large sum in these seas. But the gentlemen from India are always considered as monied men, and are taxed accordingly, whether they travel this way for pleasure, or are charged with business of a public nature. We find, however, that we shall be accommodated in the most elegant manner; and we must do Captain Calvi the justice to say, that he stated his intentions of providing us with a plentiful table, and submitted the price to our generosity. On our return from the *Cleopatra*, we passed under the sterns of several merchantmen of different nations. There were but two English vessels in the number, one of which is freighted by Mr. Baldwin for Constantinople.

In the afternoon a large party of us sallied out to take a view of Pompey's pillar, the theme of the present age, and the admiration of past times! Besides my companions and myself, we were joined by the two English commanders of the ships in the harbour, and by Monsieur Meillon, and some young gentlemen of the French factory. We mounted the first asses that presented themselves for hire. and, attended by our Janizary, took the

course we pursued yesterday. We left the convent on our right, and presently came among broken arches and long pavements, which are the remains of an aqueduct. Several towers reared up their dismantled heads on each side of us, whose appearance pronounces them to have been posts of great importance and strength. A number of stately pillars next engaged our attention. They are placed in two parallel lines, and seem to have formerly supported some magnificent portico. The pillars are of granite, or Thebaic marble, and about thirty feet high of a single stone; and we counted no less than thirty of them still standing. But however choice these columns might be in any other place, they were but foils to the pillar which now appeared before us. We had been buried amid the ruins and the hills of sand, which the winds have thrown up, when, leaving the city by the gate of Rosetto, we came unexpectedly upon the pillar. It is impossible to tell which is most worthy of admiration, the height, the workmanship, or the condition of this pillar. By the best accounts we can obtain, it is an hundred and ten feet high. The shaft, which is of a single stone of granite, is ninety feet, and the pedestal is twenty more. It is of the Corinthian order, which gives a beautiful dignity to its simplicity, rarely to be met with in modern architecture. It has suffered little or no injury from time. The polish upon the shaft has wonderfully withstood the buffeting of the tempest; and it promises to hand down a patriot name to the late posterity of the ignorant native, who has no other trace of the fame of Pompey! The pedestal has been somewhat damaged by the instruments of travellers, who are curious to possess a relic of this antiquity; and one of the volutes of the column was immaturely brought down about four years ago, by a prank of some English captain, which is too ludicrous to pass over.

These jolly sons of Neptune had been pushing about the can on board one of the ships in the harbor, until a strange freak entered

tered into one of their brains. The eccentricity of the thought occasioned it immediately to be adopted; and its apparent impossibility was but a spur for the putting it into execution. The boat was ordered, and with proper implements for the attempt, these enterprizing heroes pushed ashore, to drink a bowl of punch on the top of Pompey's pillar! At the spot they arrived; and many contrivances were proposed to accomplish the desired point. But their labor was vain; and they began to despair of success, when the genius who struck out the frolic, happily suggested the means of performing it. A man was dispatched to the city for a paper kite. The inhabitants were by this time apprized of what was going forward, and flocked in crouds to be witnesses of the address and boldness of the English. The governor of Alexandria was told that these seamen were about to pull down Pompey's pillar. But whether he gave them credit for their respect to the Roman warrior, or to the Turkish government, he left them to themselves, and politely answered, that the English were too great patriots to injure the remains of Pompey. He knew little, however, of the disposition of the people who were engaged in this undertaking. Had the Turkish empire rose in opposition, it would not, perhaps, at that moment have deterred them. The kite was brought, and flown so directly over the pillar, that when it fell on the other side, the string lodged upon the capital. The chief obstacle was now overcome. A two-inch rope was tied to one end of the string, and drawn over the pillar by the end to which the kite was affixed. By this rope one of the seamen ascended to the top, and in less than an hour, a kind of shroud was constructed, by which the whole company went up, and drank their punch amid the shouts of the astonished multitude. To the eye below, the capital of the pillar does not appear capable of holding more than one man upon it; but our seamen found it could contain no less than eight persons very conveniently. It is asto-

nishing that no accident befel these madcaps, in a situation so elevated, that would have turned a landman giddy in his sober senses. The only detriment which the pillar received, was the loss of the volute before-mentioned; which came down with a thundering sound, and was carried to England by one of the captains, as a present to a lady who commissioned him for a piece of the pillar. The discovery which they made, amply compensated for this mischief; as without their evidence, the world would not have known at this hour, that there was originally a statue on this pillar, one foot and ankle of which are still remaining. The statue was, probably, of Pompey himself; and must have been of a gigantic size, to have appeared of a man's proportion at so great an height.

There are circumstances in this story which might give it an air of fiction, were it not demonstrated beyond all doubt. Besides the testimonies of many eye-witnesses, the adventurers themselves have left us a token of the fact, by the initials of their names, which are very legible in black paint just beneath the capital. We spent so much time in viewing this elegant column, that the evening was too far advanced for us to go further. After providing ourselves with a relic of this shrine, we returned towards the port, which is about a mile and a quarter distant. In our way we mounted an eminence, which has been thrown up by the Turks in digging for antiques, which are frequently found here. From hence we had a fine view of the new and old city and port of Alexandria.

WEDNESDAY. 1st OCTOBER.

I had a present of an antique this morning from Signior Brandi. It is a blue stone which bears the head of a Jupiter Capitolinus. The small collection which I have made, is not worth
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presenting to the reader, though the place from which I chiefly drew them, is a proof of their being originals: as neither the skill nor the remoteness of the country of Upper Egypt, can favor deceit in such matters. But a stranger should be very careful how he makes these purchases in Alexandria. Seals have been tendered me for sale, which had all the appearance of antiquity; but on the inspection of a person conversant in *virtù*, turned out to be copies. They are, however, at times, in great plenty in this neighborhood. The people who follow this trade, hit perchance upon a mine of curiosities, when a virtuosi might furnish a cabinet with originals at a small expence. This we saw exemplified. Signior Brandi lives with the Genoese consul, Signior Agostini. At his house we met with several antiquities, which have been recovered from the ruins of this city. Among the most remarkable is a bust of Alexander, finely executed and but little damaged.

In the afternoon we went to see Cleopatra's Needle, which lies to the eastward of the city. We again mounted our asses, and, without any other company than our Janizary, arrived in about ten minutes at the Needle. It is almost close to the sea, and lifts up its head amid an heap of ruins, which appear to have been a circle of magnificent buildings that surrounded it. It is said, there were originally three obelisks which bore this name; and that one of them has been buried by its own weight, and the rising of the sand about it. It is certain, however, that two of them once stood here at about fifty yards asunder. One of them was torn up by the roots in a violent storm some years ago, and "prone on the ground lies groveling many a rood." These obelisks are also of granite, which is the marble peculiar to this place. They are of a single stone, sixty feet in length, and covered on all sides with hieroglyphics. The one which is standing, yields only in beauty to Pompey's pillar, among the remains of this august

gust city; and it is a wonder that no attempt has been made to transport the fallen Needle to Europe; a similar enterprize to which was effected, I think, in the removal of Trajan's pillar, the greatest boast of modern Rome. What a beautiful termination would it make to one of the vistas at Chatsworth! What a noble addition would it prove to the collection at Stowe! But the expence would be too heavy for any, but a princely purse to discharge, as the relic would be too valuable for any, but a monarch to possess. For a drawing of this obelisk, as well as of Pompey's * pillar, I must refer the reader to the work of Mr. Niebuhr, and to the drawings of Mr. Dalton. The few plates which I have ventured to give, contain views of such things only as are not, to my knowledge, to be met with in other travels.

We contemplated this obelisk with pleasure, and left it with regret. While we looked at the ruins around us, we could not but fancy ourselves carried back to the times of the Ptolemies. Here Anthony revelled; here Cleopatra reigned! Here beauty shed her rosy smiles; here pleasure danced an eternal round; and here, alas! the hero forewent empire and life for the fascinating charms of love! Some hundreds of yards from the spot we had left, is an angle of the antient walls of the city. These walls are still above the level of the ground, and the ditch is still to be distinguished. This is the eastern face, and at certain equidistances, there were round towers for the better protection of the walls. We entered the tower at the angle, which appeared to be less decayed than the rest. There is a circular room in the middle, which at present goes up to the top of the tower; But by a nar-

* The author has given a view of this pillar in the frontispiece to his *Eastern Eclogues*; but a more competent idea can be gathered of it in a collection of prints, published by the ingenious Mr. Dalton in the year 1752, comprising, among other antiquities, the elevations and sections of the pyramids of Egypt, which must have been a task not less difficult than curious.

row staircase on one side of it, there is a likelihood of there having been apartments above. We made a tour of this place, and on our return home, visited the church of St. Catherine belonging to the Greeks. Here one of the friars led us into a recess illuminated with a lamp, to see the stone on which St. Catherine was beheaded. This stone is held in uncommon veneration; and the fathers are very anxious to persuade strangers, that drops of her blood are still visible thereon. They were under no danger of having this opinion contradicted, through the abundance of our zeal; but they were, perhaps, more pleased, that we had charity enough to leave some silver among them, towards the propagation of this innocent imposition.

THURSDAY, 2d OCTOBER.

Intelligence came this morning of the loss of five boats, on the *bogage*, or bar of the Nile, which were among a fleet that failed two days ago for Rosetto. The young Swiss whom I have before spoken of, was unluckily on board one of them; and we learn with concern, that he has escaped only with his life. If the reader, however, remembers our description of that place, it may seem a greater mercy to him, that the young man did not perish with his effects. The wind blowing in the teeth of a rapid current, must have occasioned a prodigious swell on the bar, which generally proves as fatal to the mariner as to his bark. The French merchants of this city are said to be considerable sufferers by this accident; as they had very rich bales of goods on the boats which are wrecked. But the misfortune of the young Swiss chiefly engaged our attention. Our minds yet smarted with the remembrance of our own distresses; and we were, perhaps, never in a disposition to have contributed more largely, than we now did, towards the relief of a fellow-creature.

ture. So true it is, that calamity is the best physician to mental infirmities, and disposes the passions to listen more seriously to the calls of humanity.

It is laughable enough, to observe the materials and fashion of the generality of the buildings of this city. Marble ready wrought to the hand, is in such profusion here, that in every street you meet with the noble fragments of palaces and temples, applied to the meanest purposes. I have seen a stable supported by pillars of the finest granite, and a cow-house paved with the most beautiful tablets of marble. This view, indeed, is more likely to provoke a sigh than a smile. It too nearly resembles the prophecy denounced against that splendid city, whose regal edifices were to become the habitations of the beasts of the field. But our ridicule is directed against another object. The court-yards of the foreign factories are encompassed with the choicest pillars that could be procured; but the confusion of orders, in which the Doric, Ionic, and Corinthian jar together, joined to the unequal height and diameter of the shafts, rather render the whole a ludicrous than an agreeable assemblage. But as the builders have had convenience more than elegance in view, the want of taste in the disposition is the more excusable.

We took a ride in the evening to the canal which was brought from the Nile, and still supplies the city with water. Our route lay through a road which leads to the S. E. gate, and divides the antient city into two equal parts. This is the high road to Rossetto, on which travellers are accustomed to go on mules, in preference to the dangerous passage by sea. The journey is performed in seven or eight hours, and it is reported that the obstruction to it is now removed, by the gallantry of a Turk, who was attacked yesterday by the Bedouins, or wild Arabs, that have lately infested the country. The captain of the gang was luckily shot by the Turk, and his adherents have fled to other parts. We arrived
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in about half an hour at the gate. It has been a very superb work, and there are still two columns, which support the pedestal above it, of the most beautiful symmetry and design. The canal is about a quarter of a mile from hence. It still serves the chief purpose for which it was intended; and, in the floods, conveys a sufficient quantity of water to the city, to fill the cisterns for the use of the ensuing year. This expensive labor was necessary to rectify the defect with which this thirsty soil is curst, and is in every respect worthy of its supposed founder. But the channel a few miles above is so choaked up, as to render it no longer navigable for the smallest boats, except for a week or two in the year. There is a large arch thrown over this canal, which appears firm enough to admit of repair. Neither the bridge nor canal, however, have a chance to be restored to their former condition by the indolent and illiberal Turk; although, comparatively speaking, an inconsiderable expence would be the means of reviving, in their full extent, these elegant and serviceable works of antiquity. On the banks of this canal are raised the vegetables, with which the city is supplied; and beyond them the desert stretches to the Nile.

On our return home we made a tour of the western wall of the antient city, which we had not before seen. There are towers upon it as on the other side, and the wall has more frequent breaches in it.

FRIDAY, 3d OCTOBER.

I employed myself this morning in transcribing an ode, which I had written in detached parts, during our voyage down the Nile. The reader will find it in the Appendix, where it will appear as a companion to the ode to the desert. He may, perhaps, suspect me of another reason than what I before alledged, for not mingling

poetry and prose, for putting it in that place. The contrast between the subjects is so striking, as to set the descriptive passages of either piece in the best light.

Nothing retards our departure but the vessel's dispatches, which are not arrived from Cairo. For fear of my being hereafter prevented, I will here communicate the story of the French consul's murder, some circumstances of which are of an extraordinary nature, and will serve to justify the unfavorable idea which is entertained of the Arabians, in different parts of this work.

Three young gentlemen belonging to the French factory had been out in the country shooting pigeons. They were met on their return by some Arabs, who, with their usual impudence to Christians whom they suppose to be in their power, demanded their guns. These the Frenchmen naturally refused to deliver up; and a struggle ensuing, in which they were likely to be overcome by numbers, one of them levelled his piece, and shot an Arab dead on the spot. The unexpectedness of this action struck such a terror into the rest, that they immediately dispersed, and left the young men to make the best of their way off. This they effected, but with different fortunes. The guilty person knew there was no safety for him in Alexandria, although the life had been taken away in defence of his property, against an hostile assault. He bent his way, therefore, to a village on the sea-side, and, without suspicion, hired a mule for Rosetto. Here he arrived with great expedition, and embarked on a boat which was that moment going for Damiat. Happily for him, when he reached that city, there was a vessel under way for Constantinople, in which he escaped from the destiny that awaited him. One of his companions concealed himself in this city, until he found an opportunity to quit it, which his knowledge of the language enabled him to do in safety. The other took refuge in the French factory; the supposed sanctity of which, he vainly imagined

imagined would protect him from the resentment of the Arabs. Though he was only a spectator of the accident which had happened, he was doomed to answer for it in the most inhuman manner. The city was presently in commotion; and a mob, headed by the comrades of the deceased, forced open the gates of the factory, after having been denied admittance by the consul, took out the unfortunate youth who remained, and hung him upon the first tree they met with. Not satisfied with this sacrifice, they afterwards cut him in pieces, and exposed his limbs in different quarters of the city.

Here one might think the vengeance of a barbarian would stop. With such a retaliation, that, confounding as it did the innocent with the guilty, is so agreeable to their notions of justice, the Arabs might be satisfied. But their thirst for blood was not yet quenched. As the murderer had escaped, they turned their rage against the innocent man, who had presumed to afford his accomplice a sanctuary. Aware of the unforgiving dispositions of the Arabs, the consul had confined himself to his house for the space of two months, and upwards. He now thought the matter was forgotten, and ventured out as usual to take the air on an ass, along with the Janizary of his nation. This Janizary is esteemed here a sufficient safeguard. He may be so on common occasions, but his authority failed him on this. They were met by a man near Pompey's Pillar, who, with seeming indifference, enquired the consul's name of the Janizary; and being satisfied it was the person he sought, he stepped suddenly behind him, and discharged a pistol in his back. The ball went through the consul's body, and he immediately expired. Thus losing, like the hero near whose column he fell, his life by the treachery of the Egyptian race! The assassin escaped during the Janizary's confusion, and no notice was taken by the government of such an outrage. The French consulted their own dignity, as well as the

interests of other nations, when they sent two frigates this summer to demand satisfaction. But whether the force was inadequate, or they have been tempted, by some secret advantages, to give up, as they have done on many occasions, the honor and even safety of their ministers in Turkey, the frigates have departed, without success in their negotiation.

SATURDAY, 4th OCTOBER.

We were alarmed this morning with the report of a vessel being about to founder in the harbor. This carried us to the quay, where we saw a Greek polacre go down in about half an hour. It seems that she run upon the anchor of another vessel as she came into the road, and the crew were glad to quit her with their lives. It is surprizing that these accidents are not more frequent in a port, where vessels are obliged to be always moored, on account of their insecure station. The water is so shallow when the tide is out, that there would be no steering clear of the anchors, were not strangers apprized where they lie. What is done, therefore, in other places for the convenience of the owners, is here enforced for the good of the public. And every vessel is obliged, by an order at this port, to place buoys over her anchors. A failure in this measure subjects her to the payment of any loss she may occasion. And, it is said, the owners of the Greek polacre will recover damages on this ground.

As we were returning from the quay, we met a porter sinking, to all appearance, under a double bale of cotton. He wore jack-boots, in order to keep his knees straight, and walked doubled, with his hands supported on his knees. Were not the fact well known to thousands who trade to the Levant, one would hesitate to mention the enormous loads which the Turkish porters carry. We went to the scales where the bales were weighing, and saw one of

them take a bale of 7 cwt. upon his back, and stagger under it to the quay. The distance, indeed, is not very great, and there appears to be as much art as strength exercised in these surprising efforts of the bodily powers. I have heard more than once, during my residence in India, of the porters in Persia being famous for carrying a pipe of wine on their backs, which is more than 10 cwt. and, with the assistance of a bamboo, or stick across his shoulders, a Chinese at Canton is said to support an equal burden with more ease to himself. It is only in countries, however, where labourers of this kind are scarce, that such vigour is desirable. In Paris or London, where professions are not hereditary, and where every idler is willing to turn his hand to any thing, the inconvenience of this monopoly would be felt. This useful branch of labor would sink in its value, and crowds would languish for want of employment.

We dined on board one of the English ships to-day, where the departure of the French frigates without redress of their complaint, became the subject of conversation. It seems that the French have been much animadverted upon by foreigners here on this occasion; and comparisons been drawn between them and the English, not to their advantage. Indeed, history furnishes many instances of the opposite behavior of both governments in similar cases. Where one negotiates for a redress of injuries, the other dispatches a fleet to command it. And while one is wasting time in unavailing threats, the other employs more certain arguments of conviction with the Mahometan powers. But there is something very mysterious in this procedure of a people, who, in other respects, are jealous of affronts, and enamored of glory. The particular advantages which they derive from the Turkey trade, seem to influence their operations in that quarter; and they aim at the preservation of those advantages, at the expence of their national honor. All Europe
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is indebted to France, for the trouble she took in scouring the Archipelago of the pirates which infested it, after the close of the Russian war. They were chiefly Greeks, and abounded in such a degree, that not a merchantman escaped being attacked by them. The French frigates every where pursued them with unremitting vigilance; and to eradicate the evil effectually, ran their barks down in general, without firing a gun. The good consequences of these exertions soon appeared; and it is notorious, that there never was a time, in which the Mediterranean was so free of corsairs of all denominations, as the present.

Captain Calvi introduced us in the evening to a Greek family, which consisted of a lady and her two daughters. The latter were very beautiful, but overloaded with a profusion of zechins upon their heads and breasts, which were strung together like pearl *. The eldest of the daughters is married to a man now in France. She pressed our captain much for a passage. He is full; but with the gallantry of a Frenchman, placed his refusal to a desire of preserving harmony among his passengers, which the influence of her charms could not fail to invade. The frankness and pleasantry of this *Provençal* are very engaging, and afford us a prospect of much entertainment during our voyage.

SUNDAY, 5th OCTOBER.

We attended the service this morning at the chapel of the Genoese factory, where we afterwards dined, on the invitation of

* Among these I perceived a medal of Alexander the Great, in fine preservation. As the characters were Roman, it was probably struck by one of the Cæsars in honor of that hero. I attempted, in vain, to place it among my small collection.

Signior

Signior Brandi. The consul is a polite chearful old gentleman of seventy and upwards, and has served in that office with great credit, for above thirty years. He is, however, too much of an invalid to be able to attend to business, which is managed for him by Signior Brandi, who is also agent to Mr. Baldwin.

• We accompanied Signior Brandi in the evening to the Venetian factory, where we drank coffee with an Italian lady who is lodged there. From hence we sallied out to a garden, which is about ten minutes walk from the city. This garden is thickly planted with fruit-trees of various kinds, in which we found a very agreeable relief from the sandy views, which every where meet the eye in the environs of this place. Nothing but the happiness of its situation for commerce, could have prompted Alexander to have founded a city on this barren spot. And the rank it keeps among commercial cities at this hour, in spite of the revolutions it has seen in its religion, government, and customs, demonstrates the acuteness of that monarch's discernment. Tyre, Athens, and Carthage, are only to be respected in the page of history: while the port of Alexandria is still crowded with the vessels of different nations; and still dispenses, though in a less degree, her bounty through the world.

As we returned home we passed the house of a fair Jewess, whose reputation is spread about this city. It is her custom to shew herself daily at her window, to ensnare those who venture to gaze upon her. It is affirmed that her charms made a very singular impression upon an English nobleman, who came here some years ago. He bid very highly for her person, but, was disappointed in his views. The amour somehow got wind, and she was honored by a wag with his title, which she has preserved to this day.

In a conversation with our Janizary this evening, we discovered that fear was one cause of the distinction, with which the

English are treated in this country. It is many years since the English trade has declined in the Levant. Their ships of war no more ride triumphant in these seas, and their thunders have long ceased to strike terror through the coasts of Egypt. But the spell is revived. The English have found their way into the Red-sea, and have it at their option to deal with Egypt on their own terms. The reader may remember the assistance which we received in our greatest distress, from the arrival of the Swallow sloop of war at Judda. This sloop mounted about twenty guns, and had carried dispatches from Madras to Suez. Since the Portuguese were expelled Arabia, no vessel of war belonging to a foreign power, had visited that port. Her arrival was a phenomenon which alarmed the weakness of this government. The jealousies that exist among the European nations, are the basis of its security on the side of the Mediterranean. But on the shores of the Red-sea, it must submit to the power, whose empire in India has given them the navigation and commerce of the Red-sea, without a competitor. And this power is the English. A track, struck out by private adventurers, may hereafter benefit the public; and, under proper restrictions, add to the influence and power of the *Company*, in a measure which might exceed expectation *. Rumor is well known to magnify danger. The force

* The instability of the Egyptian government weakens, in some degree, the force of this reasoning. It has been suggested by the ingenious Dr. Russell, whose long residence in Turkey inclines the author to pay a deference to him on a subject on which he is so much better informed, that the discouragement which the Turks give to the trade by Suez, arises from this very cause. The revolutions in Cairo are often annual, and the Porte, consequently, can depend but little on receiving a share of their profits from men, whose footing in power is so slippery. The communication with India by the caravans of Aleppo, turns out wholly in favor of the Turk. The inference, therefore, which the Doctor draws, is very judicious. The commerce by Aleppo would fall to the ground, were that
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force of the Swallow sloop was estimated at Cairo at sixty guns. Here, she is a first rate! It is no wonder that this government should be on its good behavior, when it has not even a galley on the Red-sea to protect the trade. For though this trade is almost wholly carried on upon Arabian bottoms, were an embargo to be laid on the importation of coffee into the Egyptian ports, the course would be turned to the caravans, through which channel the coffee is delivered at more than double the price, to what it is by water.

MONDAY, 6th OCTOBER.

We are detained here by the most vexatious of all circumstances—the neglect of the agents of the Cleopatra. Captain Calvi has been ready to sail these four days, and his dispatches are not yet arrived from Cairo. To whet our disappointment, the wind has been easterly the whole time; and we might have performed a fourth part of our passage to Marseilles. Natural delays should be borne with patience; but those which arise from human perverseness, are enough to ruffle a Stoic's temper.

We encountered some objects to-day, who beyond all others should engage our commiseration. They were the captain and officers of a French vessel, which was wrecked four years ago on the coast of Barbary. Along with the crew they were carried into slavery; and have now been released by an accident. The emperor of Morocco has sent an embassy to the court of France, and these Frenchmen were selected, among forty others, as a present worthy for a king to receive. The particulars of these un-

by Suez to be established. And this is the secret objection which the Porte entertains to the latter trade; and was hatched, not by the influence of French intrigues, nor the complaints of the religious of Mecca and Medina.

fortunate people's story are very interesting, but very similar to accounts already published of captives in the same situation. There is a youth among them of about fourteen years of age. His lot was different from the rest. On account of his youth, when they were first brought to Morocco, the emperor ordered him to be an attendant in the seraglio. This anecdote we had from the boy's own mouth, although he was sometimes at a loss to express himself in his native tongue. His employment was to make coffee for the emperor's wives, and to gather bouquets for them of the sweetest flowers in the gardens of the palace. It may, perhaps, wound the pride of our countrymen to know, that the Sultana is an Englishwoman, who has been elevated to that dignity more than twenty years. She seems to be about forty, and having borne the emperor two sons, is perhaps, on that account, treated by him with a distinction, which her charms no longer command. And in fact, while he pays her only court in public, his private hours are dedicated to a French concubine, who was made a captive by one of his cruizers, and on account of her exquisite beauty, preferred to the seraglio. These barbarians, it seems, are grown nice in their amours! Depopulated Greece cannot afford them a variety of beauty, but they must appropriate the spoils of France and England to pamper their base lusts! Where sleeps the vengeance of those warlike nations, that they suffer these crying injuries to pass unpunished? The galleys of Barbary groan with their men, and her seraglios teem with their females! When the states of Europe learn to distinguish their true interests; when they establish a firm basis of union among themselves; then, and then only, can they hope to see their arms directed against the common enemies of mankind; to see their commerce uninterrupted, their people unenslaved by the refuse of the earth!

The Mahometan Ramazan is commenced. This institute is an imitation of our Lent, except that there is a difference in the mode

mode of abstinence required. The rigid Catholic contents himself with a change of diet; and takes his usual meals without scruple, so that he forbears flesh and certain forbidden things. The life of a Mussulman undergoes a total innovation during this fast. From the time the sun rises until it sets again, the taste of any substance, even water itself, is prohibited by the law of Mahomet. But then the night brings full reparation with it. Excess follows abstinence, and he indulges himself in a variety of food; to be revenged upon the law. The bad consequences of this priestcraft must be sensibly felt by both parties. Our Janizary has been quite unhinged since the Ramazan began. He is now fitter for sleep than action, during the day; and were we to remain here, we should reap little benefit from his services while the fast continued. The streets are now empty of people in the day-time. Towards the evening they begin to assemble in the coffee-houses, and at the corners of the streets; where they wait for the priest's proclamation of sunset. Their faces betray the height of impatience; and at the appointed signal, they start for their dinners with no very temperate intentions.

T U E S D A Y, 7th OCTOBER.

The vessel's dispatches are at length arrived, but the wind is so considerably heightened to-day, that the captain holds it dangerous to attempt moving out of his station with it. We must wait for what the morrow may effect in our behalf.

News is just come from Cairo, that the troubles upon the Nile are recommenced, and that war is about to renew its horrors in this unhappy country. The fugitive beys have found means to possess themselves at length of Jirje, about which city they have long hovered. The situation of this post enables them to stop effectually, the navigation of the river. A large armament is pre-

paring at Cairo, to dislodge the rebels from their strong hold. Boats of all kinds are pressed for this service, and the communication promises to be interrupted between Alexandria and the metropolis. The issue of this commotion may, to all appearance, be foretold. It is the last effort of a desperate party, which cannot avail them against superior numbers and discipline. Ismaul Beg has now set a price upon the heads of his antagonists. This barbarous practice is justified by the example of the most polished nations, against those whom the state considers as traitors. And in all probability, it will now rid the bey of Egypt of his fears. But the accomplishment of this design is uncertain *. We cannot sufficiently congratulate ourselves on our removal from those scenes of contention ; and count all our toils as happily endured, since we have escaped thereby, the new delays that awaited us.

Ibrahim has just now taken leave of us, to embark on a boat which is bound for Rosetto. He is furnished with recommendations for the English captains who may come to Suez ; and there is no doubt of his finding a good opportunity to get back to the Adventure, to which vessel he still belongs. The behavior of this poor Indian has been uniformly honest and ingenuous. Some slight errors which he has been guilty of, were fully retrieved by the importance of his services ; and could we command power or riches at this moment, they would be employed in bestowing a more suitable reward on his merits. Henceforth be not virtue appropriated by any particular sect. Let pride be taught to believe, there is no distinction among mankind, but what results from the practice of good and evil ; and imbibe, with us, a charitable opinion of the members of every persuasion.

* So uncertain, that it appears the very reverse has since happened, and the deposed beys have recovered their power, though at this hour, perhaps, it has again eluded their grasp !

That we might be ready for the captain's summons in the morning, we discharged our debts at this place, and presented our Janizary with some pieces of gold, for the trouble that we have given him. The alacrity with which we shall quit these shores, has been quickened by concurrent circumstances. The very air of this city seems to be impregnated with the breezes of the North. Her streets display the habit which is so familiar to our eyes; and her harbor is crowded with vessels, which are bound to the lands of liberty and science. What bosom then can repress its emotions at such a sight? What foot would linger on the strand, when the sail was set for the ports of Europe? Curiosity has been satisfied. Like the hunters who have encountered toil and danger in the pursuit of their game, we anticipate the sweets of repose; and find, that the ardor of expectation constituted the principal pleasure of the chase.

W E D N E S D A Y, 8th OCTOBER.

The wind being favorable this morning for our departure, the Captain fired a gun, as a signal for us to go off. At seven o'clock Monsieur Meillon accompanied Major Alexander, Mr. Hammond, and myself to the quay, where we embarked on the *Cleopatra*; and at eleven, weighed our anchor for *Marseilles* *.

* It may be satisfactory to the reader to know that our travellers, whom he has so long accompanied, arrived safely in England at the close of the year 1777, after a journey of eleven months. It may be supposed that the end of their mission was defeated by the delays they encountered; but they flatter themselves, that the merit of perseverance will not be denied them, either by the respectable body in whose service it was exerted, or by the generous public.

AND

AND now, Madam, it is time to bid you adieu. To pursue the simile of the hunters, whatever satisfaction I may have found in the recital of our adventures, I doubt whether an indifferent person will listen as complacently to the tale. In the review of this volume, I have as much reason to pray for your indulgence, as to hope for your sympathy. While the tear of pity dims your eye, let it prove a veil to the inaccuracies which are almost inseparable from a work of this nature. Nor let this be deemed an unreasonable or arrogant wish. While the major part of mankind are administering to the caprices of the female-sex, while they are feeding their vanity with the grossest flatteries, and perverting their dispositions by an idle compliance with their humours, his presumption may surely be excused, who, actuated by a spirit of philanthropy, and willing to communicate the result of dear-bought experience, endeavors to make one woman of his party, who has reflection enough to weigh the importance of human misfortunes, and zeal enough to promote their publication for the instruction of the world. That he has not offered a trifling subject to her consideration, is the best compliment which he could pay to her understanding; and that he looks for her sympathy in the hour of distress, is not the worst picture which he could give of her feelings. To be a serious member of a thoughtless tribe, is no less an honor to a woman, than to possess a refined heart in a depraved and dissipated age.

I have the honor to be,

Madam,

Your's, &c.

Alexandria, 8th October, 1777.

POSTSCRIPT.

P O S T S C R I P T.

JUST as these sheets were going to the press, a letter came to my hands, which, on every account, I would wish to communicate to the reader. The storm is blown over, and the tale that threatened such tragical circumstances, is brought to an happy conclusion. But if any character in this work has secured the affection of the reader, he will not refuse a sigh to its unworthy destiny. If the work itself has interested his passions, he will greedily peruse a supplement, that promises further food for his curiosity. The letter is from Mr. Hammond, one of the number of the unlucky subjects of these adventures, who has possessed resolution enough to hazard the dangers of an inhospitable shore, and to return to India by the route of Egypt. I mean not to anticipate the relation of a friend, but I should do injustice to my own feelings, were I to be silent on this melancholy occasion.

And here let me advise the susceptible reader to close the volume. The ingratitude of mankind is too frequent, to disturb the Philosopher's peace; but the impression it makes on the unexperienced breast, is too deep to be easily erased. But if he dare the conflict, and prefer to mingle his generous concern with mine, let him reflect on the crown of glory which awaits the virtuous dead! Let him, with me, weigh the unimportance of the track, by which the soul is led to the regions of immortality; and while we embalm the monarch's memory with an unfeigned tear, let us

hope that our latter prayers may be as acceptable to the deity, as our latter moments may be more propitious than those of the great Isman Abu Ally! Unbroken be the reed which means thy loss, rich pearl of Araby! Sweet smelling like the gums of Aden's vale, to heaven ascend thy precious spirit!

“ Grand Cairo, 20th August, 1779.

“ I cannot avoid giving you a letter from a place that was once
 “ so desirable an object to us, however reversed it has been to me
 “ a second time. I arrived here the 15th July last, after a very
 “ pleasant passage from Venice, and was preparing, with my
 “ fellow-travellers, to set out for Suez on the 28th, when, on
 “ that morning, Mr. Moore, the owner of our vessel, was made
 “ a prisoner, and detained till four days ago, in consequence of
 “ his ship, with another at Suez, having been treacherously
 “ seized by the orders of this government. The ships have since
 “ been released, and the people are gone to Suez to take possession
 “ of them again; which we only want to hear of, to enable
 “ us to set forward. This extraordinary manœuvre, on the part
 “ of this government, was owing to an English caravan having
 “ been plundered in crossing the desert from Suez to Cairo, and
 “ many unfortunate Europeans having perished in the desert.
 “ The government, upon this, contrived the means of seizing the
 “ vessels, and have made us enter into solemn engagements with
 “ them, that no hostilities shall be committed hereafter by the
 “ English, in consequence of that accident!

“ The politics of this country have been a good deal changed
 “ since we left it. It seems that soon after our departure from
 “ Cairo, Ibrahim Beg, and Morad Beg, were brought back into
 “ Cairo, accompanied by our old friend Isman Abu Ally, who
 “ was with Mr. Baldwin, and made many enquiries after us. For
 “ this essential service, the poor old man had his head taken off
 10. “ by

“ by Morad Beg, about three weeks ago, who was at Ghinnah
 “ in pursuit of Houssein Beg, one of Ismaul Beg's partizans !—
 “ Monsieur Chevalier, the late governor of Chandernagore, arrived here a few days ago from Judda, by the route of *Cofire*.
 “ He met with Morad Beg at Ghinnah, who gave him *his* passport, for his safety down the river.

“ I hope to leave Cairo in about five days, attended by our old
 “ servant Ibrahim, who has been wise enough to marry here, and
 “ is as completely settled as he well can be. I have advised him
 “ to push off to India with us. As if I had not been sufficiently
 “ punished for making a second visit to this country, I have had
 “ the addition of an epidemical sickness, which has raged here
 “ with great violence, and, I believe, has extended to every European in the place.”

T H E

A P P E N D I X.

ODE TO THE DESART.

Written on a Journey through the Defarts of Thebais,
September 1777.

THOU waste! from human sight retir'd,
By nought esteem'd, invok'd, desir'd;
Where stony hill and ~~sterile~~ plain
And ever-sullen silence reign * :

Where nought is seen to cheer the eye,
But russet earth and sunny sky;
Nor tree nor herbage blebs the ground,
Nor aught to cherish life is found.

Save, where the deer, whom fears assail,
~~shoots~~ suddenly athwart the vale;
If chance the sound of distant feet
Approach his lonesome, dark retreat.

O! while thy secrets I explore,
And traverse all thy regions o'er,
The patient camel I bestride—
May no ill hap his steps betide!

“ And ever-musing melancholy reigns.” *Pope's Eloisa to Abigail,*

As on we press the burning soil,
And through the winding valley toil,
Still lend some hill's projecting height,
To shield me from Sol's piercing sight.

And should our fountains of water fail,
And horrid thirst my lips assail,
Then, then, thy scanty drops impart,
To renovate my fainting heart.

Nor to thy toiling son refuse
The truffle's leaf, or berry's juice ;
These stinted products of the waste,
Luxurious ! let my camel taste.

At noontide heat, and midnight cold,
Thy vengeful stores of wrath withhold
Nor bid the sudden whirlwind rise,
To blend at once, hills, vales, and skies !

Dread cause ! too subtle to define,
Where horror ! danger ! ruin join !
Stop, stop its pestilential breath,
That 'whelms a caravan in death !

But chief, whence lies our daily track,
O ! turn the roving * Arab back ;
Who, tyger-like, infests the way,
And makes the traveller his prey.

* The reader will have found that this wish was not granted. We fell in with a party of wild Arabs, and, what was more extraordinary, on the very day that this Ode was written. This meeting, so dreaded by us, was, in all probability, the cause of our preservation. These foes to man, by an unexpected turn, became our friends. They were our guides when our people were at a loss for the road ; they led us to the springs, and supplied us with food, when our water or provision failed us. What an incontestible evidence is this of the weakness of human opinions ! of the vanity of human wishes !

As erst the sons of Israel fled
From Pharaoh's reign and Nilus' bed,
Here manna fell by God's command,
And water follow'd Moses' wand :

So may old Nilus passing nigh,
A portion of his floods supply ;
Invite the neighb'ring peasant's toil,
To cultivate thine alter'd soil.

So be thy hills with verdure spread,
And trees adorn each naked head ;
So in the thirsty vales below,
Discover'd springs be taught to flow.

So, teeming with neglected veins,
Thy marble pay the sculptor's pains ;
Who, emulous of Grecian taste,
May give an Athens to the waste !

And on thy furthest sandy shore,
Which hears the Red-sea's billows roar,
May Commerce smile, her sails unfold,
And change thine iron age to gold !

O D E T O T H E N I L E.

Written during a Voyage down that River. Sept. 1777.

IMMORTAL stream! whom Afric leads
Through barren plains and verdant meads;
Now flaming o'er the Nubian sands,
Now laving Egypt's cultur'd lands;

To mark where first the stormy gale,
The poet's stretch of thought might fail:
Might heroes shudder to behold
The wonders which thy depths unfold.

O! place me on thy gentle tide,
When first it leaves its fountain wide;
'Till, threat'ning on the Cat'ra's brow,
It rushes to the world below.

Here, as the joyless wild we trace,
Where Nature shrouds her beauteous face,
The Ostrich—child of want and gloom!
Dips in thy wave his silver plume.

Now, lurking on thy ~~sedgy~~ shores,
The Crocodile his prey explores.
Hark! 'tis a virgin's shriek*—thy flood
She fought—to color with her blood!

No arms the monster can appal—
Bounds from his scales th' unerring ball.
Lo! to avenge a mother's tears,
The Hippopotamus appears!

Now Death assumes his grimmest form,
Thy troubled surface owns the storm;
Like warring vessels, on they move
Their mortal rage and force to prove

O! ~~haste we from this conflict dire,~~
And to thy fairest scenes retire;
Where, swelling o'er thy native strand,
Thy waters fatten all the land;

Where on the wide expanse are seen
The tufted grove and island green:
The minaret, that tow'rs above,
The haram—prison gay of love!

As Pleasure, Commerce, spread the sail,
A thousand gallees catch the gale:
Their oars a thousand gallies ply,
Whose pomp refulgent strikes the eye.

* This alludes to a circumstance which happened just before the author came to the Nile, and which the reader will find in page 259 of this work. The frequent combats between the River-horse and Crocodile, in which the former is generally victorious, are too well known to need a comment.

Now bear me down, ~~Western~~ ~~firm~~,
 Where Delta looks one cultur'd farm;
 By ruin'd cities, nodding towers,
 And hide me in Rosette's bowers.

Hail shades! who give such charms to view,
 As ne'er Alcinous' gardens knew;
 While blossoms here their sweets unfold,
 Bow'd is the tree with fruit of gold.

And thou fam'd stream! what tho' no more
 The world's emporium as of yore;
 Tho' grac'd not with the Roman name,
 Thy realm contending factions claim:

A Pharaoh's daughter erst ~~was~~ ~~thine~~,
 Whom pity touch'd with cares divine,
 As she the prophet chanc'd to note
 While in his ozier-bark afloat.

Thou knew'st a Cleopatra's reign,
 Who number'd victors in her train:
 A Julius, led by glory's ray;
 An Anthony—to love a prey!

A Ptolemy of learn'd renown,
 And great Sesostris wore thy crown;
 Thine, Memphis! crush'd by adverse fates,
 And Thebes—that op'd an hundred gates!

And

And still that thou ^{nores,} keep,
 While sea-girt Pharos awes the deep;
 While left for ages to admire,
 Thy pyramids to heav'n aspire!

While Plenty on thy banks is found,
 To feed the famish'd nations round;
 While Poets strive to sing in vain
 The wonders of thy vernal reign!

F

